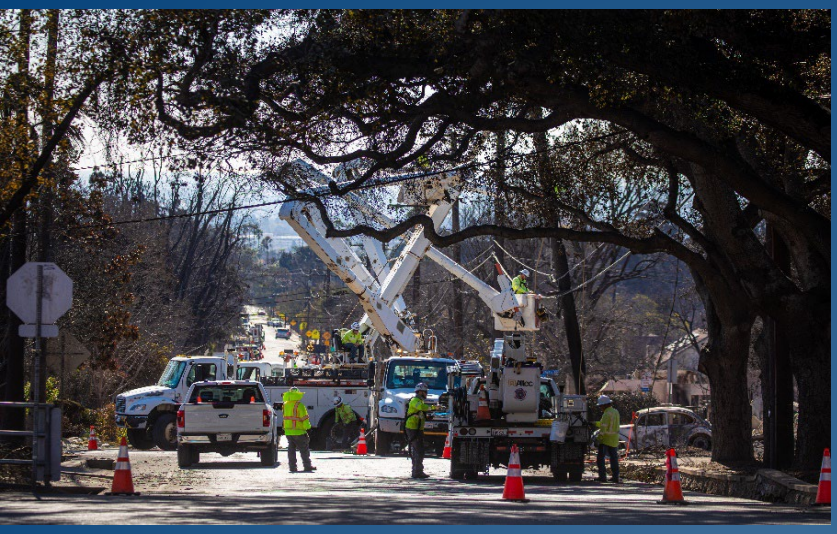
2025 County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

Chief Executive Office - Office of Emergency Management



Acknowledgement

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors gratefully acknowledges the following agencies/jurisdictions who contributed to the development of this plan.

County Departments

Aging and Disabilities
Chief Executive Office
Chief Sustainability Office
Beaches and Harbors
Economic Opportunity
Health Services
Human Resources
Parks and Recreation
Public Health
Public Social Services
Public Works
Regional Planning
Fire (LACoFD)
Internal Services
Sheriff (LASD)

Disaster Management Area Coordinators

State of California

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCCD)

External Partners

Access Services
Alzheimer's Association
Catholic Charities
City of Beverly Hills
City of Long Beach
Disability Community Resource Center
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Emergency Network Los Angeles
Habitat for Humanity
Harbor Regional Center
Lanterman Regional Center
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
Westside Regional Center

Cover Photo Credits: Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Countywide Communications Branch; Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Letter of Promulgation

To: Residents, Officials, and Employees of Los Angeles County

Preservation of life and property is an inherent responsibility of local, state, and federal government. The County of Los Angeles produced this updated 2025 All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) to delineate mitigation responsibilities of County departments and describe mitigation support to communities.

While no plan can guarantee prevention of death and destruction, a well-developed AHMP can guide mitigation efforts aimed at decreasing the amount of loss experienced after an emergency. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires that local jurisdictions have an updated mitigation plan in order to be eligible for mitigation project activities. The intent of the 2025 AHMP also ensures that mitigation actions are based on sound planning processes that account for the risks and capabilities of communities within Los Angeles County of Mitigation plans are strategic and policy level documents, forming the foundation of a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses.

The AHMP should be reviewed on an annual basis and approved every five years. The AHMP conforms to the requirements set forth the by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors gives its full support to the 2025 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan and urges all residents, officials, and employees to collectively share in our commitment to hazard mitigation.

This letter promulgates the 2025 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan which becomes effective upon approval by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Kathryn Barger

Kathryn Barger, Chair
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

9/9/25
Date

Table of Contents

1 Introduction, Purpose, and Scope

1.1 Purpose

The 2025 All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) was developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders representing County Departments and other external stakeholders from cities, local utilities, non-governmental organizations, and state agencies. The purpose of this AHMP is to form the strategic-level foundation for hazard mitigation efforts undertaken by the County of Los Angeles. The 2025 AHMP is an update to the 2020 version of the plan and seeks to maintain the County's continuing commitment to hazard mitigation as a critical step in reducing hazard risks, making communities safer, and building countywide resilience.

1.2 Scope

Hazard mitigation is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards." This AHMP identifies and profiles hazards, analyzes the people and critical infrastructure at risk, and provides a series of mitigation strategies aimed at reducing hazard risk. The plan also describes actions to integrate vulnerable communities including people with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) into hazard mitigation planning and other efforts. The AHMP is intended to function as a strategic plan for hazard mitigation and, while not an emergency plan, complements the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan. This plan contains mitigation strategies for County-owned facilities or other areas under the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles. Hazard mitigation strategies for incorporated cities within Los Angeles County may be found in that city's hazard mitigation plan.

1.3 Legal Authority and Requirements

Historically local hazard mitigation planning has been driven by federal law. The Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 with new requirements for hazard mitigation. The DMA of 2000 emphasized the need for state, tribal, and local entities to closely coordinate on hazard mitigation efforts and formed the legal basis for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) current mitigation plan requirements in order to utilize Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. This plan was prepared

pursuant to the requirements set forth in the DMA of 2000 and other FEMA hazard mitigation policy guidance.

1.4 Plan Organization

The AHMP is organized into nine (9) sections, excluding the Appendices, including:

1. **Introduction:** Discusses the purpose, scope, and legal authority of the plan.
2. **Planning Process:** Describes the planning process that was undertaken by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to create this updated 2025 AHMP.
3. **Community Profile:** Overviews the unique geographic, climatic, environmental, and socioeconomic factors that make up Los Angeles County and their implications for hazard mitigation planning.
4. **Climate Change:** Outlines the impacts of climate change in Los Angeles County and potential mitigation and adaptation measures.
5. **Integrating AFN into Hazard Mitigation:** Discusses strategies for integrating people with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) into prevention and hazard mitigation efforts.
6. **Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment:** Identifies and profiles nine (9) natural and four (4) human-caused hazards that may impact Los Angeles County including: wildfire, earthquake, extreme heat, drought, flooding, dam failure, land movement, tsunami, severe wind and tornado, mass violence, cybersecurity incidents, transportation incidents, and public health emergencies.
7. **Mitigation Strategy:** Delineates the overall strategy for the County's hazard mitigation efforts including goals and objectives, existing mitigation capabilities, and an analysis of mitigation actions.
8. **Plan Maintenance:** Outlines how the plan will be maintained annually ahead of the next full plan update in five years.
9. **Plan Adoption:** Discusses updates to the plan and implementation following plan adoption.

