

PART 3 – GOALS AND POLICIES

3.3 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT

Public Health and Safety

Introduction

San Joaquin County is a relatively safe and healthy place to live. However, like all places in California, the County is subject to a variety of potential health and safety hazards. Some hazards, such as earthquakes and floods, are a result of the natural environment. Flooding is the most likely natural hazard to occur in the County as, according to FEMA, much of the western County lies within a High Risk Area. Other health and safety issues, such as air quality, airport hazards, crime, and hazardous materials, are caused by human activities. Air quality in San Joaquin County is among the poorest in the state, annually exceeding Federal and State standards. Additionally, the County has experienced significant increases in locally-reported crimes and local crime rates compared to statewide trends. One of the primary functions of San Joaquin County is to anticipate these issues and identify ways to protect people from potential dangers.

This section provides guidance for how to protect County residents, workers, visitors, and properties from unreasonable risks associated with natural and manmade hazards. One of the main strategies used by the County to maintain safety is to require distance between known hazards and places where people live, work, and congregate. In addition, the County also identifies ways to respond to disasters in an efficient and effective manner should they occur.

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

The goals and policies of this section overlap with those of some other sections of the General Plan. Safety issues are considered in the designation of land uses in the Land Use section of the Community Development Element. The provision of public services has some bearing on the hazards related to fire and crime prevention. Many environmental hazards, such as water

quality and flooding hazards, are closely related to environmental resources policies in the Natural and Cultural Resources Element. Hazardous materials can directly and indirectly affect such environmental resources as air, water, and wildlife. Lastly, the policies contained in the Transportation and Mobility section of the Community Development Element are intimately linked to the ability of the community to respond to an emergency. Many of the policies in this section are supplemented by policies in other Elements in an effort to provide comprehensive solutions to multifaceted planning issues.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness refers to the coordinated efforts by the County and other agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. The San Joaquin Office of Emergency Services provides emergency management services for the County in cooperation with local law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, State and Federal agencies, utility providers, private industry, and volunteer groups.

Preparing for and adapting to the potential impacts of climate change is a relatively new area of focus for emergency preparedness planning. The County must prepare for potentially warmer and more extreme temperatures, decreased water supply, drought, flooding, increasing energy demand, and declining public health. Over the next century the County and its residents and businesses may have to adapt to changing conditions by modifying farming practices, improving flood protection, identifying new water sources, conserving water and energy, expanding emergency services, and modifying development patterns. San Joaquin County can take measures to ensure the County is prepared to cope with the impacts of climate change. Strengthening infrastructure will allow the County to better manage extreme weather events, flooding, and increasing energy demand.

The focus of this goal section is to maintain a system for coordinated and efficient emergency response in case of natural or manmade disasters and to protect the County from the potential effects of climate change.

GOAL PHS-1

To maintain a level of disaster preparedness necessary for the protection of public and private property, and the health, safety, and welfare of people living and working in San Joaquin County.

PHS-1.1 Effective Emergency Response

The County shall maintain adequate facilities equipment and staffing to respond effectively to emergencies. (PSP/SO)

PHS-1.2 Initiate Recovery Operations

Following a major disaster, the County shall strive to ensure that the population is protected and that recovery operations are initiated. (PSP/SO)

PHS-1.3 Emergency Operations Plans

The County shall maintain and implement the following emergency and hazard mitigation plans to provide emergency planning, mitigation, response, and recovery activities to the community:

- Emergency Operations Plan,
- Mountain House Community Emergency Operations Plan,
- Multi-Hazard Functional Plan,
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and
- Flood Safety Plan and Contingency Mapping. (PSP/SO)

PHS-1.4 Emergency Preparedness Exercises

The County shall coordinate with local and regional agencies to conduct emergency and disaster preparedness exercises to test operational and emergency plans. (IGC)

PHS-1.5 Promote Individual Readiness

The County shall support educational programs that promote disaster preparedness protocols and procedures; disaster risk reduction; and individual readiness and self-sufficiency in emergencies. (IGC/PI)

PHS-1.6 Delta Primary Zone

The County shall ensure the compatibility of permitted land use activities within the Delta Primary Zone with applicable emergency preparedness policies of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan of the Delta Protection Commission. (RDR/IGC)

PHS-1.7 Emergency Response Facilities Location

The County shall ensure that emergency response facilities and other critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, health care facilities, emergency shelters, Sheriff substations, fire stations) are located to avoid hazardous areas (see Seismic and Geologic and Flood Hazards), and designed to remain functional following a major disaster. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-1.8 Emergency Operations Center