Following these sections, there are an additional six (6) appendices with supporting materials such as hazard maps, meeting minutes from planning meetings, and information about the public engagement efforts during the planning process.

2 Planning Process

2.1 Overview of the Planning Process

The 2025 Los Angeles County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) update builds upon the robust all-hazard planning framework established by the 2020 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, while incorporating new methodologies, stakeholder engagement, and compliance requirements. The planning process for this update emphasized inclusivity, transparency, and the integration of emerging climate adaptation considerations.

This planning process followed a structured, phased approach aligned with FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (2022), 44 CFR requirements, and guidance from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). This approach began with project initiation where the scope, timeline, and stakeholders were defined. Stakeholder and public engagement were prioritized to ensure representation from diverse groups, including historically underrepresented communities and climate-vulnerable populations.

Data collection and analysis leveraged updated hazard, climate, and vulnerability data from local, state, and federal sources, providing a foundation for enhanced risk and vulnerability assessments. Hazard profiles were updated to include climate projections and cascading impact scenarios. Mitigation strategies were revised and prioritized with a renewed focus on climate resilience and nature-based solutions. Strategies were also developed incorporating people with access and functional needs throughout each component of the AHMP. Finally, methods for monitoring and evaluation of mitigation efforts were defined in the plan maintenance and implementation strategy. Table 2-1 provides a timeline of the major plan update tasks and milestones over the planning process.

Table 2-1 AMHP Planning Timeline

Date	Tasks	People Involved
February 2025	Reviewed the 2020 AHMP and identified components that require update.	OEM AHMP Project Team
	Collected and reviewed existing documents, including the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) along with resources for people with access and functional	OEM AHMP Project Team

Date	Tasks	People Involved
	needs and people experiencing homelessness.	
February 2025	Met with state Hazard Mitigation Planning Team.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Identified the initial list of stakeholders and ensured organizations that work with and represent people with access and functional needs were engaged in the planning process. External stakeholders include neighboring communities, local and regional agencies, and others.	OEM AHMP Project Team
	Conducted 2025 AHMP Kickoff Meetings with internal stakeholders.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Determined hazards to be profiled including both natural (i.e., wildland fire, earthquake, etc.) and human-caused (i.e., cybersecurity, terrorism, etc.).	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group
	Drafted initial sections of the 2025 AHMP.	OEM AHMP Project Team
	Shared drafts of initial sections with internal and external stakeholders for their review.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Met with internal and external stakeholders to obtain feedback on draft plan elements.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division

Date	Tasks	People Involved
March 2025	Developed the Public Outreach Engagement Plan to collect feedback from the public on the public draft of the 2025 AHMP.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Drafted subsequent sections of the 2025 AHMP including updating existing mitigation actions and developing new mitigation actions as needed.	OEM AHMP Project Team
	Shared drafts of the subsequent sections with internal and external stakeholders for their review.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Met with internal and external stakeholders to obtain feedback on subsequent draft plan elements.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division
April/May 2025	Drafted final sections of the 2025 AHMP and produced a Final Draft AHMP.	OEM AHMP Project Team
	Shared Final Draft of the AHMP with internal and external stakeholders for their review.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Met with internal and external stakeholders to obtain feedback on subsequent Final Draft AHMP.	OEM AHMP Project Team, Internal County Stakeholder Group, External Stakeholder Group, Cal OES Mitigation Division
	Produced Final AHMP.	OEM AHMP Project Team

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Inclusive stakeholder involvement was essential to the planning process. The County ensured broad representation and participation, consistent with the "Whole Community Approach" outlined in the 2023 Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP). Key stakeholders that comprised the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee included:

- County departments such as, but not limited to, Public Works, Public Health, and Regional Planning.
- Cities within the operational area (OA) and neighboring communities through Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs) and city representation.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including environmental and disability advocacy groups.
- Special District partners managing critical infrastructure.
- Representatives of academia and school districts.
- Community representatives from Access and Functional Needs (AFN) populations and historically underrepresented populations.

Regular meetings, workshops, and focus groups were held to gather input and refine mitigation strategies. Stakeholders were contacted and invited to participate in the 2025 AHMP planning process through email (please see email template in Appendix B-3). Stakeholder feedback was documented and incorporated into the plan, ensuring diverse perspectives informed the process. Tables 2-2 and 2-3 includes a list of representatives of each agency that contributed to the planning process.

Table 2-2 Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee – Internal Stakeholder Group

Department/ Agency	Name	Title	Planning Contribution
Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM AHMP Project Team)	Michael Morin	Emergency Management Coordinator	Functioned as lead planners, led planning meetings, drafted plan, reviewed mitigation actions submitted by departments.
	Matthew Topoozian	Emergency Management Coordinator	

Department/ Agency	Name	Title	Planning Contribution
	Karen Haro	Emergency Management Coordinator	
	Girma Wollela	Emergency Management Coordinator	
Los Angeles County Department of Aging and Disabilities	Mike Tsao	Administrative Deputy	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
	Henry Lopez	Program Manager	
	Carin Anderson	Administrative Services Manager	
	Keilah Kelso	Administrative Services Manager	
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office – Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative	Cesar Sanchez	Senior Analyst	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office – Homeless Initiative	Onnie Williams III	Principal Analyst	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	Matthew Gosner	Climate Resilience Officer	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.

Department/ Agency	Name	Title	Planning Contribution
Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors	Katharine de la Cruz	Administrative Services Manager	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
	Vanessa Huerta	Safety Officer	
Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity	Maritza Dubie	Human Services Administrator	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services	Elaine Forsyth	Senior Nursing Instructor	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
	Isabel Sanchez	Disaster Services Specialist	
Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources	Kevin Halbritter	Deputy Compliance Officer	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	Ramon Bernal	Disaster Services Analyst	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Elizabeth Rubin	Epidemiologist	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services	Manuel Gutierrez	Disaster Services Analyst	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.

Department/ Agency	Name	Title	Planning Contribution
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	Joseph Marble	Disaster Services Analyst	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
	Loni Eazell	Disaster Services Specialist	
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning	Thuy Hua	Supervising Planner	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
	Edgar De La Torre	Principal Regional Planner	
Los Angeles County Fire Department	Nick Duvally	Deputy Fire Chief	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Internal Services Department	Juan-Raul Cardenas	GIS Analyst	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	Jordan Kennedy	Sergeant	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.

Table 2-3 Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee – External Stakeholder Group

Department/Agency	Planning Contribution
Access Services	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Alzheimer's Association California	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Catholic Charities	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.

Department/Agency	Planning Contribution
City of Beverly Hills Emergency Management Division	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
City of Long Beach Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Communications	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disability Community Resource Center	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area A	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area B	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area C	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area D	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area E	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area F	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area G	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Disaster Management Area Coordinator, Area H	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Emergency Network Los Angeles	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Habitat for Humanity	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.

Department/Agency	Planning Contribution
Harbor Regional Center	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Lanterman Regional Center	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Office of Education	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.
Westside Regional Center	Attended planning meetings, reviewed section drafts, and provided feedback.

2.3 Public Involvement and Outreach

Public outreach efforts aimed to foster transparency, inclusivity, and fortify public trust. The County engaged the public during the planning process through multiple media formats to share information and collect feedback taking into account language and other access and functional needs. A rolling outreach strategy was used to ensure that as each section was drafted and reviewed by planning stakeholders, it was concurrently made available for public commentary. To accomplish this, each section was posted to the Los Angeles County Hazard Mitigation Program website as it was completed by the planning team. A survey designed to gauge community perceptions of hazard risks and mitigation priorities was used on the website (Appendix D). This approach ensured that the public was a key partner in every step of the planning process and had a voice as

each section was being developed by the planning team. A social media campaign using all LA County OEM social media channels was initiated to direct the public to the survey.

To address equity, targeted outreach efforts focused on engaging historically underrepresented communities and AFN populations, using multilingual and accessible materials and culturally appropriate techniques. Aside from public outreach, stakeholders that work with or represent people with access and functional needs, people experiencing homelessness, and a diverse array of cultural groups were targeted to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee. These measures ensured that the public had meaningful opportunities to participate in shaping the plan.

2.4 Review and Incorporation of Existing Plans and Reports

The planning process included a comprehensive review of existing documents and protocols to ensure consistency and alignment. The 2020 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan served as the foundational document for this update. Additionally, key concepts from the 2023 Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP), such as Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and disaster management areas, were integrated. The Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment provided valuable insights into climate risks and social sensitivity, while local Climate Action Plans ensured alignment with municipal climate adaptation initiatives. Furthermore, the 2021 UASI THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment) provided critical data for identifying evolving threats and capability targets, enhancing the accuracy and relevance of the plan. The demographic data from the 2020 U.S. Census was utilized to ensure an accurate representation of Los Angeles County's population, now estimated at over 10 million residents. The demographic breakdown includes 48% Hispanic or Latino, 26% White, 15% Asian, 8% African American, and 3% other, with over 40% speaking a language other than English at home, emphasizing the need for multilingual and culturally appropriate outreach.

Table 2-4 Existing Plans, Maps, and Reports

Plan, Map, or Report	Information to be Incorporated into the 2025 Updated AHMP
Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (2023)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Section 7: Mitigation Strategy
Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan (2024)	Safety element mitigation policies used to inform Section 7 – Mitigation Strategy
Los Angeles County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (2021)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Section 7: Mitigation Strategy for elements related to flood hazards
County of Los Angeles Floodplain Management Plan Progress Report from (2024)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Section 7: Mitigation Strategy for elements related to flood hazards
County of Los Angeles Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Progress Report (2021)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Section 7: Mitigation Strategy for elements related to flood hazards
Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2024)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, Section 7: Mitigation Strategy, and Section 4: Climate Change for elements related to hazard risk posed by climate change
Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Plan (2023)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Section 7: Mitigation Strategy for elements related to wildland fire hazards
Our County: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan (2019)	Used to inform Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, Section 7: Mitigation Strategy, and Section 4: Climate Change for elements related to hazard risk posed by climate change
Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative Strategy Plan (2022)	Used to inform vulnerable populations information across all sections of the plan.
Disability Among Adults in Los Angeles County (2019)	Used to inform vulnerable populations information across all sections of the plan.
Southern California Earthquake Data Center's Earthquake Catalogs (Current as of 2025)	Historical seismic information used in Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.

Plan, Map, or Report	Information to be Incorporated into the 2025 Updated AHMP
Maritime Tsunami Response Playbooks: Background Information and Guidance for Response and Hazard Mitigation Use (2016)	Historical tsunami information used in Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.
FEMA Flood Insurance Study, Los Angeles County, California (2020)	Historical flood information used in Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): Rainfall and Landslides in Southern California (2015)	Historical landslide information used in Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.
Burn Scar Information and Maps	Historical fire information used in Section 6: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.

3 Community Profile

3.1 Los Angeles County Overview

Los Angeles County is the most populous county in the United States, encompassing a diverse array of communities, landscapes, and infrastructure. According to the most recent census data, Los Angeles County has a population of approximately 10 million residents of which more than 1 million reside in unincorporated areas. The County's demographics, geographic features, and economic activities present both unique opportunities and significant challenges for hazard mitigation planning. This updated community profile integrates insights from the 2023 Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP) and reflects changes in population trends, infrastructure development, and climate risks.

The County Operational Area (OA) consists of all political subdivisions within the geographical boundaries of Los Angeles County. It encompasses five supervisorial districts, eight Disaster Management Areas (DMAs), 88 incorporated cities, 80 school districts, and approximately 142 special districts.