The County shall continue to maintain the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the single point for centralized management and coordination of emergency response and recovery operations during a disaster or emergency. (SO)

PHS-1.9 Inter-jurisdictional Coordination

The County shall continue to participate in the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) to ensure enhanced inter-jurisdictional coordination during disasters. (IGC)

PHS-1.10 Emergency Vehicles Access

The County shall require all new developments to provide, and existing developments to maintain, adequate primary and alternative access for emergency vehicles. (RDR)

PHS-1.11 Climate Change Monitoring and Adaptation

The County shall develop and implement a program to monitor the impacts of climate change and use adaptive management to develop new strategies and modify existing strategies to respond to the impacts of climate change. (PSP)

PHS-1.12 Interagency Coordination

The County shall coordinate with cities, regional, State, and Federal agencies and organizations to develop a comprehensive approach to planning for climate change. (PSP/IGC)

PHS-1.13 Public Awareness of Climate Change

The County shall support public awareness of water conservation measures, agricultural changes, storm and flood preparedness, wildfire fire protection, air quality effects, extreme weather events, heat and human health, and disease prevention to help prepare for the potential impacts of climate change. (PI)

Flood Hazards

Flooding is the most likely natural hazard to occur in the County. According to FEMA most of the western County lies within a High Risk Area. Flood risks from waterways and the Delta threaten the safety of residents and the economic health of the County. Historically, the County has sustained and recovered from major floods. The cumulative impacts of these flooding events, combined with a growing recognition of flood risks, have strengthened community resolve to improve and maintain local flood control systems. Levees within San Joaquin County provide both flood protection and necessary movement of water through the Delta to the Bay Area and Southern California, and their integrity is essential with respect to water supply, ecosystem restoration, and flood protection.

California Government Code Section 65302.9(a)(1)(A) requires cities and counties in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley to incorporate into their General Plans locations of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) facilities and the locations of the real property protected by these facilities. This information is provided in the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) developed by the California Department of Water Resources. The CVFPP, as it may be amended or updated from time to time, is incorporated herein by reference.

Additionally, as required by California Government Code Section 65302.9(a)(1)(B), the effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County are incorporated herein by reference.

The focus of this section is to address the flood hazard by maintaining and improving the flood protection infrastructure, requiring all new developments provide a minimum of flood

protection, and by continuing emergency response efforts.

GOAL PHS-2

To protect people and property from flood hazards.

PHS-2.1 Restrict Uses in Designated Floodways

The County shall restrict uses in designated floodways except those that do not adversely affect flood elevations or velocities, and are tolerant of occasional flooding in accordance with the County's Floodplain Management Ordinance. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-2.2 Primary Purpose of Levees

The County shall ensure that the primary use and purpose of levees is flood protection. The County shall only allow other uses of levees if they are compatible with the primary purpose of the levee and do not reduce the flood protection integrity, provided such uses are in compliance with State and Federal regulations. (RDR)

PHS-2.3 Evaluation of Flood Protection for New Development

The County shall require evaluation of potential flood hazards prior to approval of new development projects to determine whether the proposed development is reasonably safe from flooding, and shall approve such development consistent with applicable State and Federal laws. (PSP)

PHS-2.4 Flood Protection for Existing Development

The County shall investigate and implement, when feasible, mitigation measures that offer protection for existing development within flood prone areas, and shall strive to achieve 200-year level of flood protection for urban areas, and 100-year level protection for non-urban areas, where feasible. (PSP)

PHS-2.5 Planned Land Use

The County shall update, as necessary, the Land Use Element to reflect current floodplain mapping data. (PSP)

PHS-2.6 Use Best Available Information

The County should consider the best available flood hazard information and mapping from regional, State, and Federal agencies, and use this information to inform land use and public facilities investment decisions. (PI)

PHS-2.7 Preservation of Floodway and Floodplains

The County shall preserve floodways and floodplains for non-urban uses in an effort to maintain existing flood carrying capacities, except that development may be allowed in floodplains with mitigation measures that are in conformance with the County's floodplain management ordinance. (RDR)

PHS-2.8 Levee Setbacks and Easements for New Development

The County shall require setbacks and easements for access to levees and channels, where feasible, from new development. On County-owned land, the County shall also provide unobstructed access, where feasible, to levees for maintenance and flood fighting purposes. (RDR)

PHS-2.9 Dedication of Levee Footprint

The County shall require new development adjacent to an existing or planned levee to dedicate the levee footprint and necessary setback areas in a manner acceptable to the appropriate levee maintaining agency and in compliance with federal and state standards. (RDR)