3.2 Geography and Land Use

Spanning over 4,000 square miles, Los Angeles County features diverse terrain, including coastal plains, valleys, mountains, islands, and deserts. The County's varied geography includes multiple microclimates that influence its exposure to natural hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, floods, and landslides. Urban areas, particularly the City of Los Angeles and its surrounding metropolitan region, are densely populated and heavily developed. In contrast, rural and unincorporated areas often face unique vulnerabilities due to limited infrastructure and resources. Rural areas include the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests, which have small communities, campgrounds, and day use areas. There are also two islands within the County, Santa Catalina and San Clemente. The County also includes a significant amount of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas where residential and commercial development meets underdeveloped wildland with vegetative fuels. Land use within the County is equally diverse, with a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and open spaces. Recent urban development in densely populated areas has increased impervious surfaces like concrete and asphalt, which retain heat and create urban heat islands (UHI) that are much hotter than nearby rural areas. This phenomenon elevates temperatures, especially in low-income communities lacking green spaces for cooling. Additionally, urbanization affects stormwater management by reducing natural drainage and exacerbating flooding risks in low-lying areas.

These trends underscore the need for sustainable planning strategies, such as promoting green infrastructure, enhancing stormwater systems, and mitigating heat islands through tree planting and reflective materials. The County's diverse land use must be carefully managed to reduce vulnerabilities while supporting economic growth and environmental sustainability.

3.3 Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability is a crucial component to Los Angeles County's hazard mitigation planning. The County is home to a diverse population with disparities in income, housing stability, and access to resources. The Los Angeles County Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative created a comprehensive Equity Explorer, which is a geospatial tool that explores multiple equity data points across Los Angeles County. The ARDI Equity Explorer includes various layers that visualize social equity, economic opportunity, housing and homelessness, health, justice, built environment, and disaster recovery data. The public can access this data at ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi/tools. Maps created using data from the ARDI Equity Explorer are in Appendix A-8.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines social vulnerability as a community's capacity to prepare for and respond to the stress of hazardous events ranging from natural disasters to human caused threats. The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (Figure 3.1) is designed to identify and quantify communities experiencing social vulnerability.

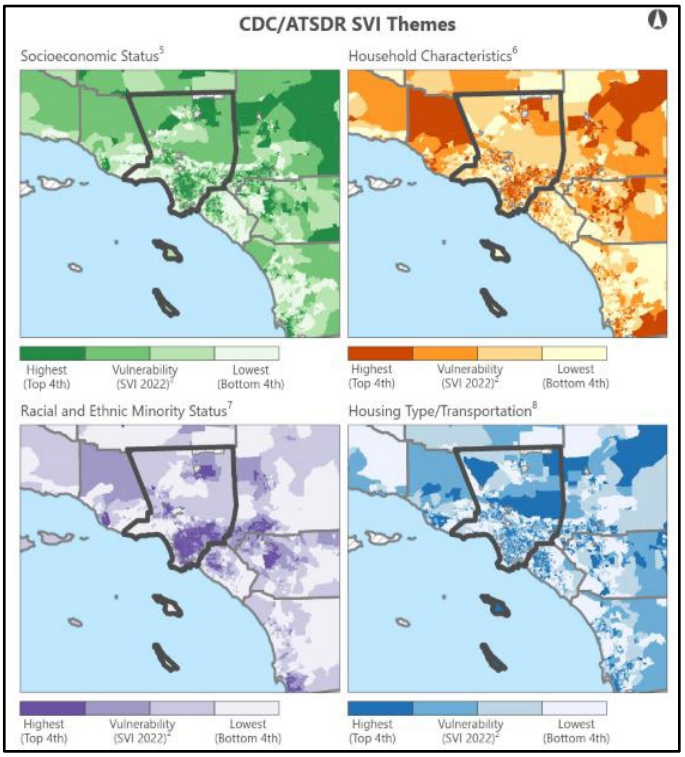


Figure 3.1 CDC Social Vulnerability Index (CDC 2022)

The most recent CDC Social Vulnerability Index score from 2022 for Los Angeles County indicated a high level of vulnerability across four themes: socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing type/transportation.

Vulnerable populations identified for Los Angeles County that will be considered in the AHMP include:

- **Low-Income Residents**: Individuals living below or near the poverty line are often disproportionately affected by disasters due to limited financial resources for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

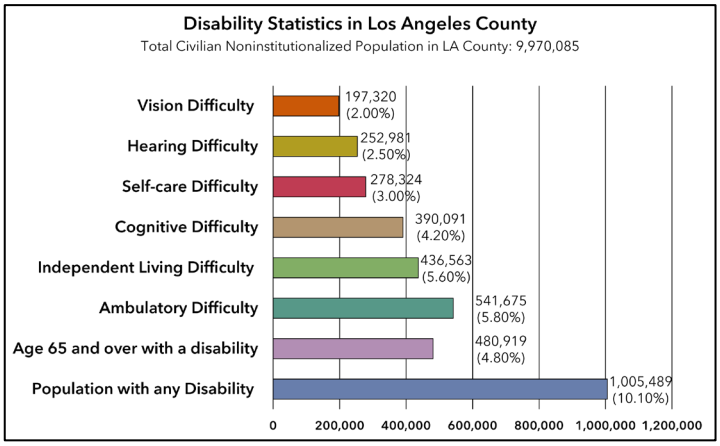


Figure 3.2 Disability Statistics in Los Angeles County (OAEOP 2023)

- **People with Access and Functional Needs (AFN)**: Individuals with Access and Functional needs have increased challenges in preparedness, evacuation, sheltering, accessing emergency services and recovery. Access and Functional Needs include but are not limited to people who have any combination in varying degree of: physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental health-related issues, visual impairments, hearing impairments/deaf, mobility impairments, or chronic conditions. AFN also include older adults, infants and children, people living in institutionalized settings, people living below the poverty line or experiencing homelessness, people with limited English proficiency or are non-English speakers, or people who are transportation disadvantaged.

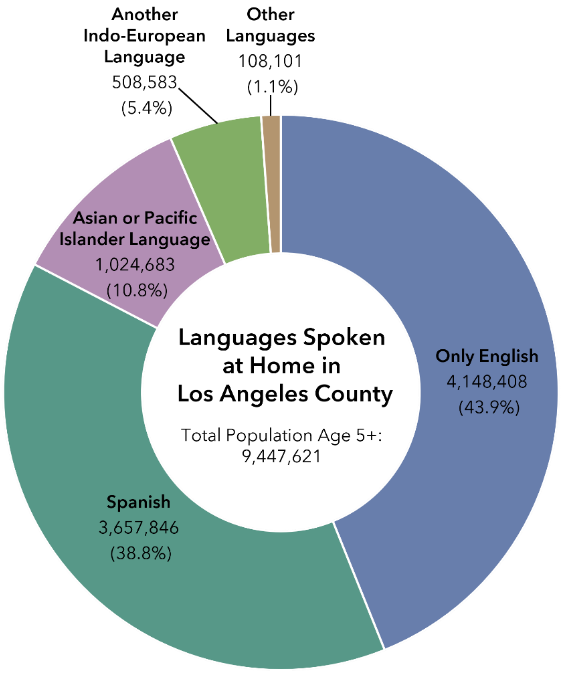


Figure 3. 3 Breakdown of Language at Home in Los Angeles County (OAEOP 2023)

- **People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)**: With an estimated over 75,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, this population is particularly at risk during extreme weather events and other disasters.
- **Immigration Status**: Fear of engaging with government services based on immigration status can prevent residents from accessing critical resources.

- **Limited English Proficiency:** Over 40% of residents speak a language other than English at home, highlighting the need for multilingual and culturally appropriate outreach efforts. Language accessibility is critical to ensure all residents and visitors can obtain information and services during a disaster. See Figure 3.3 for a breakdown of languages spoken at home in Los Angeles County not including American Sign Language.

The figure below highlights certain variables in Los Angeles County that may increase vulnerability to emergencies and disasters. To address these vulnerabilities, the County's mitigation planning includes equitable strategies designed to reduce risk and enhance resilience among these populations. Targeted outreach, improved access to resources, preparedness education events, and collaboration with community organizations are integral to these efforts.

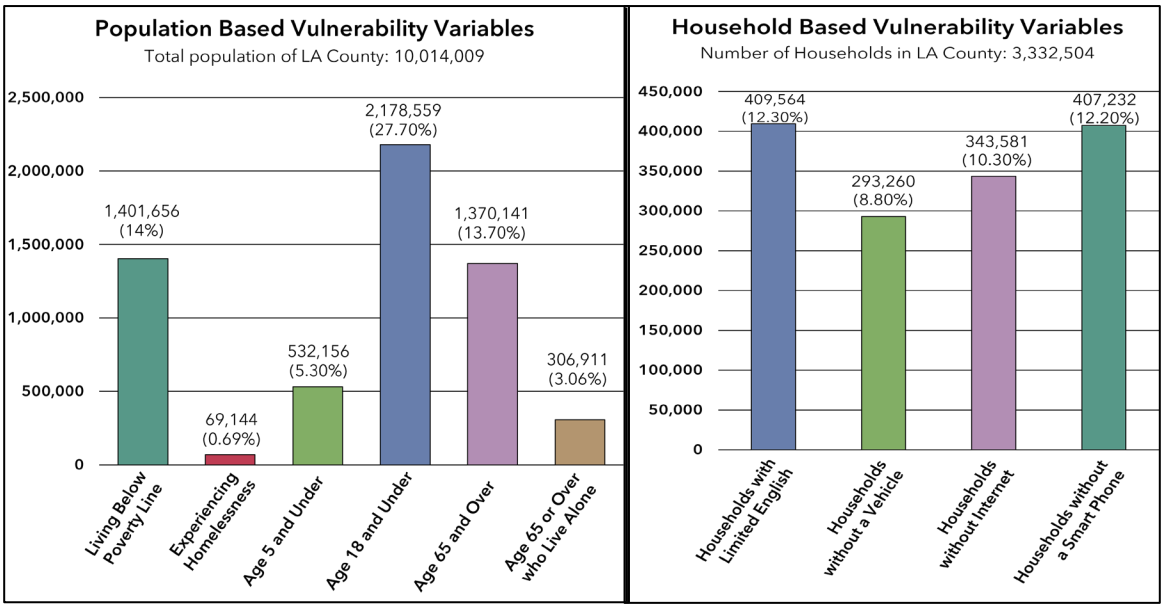


Figure 3.4 Los Angeles County Vulnerability Variables (OAEOP 2023)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maintains the National Risk Index, a mapping tool that assesses 18 possible hazards a jurisdiction is susceptible to in combination with the amount of loss that could result from those hazards. Los Angeles County ranks as the community with the most risk in the United States according to the FEMA National Risk Index. According to the National Risk Index, hazards with the highest risk for Los Angeles County include earthquake, wildfires, extreme heat, flooding, high winds, and landslides.