PHS-2.10 Levee and Channel Maintenance

The County's Flood Control District shall prioritize levee and channel maintenance to ensure the most efficient use of available funding to reduce flood risk, and shall encourage reclamation districts and other levee maintaining agencies to employ similar practices. (RDR)

PHS-2.11 Delta Emergency Flood Response

The County shall continue to work with the Delta Working Group to improve local emergency preparedness and response within the Delta. (IGC)

PHS-2.12 Permits for Levee Encroachments

The County shall require applicants to obtain appropriate permits for any project that falls within the jurisdiction of other local, State and Federal agencies. (RDR)

PHS-2.13 Multi-Purpose Flood Control Projects

The County shall encourage multi-purpose flood control projects, to the extent feasible, that incorporate recreation, resource conservation, and preservation of natural riparian habitat and scenic values of the County's waterways, creeks, and lakes. (PSP)

PHS-2.14 Climate Change Impacts to Flood Control Facilities

The County shall coordinate with local, regional, State, and Federal agencies to define existing and potential flood problem areas associated with expected impacts from climate change and develop strategies to improve and maintain flood control facilities accordingly. (IGC/PSR)

PHS-2.15 Seismic Impacts to Flood Control Facilities

The County shall comply with state and federal requirements to improve and maintain flood control facilities to withstand seismic and geologic impacts. (PSP)

PHS-2.16 Establish Cooperative Working Relationships

The County shall strive to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships among local, regional, State, and Federal agencies with responsibility for flood management to help minimize flood hazards and improve safety. (IGC)

PHS-2.17 Levee Compliance

The County shall support the efforts of levee owners and local, regional, State, and Federal agencies to design and reconstruct levees that do not meet adopted State and/or Federal flood protection standards to bring them into compliance. (IGC)

PHS-2.18 Collaborate to Develop Funding Mechanisms

The County shall collaborate with State and local flood management agencies and other interested parties to develop funding mechanisms to finance local share of flood management responsibilities. (IGC)

PHS-2.19 Countywide Dam Failure and Flood Plans

The County shall maintain and implement the following emergency management plans for the safe evacuation of people from areas subject to inundation from levee and dam failure:

- San Joaquin County Flood Evacuation Plan, and
- Dam Failure Plan. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-2.20 Flood Evacuation Maps

The County shall continue maintain and make available to the public, as appropriate, community flood evacuation maps. (PI)

PHS-2.21 Public Information Programs

The County shall continue to inform the public about the specific risks of living in flood prone areas and provide residents instructional information on how to take steps to reduce their exposure to flood damages. (PI)

PHS-2.22 National Flood Insurance Program

The County shall continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, including:

- maintaining at least the minimum National Flood Insurance Program requirements, and adopt more stringent standards to further promote sound flood plain management when appropriate;
- promoting the purchase of flood insurance;
- undertaking outreach campaigns to inform the public of the risk of flooding; and
- coordinating with Federal, State, and local agencies on efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program. (RDR/PSP/PI/IGC)

PHS-2.23 Flood Mapping Information Program

The County shall continue to provide the public with information related to Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain and Flood Insurance Rate Maps. (PI)

Seismic and Geologic Hazards

Geologic and seismic hazards pose a risk of harm to people and damage to property. The geology of San Joaquin County is comprised of high organic alluvium, which is susceptible to

earthquake movement. In addition, the western area of the County is underlain by a significant number of Quaternary (current period of geologic time) thrust faults and lateral faults, or is adjacent to such faults west of the County. This increases the likelihood of structural failures due to associated potential earthquake shaking and movement. There is a high probability of a large magnitude earthquake in northern California before 2036. The levee system that exists throughout the County is not designed or constructed to withstand maximum seismic events. Subsidence is also a serious threat to infrastructure, communities, and to California's water supply.

The focus of this goal section is to minimize the risk of damage from geologic and seismic hazards.

GOAL PHS-3

To protect life and property from seismic and geologic hazards.