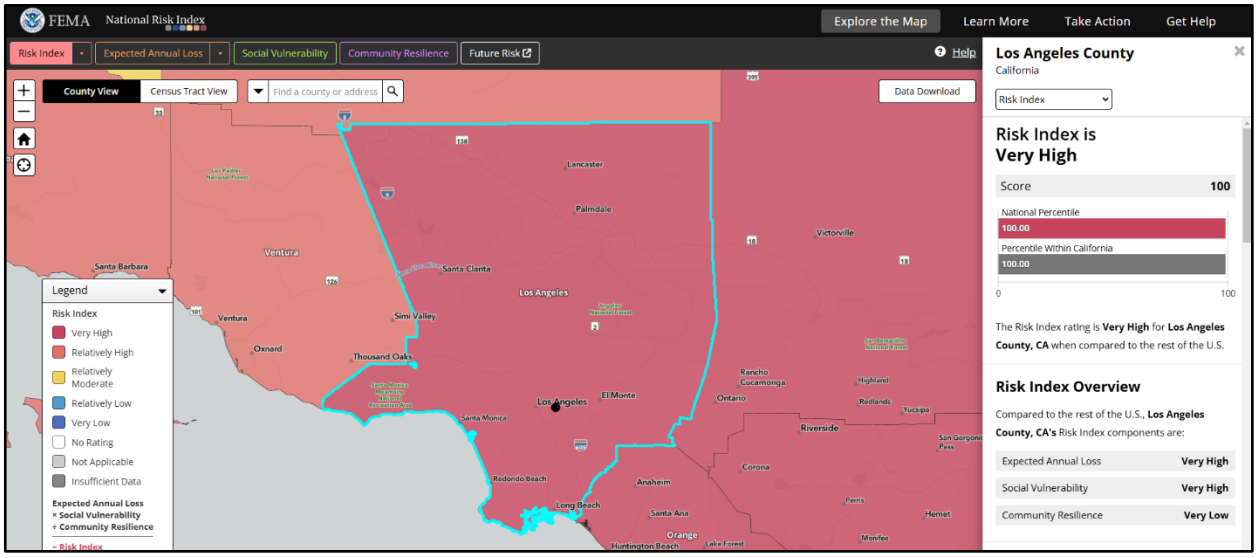


Figure 3.5 FEMA National Risk Index (2025)

3.4 Economy and Critical Infrastructure

Los Angeles County is a global economic hub, hosting industries such as entertainment, technology, manufacturing, and international trade. The Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach collectively form one of the world's busiest trade gateways, underscoring the importance of protecting critical infrastructure from hazards including those exacerbated by climate change. Critical facilities provide services and functions essential to a community, especially during and after a disaster. Common types of critical facilities include but are not limited to fire stations, police stations, hospitals, schools, and utilities. Critical facilities may also include places that can be used for sheltering, cooling centers, staging purposes, or other large public gathering spots such as community centers and libraries. Critical facilities include those operated by non-governmental and business partners vital for redevelopment or

economic security. When these are affected by a disaster, the County provides businesses and workers impacted by the disaster with vital information and resources. This allows them to maneuver effectively through disaster response toward recovery using its network of job centers and business hubs.

Other critical infrastructure includes the facilities and industries that enable all facets of society to function, including but not limited to the following community lifelines:

- **Safety and Security**: The myriad of local law enforcement, fire and rescue, emergency management, schools, and other government services that maintain public safety and security.
- **Communications:** The interconnected network of infrastructure owners and operators of communications systems such as internet, telephone, cellular and other communications towers, cable, satellite, and more.
- **Transportation Networks**: The County's extensive network of roadways, highways, railways, transit systems, and airports is essential for daily operations and disaster response.
- **Energy Systems**: Power generation facilities, energy distribution networks, and pipelines are vulnerable to multiple types of hazards and threats.
- **Water and Wastewater Systems**: Drought conditions and aging infrastructure at the over 220 different water agencies in Los Angeles County pose risks to water availability and quality.
- **Healthcare Facilities**: Over 100 hospitals and numerous clinics serve the County, requiring robust contingency plans to maintain operations during disasters.
- **Food and Shelter:** The vast system of food production (i.e., agriculture), distribution, and retail along with community housing or sheltering.

3.5 Climate and Environmental Conditions

Los Angeles County faces escalating risks from climate change, significantly impacting its environment, economy, and communities. These challenges include rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, more frequent and severe extreme weather events, and their cascading effects. These risks highlight the critical need for adaptive planning to protect vulnerable populations, infrastructure, and natural resources. Key climate-

related considerations referenced in the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan that will be addressed in this AHMP include, but are not limited to:

- **Extreme Weather Events:** Extreme temperatures in the Los Angeles region are expected to increase. Both dry and wet extremes are projected to intensify, leading to longer dry periods than historically experienced. These dry periods are expected to be followed by significantly wetter conditions, including atmospheric rivers bringing more intense rainfall. This pattern may result in increased water scarcity, mudslides, and flooding.
- **Sea-Level Rise**: Coastal communities are at heightened risk of flooding and erosion, threatening homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Sea level rise can exacerbate the impacts of high tides, storm surges, and heavy precipitation, and can lead to increased coastal flooding and shoreline erosion.
- **Increasing Wildfire Risk**: Climate change has intensified wildfire seasons, particularly in the County's mountainous, wildland urban interface (WUI), and new and undeveloped regions. Wildfires are projected to increase in frequency and intensity including in some areas not historically impacted by wildfire.

In response, the County has prioritized integrating climate adaptation strategies into its hazard mitigation planning, as outlined in the Climate Vulnerability Assessment and the OAEOP.

3.6 Regional Collaboration and Planning Efforts

Los Angeles County's size and complexity necessitates collaboration with numerous jurisdictions, agencies, and community organizations. The County is designated as the Operational Area Coordinator and functions as an intermediate level in the State of California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). In accordance with SEMS, the County serves as the communications and coordination link between local governments within Los Angeles County and the state government. Partnerships with academic institutions, non-profits, and private sector stakeholders support data collection, public engagement, and innovative mitigation strategies. Additionally, the County has also adopted Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) as the primary emergency management coordination structure. ESFs group function-specific stakeholders who will coordinate throughout all phases of emergency management,

including function-specific mitigation activities. For more information on regional emergency management collaboration and planning, reference the OAEOP.

3.7 Implications for Hazard Mitigation Planning

Understanding the community is a critical aspect in hazard mitigation planning. This community profile will inform key considerations in subsequent sections of the AHMP including but not limited to the following:

- **Targeted Outreach:** Include vulnerable populations and the business community in the planning process through equitable public outreach.
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** Prioritize the protection of critical infrastructure, including ports and transportation networks, energy systems, and water and wastewater systems, among others.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Develop strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change, focusing on urban heat islands, sea-level rise, and wildfire risks.
- **Regional Coordination:** Strengthen direct collaboration within the OA between the County, local jurisdictions, special districts, unified school districts, the business community and cross-sector non-governmental partners to enhance awareness, preparedness, and response capabilities.
- **Transparent & Open Communication:** Ensure communications are accessible, and clear to advance public trust and safety. Develop dashboards to demonstrate progress.