PHS-3.1 Consider Geologic Hazards for New Development

The County shall consider the risk to human safety and property from seismic and geologic hazards in designating the location and intensity for new development and the conditions under which that development may occur. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-3.2 Location of Sensitive Land Uses

The County shall not approve any of the following land uses if they are located within one-eighth of a mile of any active fault or on soil that is highly susceptible to liquefaction: facilities necessary for emergency services; major utility lines and facilities; manufacturing plants using or storing hazardous materials; high occupancy structures, such as multifamily residences and large public assembly facilities; and facilities housing dependent populations, such as prisons, schools, and convalescent centers. (RDR)

PHS-3.3 Emergency Service Facilities

The County shall require emergency service facilities to be capable of withstanding earthquakes per the California Building Code, Chapter 16, Volume 2, and remain operational to provide emergency response. (RDR)

PHS-3.4 Liquefaction Studies

The County shall require proposals for new development in areas determined by the County to have high liquefaction potential to include detailed site-specific liquefaction studies. (RDR/PSR)

PHS-3.5 Subsidence or Liquefaction

The County shall require that all proposed structures, utilities, or public facilities within County-recognized areas of near-surface subsidence or liquefaction be located and constructed in a manner that minimizes or eliminates potential damage. (RDR)

PHS-3.6 Subsidence in the Delta

The County shall promote regional and local efforts to reduce subsidence in the Delta. (PSP)

PHS-3.7 Erosion Control

The County shall encourage the planting of vegetation to decrease loss of soil by erosion. (RDR/PSR)

PHS-3.8 Soil Conservation and Restoration

The County shall support soil conservation and restoration efforts of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the Resource Conservation Districts. (IGC)

Fire Hazards

Urban and wildland fire hazards in San Joaquin County create the potential for injury, loss of life, and property damage. Fire hazards include wildland fires, peat fires, chemical fires, flammable liquid storage fires, structural fires, and fires that result from transportation (vehicle)

accidents. Four San Joaquin County communities (Bellota, Clements, Linden, and Lockeford) are identified as Communities at Risk for wildland fire due to their location near areas susceptible to potential wildfires. Proper land use planning and investment in fire protection resources in both urban and non-urban areas are key steps to reducing the potentially devastating effects of wildland fires, thereby safeguarding the people and property of San Joaquin County.

The focus of this goal section is to address ways for protecting people and property from the catastrophic effects of natural and human-caused fire.

GOAL PHS-4

To minimize the risk of wildland and urban fire hazards.

PHS-4.1 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The County shall maintain and implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a mechanism for community input and identification of areas with high fire hazard risk. (PSP)

PHS-4.2 Residential Densities in High Hazard Areas

The County shall restrict development to rural residential densities or lower and require on-site fire suppression measures in areas with high or extreme wildfire hazards. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-4.3 Fire Prevention Measures.

The County shall implement State recommendations for fire prevention in Fire Hazard Severity Zones and require new and/or existing development to provide clearance around structures, use fire-resistant ground cover, build with fire-resistant roofing materials, participate in fuel load reduction, and take other appropriate measures. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-4.4 Clear Zones

The County shall require clear zones and regular weed abatement around residential structures in high fire hazard areas and assist property owners in identifying how clear zones should be maintained. (RDR)

PHS-4.5 Vegetation and Fuel Management

The County shall require new development in high fire-hazard areas to have fire-resistant vegetation, cleared fire breaks separating communities or clusters of structures from native vegetation, or a long-term comprehensive vegetation and fuel management program consistent with State codes 4290 and 4291 for wildland fire interface and vegetation management. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-4.6 Fire Protection Coordination

The County shall encourage well-organized and efficient coordination among fire agencies, CalFire, and the County. (IGC)

Air Quality

Good air quality is an important natural resource that influences public health and welfare, the economy, and quality of life. When air pollution diminishes air quality, it can impair normal functioning of the lungs in healthy people, as well as those with respiratory problems. Children and the elderly are most at risk from exposure to air pollution. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the lead air quality regulatory agency for San Joaquin County, has jurisdiction over all point and area sources (except for mobile sources, consumer products, and pesticides). The air quality in the San Joaquin Valley is among the poorest in the state. The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is currently in severe non-attainment for the State one-hour ozone standard and extreme non-attainment for the Federal eight-hour ozone standard, along with non-

attainment of State PM₁₀ and Federal PM_{2.5} standards.

The focus of this goal section is to improve local and regional air quality through best management practices.

GOAL PHS-5

To protect public health, agricultural crops, scenic resources, and the built and natural environments from air pollution.

PHS-5.1 Air Quality Monitoring

The County shall participate in programs to monitor harmful air contaminants to determine their impacts. (PSP/PSR)

PHS-5.2 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Coordination

The County shall coordinate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) during the review of new development projects which have the potential for causing adverse air quality impacts. (RDR/IGC)

PHS-5.3 Cross-Jurisdictional Air Quality Issues

The County shall coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and affected agencies to address cross-jurisdictional and regional transportation and air quality issues. (IGC)

PHS-5.4 Innovative Mitigation Measures

The County shall encourage innovative mitigation measures and project redesign to reduce air quality impacts by coordinating with the SJVAPCD, project applicants, and other interested parties. (RDR)

PHS-5.5 Air District Best Performance Standards

The County shall consider the Best Performance Standards adopted by SJVAPCD during the review of new development proposals. (RDR)

PHS-5.6 Toxic Air Contaminants

The County shall require effective buffers between residential areas and other sensitive receptors and non-residential land uses, such as highways, trucking centers, gasoline dispensing facilities, and dry cleaners, that generate toxic air contaminants. (RDR)

PHS-5.7 TAC Exposure Reduction Measures for New Development

The County shall require new development projects to implement all applicable best management practices that will reduce exposure of sensitive receptors (e.g., hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing and convalescent facilities) to toxic air contaminants. (TAC)

PHS-5.8 Minimize Motor Vehicle Emissions

The County shall strive to minimize motor vehicle emissions through land use and transportation strategies, as well as by promotion of alternative fuels. (PSP)

PHS-5.9 Particulate Emissions from Construction

The County shall support SJVAPCD efforts to reduce PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions from construction, grading, excavation, and demolition to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with State and Federal regulations. (RDR/IGC)

PHS-5.10 Particulate Emissions from County Roads

The County shall require PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emission reductions on County-maintained roads to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with State and Federal regulations. (RDR)

PHS-5.11 Paving Materials

The County shall require all access roads, driveways, and parking areas serving new commercial and industrial development to be constructed with materials that minimize particulate emissions and are appropriate to the scale and intensity of use. (RDR)

PHS-5.12 Agricultural Best Management Practices

The County shall encourage agricultural operations to incorporate Best Management Practices, such as: paving roads; screening cropland with windbreaks; limiting tilling, grading, and pesticide use on high-wind days; and changing harvesting equipment to minimize air quality hazards from pesticides and reduce PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions consistent with State and Federal regulations. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-5.13 Industrial Best Management Practices

The County shall require industrial facilities to incorporate economically feasible Best Management Practices and control technology to reduce PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions consistent with State and Federal regulations. (RDR)

PHS-5.14 Energy Consumption Reduction

The County shall encourage new development to incorporate green building practices and reduce air quality impacts from energy consumption. (RDR)

Greenhouse Gas Reductions

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are emitted in a variety of sectors, including transportation, electricity, industry, commercial and residential, agriculture, recycling and waste, and high global warming potential sources like refrigerants, chlorofluorocarbons, and electrical insulation. Therefore, the implementation of land use decisions and development projects

can affect the generation of GHG emissions from multiple sectors. Development projects can result in direct or indirect GHG emissions that would occur on- or off-site. Legislation already in effect will achieve statewide reductions of GHG emissions associated with electricity production, industry, VMT, and motor vehicles. The ability to influence land use decisions, provide services to the population (e.g., recycling service, waste management, and waste water treatment), and provide public education and incentives (e.g. energy conservation, agricultural practices) to the citizens are options for local governments to reduce GHG emissions generated in their jurisdictions.

The focus of this goal section is to set targets and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate change.

GOAL PHS-6

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the Statewide effort to combat climate change.

PHS-6.1 Municipal GHG Reduction Targets

The County shall reduce GHG emissions from County facilities and activities by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020, and shall strive to reduce GHG emissions 40 percent and 80 percent below reduced 2020 levels by 2035 and 2050, respectively. (SO)

PHS-6.2 Community GHG Reduction Targets

The County shall reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and shall strive to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent and 80 percent below reduced 2020 levels by 2035 and 2050, respectively. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-6.3 GHG Reduction Strategies

The County shall promote greenhouse gas emission reductions by encouraging efficient farming methods (e.g., no-till farming, crop rotation, cover cropping); supporting the installation of renewable energy technologies; and protecting grasslands, open space, oak woodlands, riparian forest and farmlands from conversion to urban uses. (PSP)

PHS-6.4 Methane Digesters

The County shall encourage large dairies to capture methane through use of manure digester systems to generate an alternative source of energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and serve as a source of profit for agricultural operations. (PSP)

PHS-6.5 Diversion, Recycling, and Reuse

The County shall achieve a 75 percent diversion of landfilled waste based on 1990 levels by 2020, and shall achieve a diversion rate of 90 percent by 2035. (PSP)