4 Climate Change

4.1 Climate Change Overview

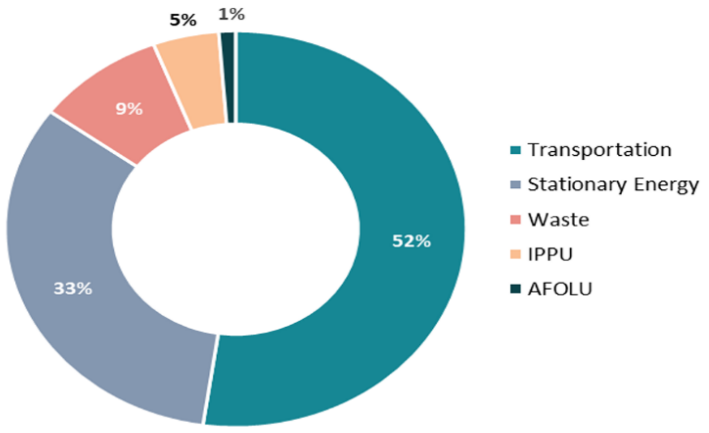
Climate change refers to the changing effect of the Earth's climate system over time, including changes in temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns. Climate change had significant impacts on Los Angeles County, affecting various aspects of life, environment, infrastructure, and sustainable development, and presents increasing risks from amplified hazards and changing baselines (e.g., sea level) into the future. The rate of climate change has significantly accelerated over the last three decades and trends continues. This plan addresses the effects of climate change related to disasters within the County and strategies to mitigate risks, focusing on preparedness, resilience and equity.

Climate change contributes to more frequent and intense disasters, such as floods, wildfires, drought and excessive heat. Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns pose health risks, like heat-related illnesses, respiratory issues, and the spread of diseases. Hazard mitigation efforts aim to reduce the impacts and effects of greater hazards due to climate change. The economic impact of climate change has been substantial, affecting industries such as agriculture, tourism, and insurance with increasing risks due to accelerating climate changes.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are the main driver of climate change, which causes increased frequency, duration, and severity of extreme weather and climate-related disasters. Climate change exacerbates air pollution, leading to poor air quality and health issues. GHG emissions from residential buildings, commercial and institutional facilities, manufacturing industries and construction, energy industries, oil and natural gas systems. transportation, fossil energy, wildfires and other sources contribute to increased particulate matter and other pollutants in the air.

4.2 Integrating Climate Change into Hazard Profiles

Integrating climate change into hazard profiles involves assessing the current and future impacts of climate change on various hazards and incorporating this information into planning and mitigation strategies. This section highlights how climate change relates to these hazards and how the county is addressing climate change through hazard mitigation efforts which help protect the county's residents and economies from the adverse effects of climate changes and climate-amplified events.



Abbreviations: AFOLU = agriculture, forestry, and other land use; IPPU = industrial processes and product use

Figure 4.1 Sources of GHG Emissions from within Los Angeles County (LA County 2024; 2045 Climate Action Plan)

4.2.1 Extreme Heat

Increasing temperatures and high heat events is one of the most conspicuous results of and a direct correlation between GHG pollution and climate change. Excessive temperatures in the Los Angeles region are expected to increase significantly more very hot days and warm nights. In addition to increasing baseline temperatures and extreme heat due to climate change, heat islands exacerbate temperatures and high heat events. As development occurs and darker paved surfaces replace open land and vegetation, these areas become warmer forming an "island" of heat. Los Angeles County experiences more frequent and excessive heat due to climate change. This is currently a major risk and with unmitigated GHG emissions increasing heat will lead to even greater health issues, increased energy demand for cooling, and other strains on infrastructure.

4.2.2 Flooding

Flooding in Los Angeles County occurs due to extreme rainfall events causing flash floods, riverine flooding, and increased surface water. Coastal areas in Los Angeles County are vulnerable to sea- level rise (SLR), which exacerbates coastal hazards like floods, storm surges, and chronic erosion. Other related hazards include flooding near

the mouths of streams and channels, landslides, and seawater well intrusion. SLR exacerbates the impacts of high tides, storm surges, and heavy precipitation flooding, and continued SLR will lead to more life safety concerns and increased damage to property and infrastructure.

4.2.3 Drought

Prolonged droughts have become more common, affecting the water supply, agriculture, and ecosystems of Los Angeles County. Dry and wet extremes are projected to increase and are likely to cause drier periods than what the region has historically experienced.

Southern California projected to get drier, while Northern California will increase in temperature. This will result in loss of snowpack within the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, meaning less water for all Californians including farmers, residents, and utilities. The State Water Resource Control Board proclaimed several water conservation emergency regulations due to severe drought conditions that requires commercial, industrial, and residential conservation efforts. Proclamations include:

- **January 4, 2022:** State Water Board adopted the prohibited wasteful water uses emergency regulation
- **May 24, 2022:** the State Water Board adopted the emergency regulation to ban decorative grass watering like non-functional turf irrigation
- **December 7, 2022:** the State Water Board readopted the prohibited wasteful water uses emergency regulation,
- **May 26, 2023:** the State Water Board readopted the emergency regulation to ban decorative grass watering.

4.2.4 Wildfire

A wildfire is an unplanned and uncontrolled fire in an area of combustible vegetation. These fires can easily spread beyond the natural areas primarily involving and have a potential to cause damages outside of the perimeter. Wildfire probability depends on local weather conditions, outdoor activities and any preceding conditions (e.g., lots of rain leading to vegetation growth and then drying conditions), and a potential ignition (e.g., lightning strike, arson, debris burning, electrical equipment failure, car tailpipe, etc.). The frequency and intensity of wildfires has increased driven by higher

temperatures, lower precipitation, lower relative humidity, and prolonged droughts. These events have caused loss of life, destroy and/or damage to property, infrastructure, the environment and pose greater risks due to historical development patterns. The timeline of major wildfire events and acreage burned in Los Angeles County is listed at Section 6.2 of the plan.