PHS-6.6 Business-related GHG Reduction Strategies

The County shall encourage all businesses to help reduce GHG emissions by: replacing high mileage fleet vehicles with more efficient and/or alternative fuel vehicles; increasing the energy efficiency of facilities; transitioning toward the use of renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy sources; adopting purchasing practices that promote emissions reductions and reusable materials; and increasing recycling. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-6.7 New Development

The County shall require new development to incorporate all feasible mitigation measures to reduce construction and operational GHG emissions. (RDR)

PHS-6.8 Agricultural Equipment and Emissions

The County shall implement the following measures pertaining to agricultural equipment and emissions reductions:

- Support SJVAPCD programs to fund equipment upgrades, retrofits, and replacement through the Carl Moyer heavy-duty vehicle and equipment program or other funding mechanisms (e.g., Rule 9510).
- Work with SJVAPCD and stakeholders to identify practical and feasible options for fuel-efficient agricultural equipment.
- Work with agricultural organizations and stakeholders to provide workshops and presentations and outreach materials focused on promoting fuel efficient farm equipment and operations and encourage participation in the Carl Moyer incentive program. (IGC/PI)

PHS-6.9 Public Awareness

The County shall support public awareness about climate change and encourage County residents and businesses to become involved in activities and lifestyle changes that will aid in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through alternative energy use, energy and water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and other sustainable practices. (PSP)

Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Hazardous materials and waste are a reality for any community and can pose a significant public health and safety issue. In San Joaquin County, there are four superfund cleanup sites that are in serious need of remediation. In addition, eight military bases or disposal sites have accepted military waste in the County. Significant sources of contamination have been identified from leaking underground storage tanks. Methamphetamine lab sites, animal feeding operations, and mine hazards are also an issue. A total of 270 hazardous waste cleanup sites were identified by Envirostar.

The focus of this goal section is to address the problem of hazardous materials and wastes, as well as the location, storage, transportation, and safety of these materials.

GOAL PHS-7

To protect County residents, visitors, and property from hazardous materials and wastes.

PHS-7.1 Minimize Hazardous Materials and Wastes

The County shall discourage the use of hazardous materials and the creation of hazardous wastes. (PSP)

PHS-7.2 Avoid Contamination of Resources

The County shall strive to ensure that hazardous materials and wastes do not contaminate air, water, or soil resources. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-7.3 Control Hazardous Materials

The County shall require the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes to comply with local, State, and Federal safety standards. (RDR)

PHS-7.4 County Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The County shall maintain and implement the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. (PSP)

PHS-7.5 Locate Hazardous Materials Away from Populated Areas

To the extent feasible, the County shall require proposed activities and land uses that use, store, or dispose of hazardous materials or wastes to be located away from existing and planned populated areas. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-7.6 Require Hazardous Materials Management Plans

The County shall require businesses that use or store materials and wastes on-site to prepare Hazardous Materials Management Plans (Business Plans) that map and inventory all hazardous materials and contain contingency plans for accidents, designate an individual or individuals as emergency coordinator(s), and ensure that all employees understand the potential for accidents and the appropriate response. Plans must follow the requirements for Federal, State, and/or local defined special flood hazard areas. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-7.7 County Hazardous Materials Area Plan

The County shall maintain and implement the County Hazardous Materials Area Plan for emergency response to a release or threatened release of hazardous material within the unincorporated County. (PSP)

PHS-7.8 Consistency with Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The County shall require all new development to be consistent with the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan (CHWMP). Any proposed hazardous waste facility, or expansion of an existing hazardous waste facility, shall be consistent with the CHWMP. (RDR)

PHS-7.9 Require Disclosure of Hazardous Materials and Waste.

The County shall require public disclosure of hazardous materials and wastes for existing and proposed businesses. (RDR)

PHS-7.10 Household Hazardous Waste

The County shall provide educational programs to inform the public about household hazardous waste and the proper disposal methods. (IGC)

PHS-7.11 Hazardous Materials Transportation Routes

The County shall continue to maintain route designations for hazardous materials transport within San Joaquin County. (PSP)

PHS-7.12 Hazardous Liquids Storage Tanks

The County shall maintain and implement hazardous material regulations for the storage of hazardous liquids in underground or aboveground storage tanks. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-7.13 Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities.

The County shall provide areas for hazardous waste disposal facilities sufficient to meet the needs of county residents and businesses. (PSP)

PHS-7.14 Legislative Support

The County shall support legislation that would further reduce public risks associated with hazardous materials, reduce hazardous waste generation, aid in cleanup, or provide assistance for hazardous materials management. (PSP)

PHS-7.15 Site Cleanup Support

The County shall support programs and funding for determination of sites contaminated with hazardous materials and for site cleanup. (PSP)

PHS-7.16 Hazardous Waste Property Designations

When known, the County shall refer contaminated sites to the appropriate lead agency with established authority/jurisdiction for the required assessment and cleanup activities. (PSP/IGC)

Airport Safety

There are six public-use airports in San Joaquin County, including: Stockton Metropolitan, Tracy Municipal, Kingdon, Lodi (Precissi), Lodi (Lind's), and New Jerusalem. While aircraft accidents are infrequent occurrences, it is necessary to avoid or minimize the risks associated with a potential airport accident that would harm people and property on the ground or the occupants of aircraft. The basic strategy for minimizing risks to people on the ground near airports is to limit the number of people who might gather in areas most susceptible to aircraft accidents. Land uses of particular safety concern are those where the occupants have reduced effective mobility or are unable to respond to emergency situations. These uses include schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other sensitive uses in which the majority of occupants are children, elderly, and/or handicapped or otherwise disabled. Airport safety standards also require a greater degree of protection for residential uses.

The San Joaquin County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) makes recommendations regarding land use decisions near public use airports in the County. It is the general policy of the ALUC to review major land-use decisions as defined in Policy 1.3.3 of the ALUCP. In June 2009, the ALUC adopted an updated Airport and Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for all of the County's public use airports with the exception of Stockton Metropolitan Airport. Stockton Metropolitan Airport will continue to use the 1993 ALUCP compatibility zones until the master plan update for the airport is complete. The

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plans are intended to safeguard the safety of the residents and businesses around the airports, and to ensure that future development and land uses do not negatively impact the continued operations of the airports. Prior to granting permits for the renovation or remodeling of an existing building, structure, or facility, and before the construction of a new building within any area governed by an Airport Land Use Commission Plan, a local agency must consider the height, use, noise, safety, and density criteria established by the ALUCP.

The focus of this goal section is to address general airport and aviation safety in the County and ensure County decisions are consistent with the adopted Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans in coordination with the Contra Costa County ALUC.

GOAL PHS-8

To promote the safe operation of public and private airports and protect the safety of County residents.

PHS-8.1 Land Use Compatibility

The County shall prohibit land uses within unincorporated areas that interfere with the safe operation of aircraft or that would expose people to hazards from the operation of aircraft. (RDR)

PHS-8.2 Coordination with San Joaquin County ALUC

The County shall coordinate with the San Joaquin County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) on land use planning around airports and submit development proposals for land within the airport area of influence for review by the ALUC for consistency with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. (RDR/PSP/IGC)

PHS-8.3 Coordination with Contra Costa County ALUC

The County shall coordinate with the Contra Costa County ALUC on land use planning in the Byron Airport Compatibility Zone, portions of which extend into the unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County. (RDR/PSP/IGC)

PHS-8.4 Compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations

The County shall require development within airport approach and departure zones to be in compliance with FAA Regulations that address objects affecting navigable airspace. (RDR)

PHS-8.5 New Air Strip Locations

The County shall require sites for proposed air strips to be outside of air traffic control zones and a safe distance, typically three miles, from existing airports, and to be a reasonable distance from residential areas and compatible with the surrounding uses. (RDR/PSP)

PHS-8.6 Transmission Tower and Lines

The County shall not approve any radio, television, power, or related transmission towers and lines that may conflict with aircraft operations. (RDR)

Noise

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound that is disturbing or annoying. Exposure to excessive noise is often cited as a health problem in terms of general well-being and contribution to undue stress and annoyance. Sources of noise in the County include traffic on State highways and local roads, aircraft operations, commercial and industrial uses, agricultural operations, active recreation areas, and mining operations.

From a planning perspective, noise control focuses on two primary concerns: preventing the introduction of new noise-producing uses in

noise sensitive areas; and preventing the encroachment of noise-sensitive uses into existing noise-producing areas. Places where people live, sleep, recreate, worship, and study are generally considered to be sensitive to noise because intrusive noise can be disruptive to these activities. Some facilities, such as airports and certain industrial operations, inherently generate noise, and the encroachment of noise-sensitive uses can jeopardize their continued operation.

The focus of this goal section is to summarize noise level standards that have been developed in order to quantify noise impacts in the County, and address ways to reduce or eliminate existing and future conflicts between land uses and annoying or unhealthy noise.

Noise Level Standards

Table PHS-1 summarizes the noise level standards for noise-sensitive uses (e.g., residential development, lodging, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, day care centers) at outdoor activity areas affected by non-transportation noise sources in the County. Table PHS-2 presents the noise and land use compatibility standards for various land uses. In addition to these standards, the policies in this section address ways to reduce or eliminate existing and future conflicts between land uses and noise.

**TABLE PHS-1
NON-TRANSPORTATION NOISE LEVEL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NOISE-SENSITIVE USES AT OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AREAS^{1, 2}**

Noise Level Descriptor	Daytime³ (7:00 am – 10:00 pm)	Nighttime³ (10:00 pm – 7:00 am)
Hourly Leq dB	50	45
Maximum Level, dB	70	65

Notes: These standards apply to new or existing residential areas affected by new or existing non-transportation sources.

¹ Where the location of outdoor activity areas is unknown or is not applicable, the noise standard shall be applied at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards shall be applied on the receiving side of noise barriers or other property line noise mitigation measures.

² Refer to Mountain House Master Plan, Table 11.2, Exterior Noise Standards for Noise-Sensitive Uses Affected by Non-Transportation Noise Sources, Page 11.12, for Mountain House Noise Standards.

³ Each of the noise level standards specified shall be reduced by 5 dB for impulsive noise, single tone noise, or noise consisting primarily of speech or music.

**TABLE PHS-2
 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE FROM TRANSPORTATION NOISE
 SOURCES¹**

Noise Sensitive Land Use Types	Outdoor Activity Areas² (dB Ldn)	Interior Spaces (dB Ldn)
Residential	65	45
Administrative Office	-	45
Child Care Services–Child Care Centers	-	45
Community Assembly	65	45
Cultural & Library Services	-	45
Educational Services: General	-	45
Funeral & Interment Services – Undertaking	65	45
Lodging Services	65	45
Medical Services	65	45
Professional Services	-	45
Public Services (excluding hospitals)	-	45
Public Services (hospitals only)	65	45
Recreation – Indoor Spectator	-	45
Religious Assembly	65	45

Notes: These standards apply to new or existing residential areas affected by new or existing non-transportation sources.

¹ Refer to Mountain House Master Plan, Chapter 11, Noise, for Mountain House Noise Standards.

² Where the location of outdoor activity areas is unknown or is not applicable, the noise standard shall be applied at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards shall be applied on the receiving side of noise barriers or other property line noise mitigation measures.

GOAL PHS-9

To protect county residents from the harmful and nuisance effects of exposure to excessive noise.

PHS-9.1 Noise Standards for New Land Uses

The County shall require new development to comply with the noise standards shown in Tables 9-1 and 9-2 through proper site and building design, such as building orientation, setbacks, barriers, and building construction practices. (RDR)

PHS-9.2 Airport Noise Compatibility Criteria

The County shall require new development within airport areas of influence be consistent with the Airport Noise Compatibility Criteria in the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. (RDR)

PHS-9.3 Screening Distances

The County shall require new development proposed to be located adjacent to major freeways or railroad tracks to be consistent with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) noise screening distance criteria. (RDR)

PHS-9.4 Acceptable Vibration Levels

The County shall require construction projects anticipated to generate a significant amount of vibration to ensure acceptable interior vibration levels at nearby vibration-sensitive uses based FTA criteria. (RDR)

PHS-9.5 Alleviate Existing Noise Problems

The County shall seek to alleviate existing community noise problems. (PSP)

PHS-9.6 Enforcement of State and Federal Noise Regulations

The County shall continue to enforce State and Federal noise laws regarding vehicle operation, equipment, and building insulation. (RDR)

PHS-9.7 Require Acoustical Study

The County shall require a project applicant to prepare an acoustical study for any proposed new residential or other noise-sensitive development when the County determines the proposed development may expose people to noise levels exceeding acceptable General Plan noise levels. (RDR/PSR)

PHS-9.8 Require Avigation Easements and Soundproofing Near Airports

The County shall require avigation easements and soundproofing for new residential structures in the 65 dB Ldn contours around a public access airport. (RDR)

PHS-9.9 Noise Exemptions

The County shall support the exemption of the following noise sources from the standards in this section:

- Emergency warning devices and equipment operated in conjunction with emergency situations, such as sirens and generators which are activated during power outages. The routine testing of such warning devices and equipment shall also be exempt provided such testing occurs during the hours of 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.
- Activities at schools, parks, or playgrounds, provided such activities occur during daytime hours.
- Activities associated with County-permitted temporary events and festivals. (RDR/PSR)