4.3 Climate Mitigation Strategies

Los Angeles County is actively addressing climate change and implementing hazard mitigation strategies to reduce its impacts and build long-term resilience. The County faces increasing risks from excessive heat, wildfires, droughts, floods, and sea-level rise, all of which threaten communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

To address many of these challenges, the County has developed comprehensive climate plans and strategies that integrate climate adaptation, sustainable land use, emergency preparedness, and environmental conservation. By enforcing building codes, investing in green infrastructure, and strengthening community preparedness, Los Angeles County aims to minimize risks and enhance disaster resilience. These efforts align with state and federal climate policies and are designed to protect both current and future generations while encouraging a more sustainable and livable environment for all.

4.3.1 Climate Resilience Plans and Actions

- **Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP):** Establishes aggressive targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- **Water Conservation & Drought Resilience Measures:** Implements mandatory water restrictions, promotes rainwater harvesting, and expands groundwater recharge and water recycling projects.
- **Wildfire Mitigation & Vegetation Management Programs:** Enforces Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) codes, increases forest management techniques, aligned with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) principles and practices of our native indigenous communities, and strengthens fire-resistant building and landscape requirements.

- **Green Infrastructure & Urban Cooling Initiatives:** Expands tree planting aligned with TEK principles and practices, investigates removing hard (paved) surfaces, and planting groundcover, utilizes and promotes public cooling centers and home heat preparedness, and encourages the use of reflective "cool" roofing and surfaces to mitigate the urban heat island (UHI) effect.
- **Heat Action Plan:** Develops strategies to reduce the adverse health impacts of excessive heat through public shade structures, cooling centers, building codes, and increased public awareness campaigns for all susceptible to extreme heat.

These strategic actions reflect Los Angeles County's commitment to tackling climate change. By integrating proactive policies, indigenous-informed practices, community-driven solutions, and resilient infrastructure, Los Angeles County, is not only mitigating current risks but also preparing for a future where communities can thrive in an ever-changing dynamic environment.

4.4 Climate Change Conclusion

Through proactive policies and community engagement, Los Angeles County strives to navigate the complexities of a changing climate and safeguard its people, environment, infrastructure and economies. This approach helps minimize the risks and impacts associated with climate-related hazards. Addressing climate change in hazard mitigation help enhance safer, healthier, and more sustainable communities.

5 Integrating Access and Functional Needs (AFN) into Hazard Mitigation

5.1 AFN Introduction

Modern hazard mitigation planning increasingly recognizes that resilient communities must address the needs of all residents –including those with access and functional needs (AFN). Historically, individuals with disabilities (i.e. including but not limited to, youth, those economically depressed, pregnant, etc.), chronic health conditions, language barriers, or transportation disadvantages have been underrepresented in emergency planning. As evidenced by the best practices for stakeholder inclusion and further supported by national preparedness frameworks, integrating AFN considerations leads to plans that are more inclusive and effective. By proactively engaging AFN populations and support agencies in every phase, from preparedness through recovery, a hazard mitigation plan can reduce losses, improve evacuation and sheltering outcomes, and build trust between emergency management agencies and the communities they serve.

5.2 Inclusion of AFN and Vulnerable Populations in Planning

A major component of effective mitigation planning is a "whole community" approach. Incorporating AFN voices into the planning process is crucial because these stakeholders offer real-world insights into the challenges they face during emergencies. Key steps to this process include, but are not limited to:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ensure that representatives from disability advocacy groups, community-based organizations, and service providers (such as local health departments and transportation agencies) are engaged early in the planning process. Their firsthand experiences help identify practical barriers that might otherwise be overlooked.
- **Public Participation:** Incorporating public stakeholders through meetings, surveys, and other outreach to capture the diverse needs of AFN populations. This input is vital to overcoming historical marginalization and ensuring that mitigation actions are relevant and equitable to the entire population.
- **Ongoing Interagency Collaboration:** Develop a hazard mitigation planning advisory committee and interagency working groups that include AFN stakeholders. These groups can guide both the planning process and the review of existing plans, ensuring that AFN issues are fully integrated from the outset.

5.2.1 Integrating AFN into the Overall AHMP

Integrating AFN considerations is not a stand-alone task; it must be interlaced throughout the entire hazard mitigation planning process. This includes:

- **Risk Assessments:** Incorporate AFN data into all risk assessments to ensure that the specific vulnerabilities of these populations are reflected in hazard maps and vulnerability index data.
- **Mitigation Strategy Development:** Ensure that every mitigation action is examined for its impact on AFN populations. For example, when planning for flood control or wildfire prevention projects, review how these projects can be improved to meet the needs of people with access and functional needs.
- **Plan Review and Update:** Ensure planning processes include regular AFN review and updates. Includes but not limited to:
    - Surveys of community needs
    - Consultations with AFN advisory groups
    - Integration of new technological or infrastructural solutions
- **Funding and Resource Allocation:** Clearly identify funding streams and resource commitments for AFN-specific projects. This could involve targeted grants from federal programs (e.g., Hazard Mitigation Assistance), state funding dedicated to accessible infrastructure improvements, and local resources such as the Productivity Investment Fund that can be accessed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of County operations.

5.3 Assessment of AFN Needs

Understanding the specific needs of AFN populations requires both quantitative and qualitative approaches:

- **Data Collection and Risk Assessment:** Use existing resources, community surveys, outreach and risk assessments to help identify the number and types of individuals with AFN at the local community level. Evaluate the regional geographic distribution, vulnerabilities, and specific requirements before and after emergencies.

- **Frameworks for Analysis:** Adopt structured methodologies such as C-MIST (Communication, Maintaining Health, Independence, Support, Safety, and Transportation) to assess/ document AFN requirements.

- **C-MIST Explanation**
    - **Communication**: Individuals with hearing, vision, cognitive, or speech limitations may require alternative communication methods to receive or express information during emergencies.
    - **Medical / Health Needs**: People with complex medical conditions rely on medications, medical equipment, or specialized care to maintain their health and prevent complications.
    - **Independence**: Those who use mobility devices, assistive technology, or service animals need uninterrupted access to maintain their independence and daily functions.
    - **Supervision & Safety**: Some individuals require continuous support for safety, comfort, or emotional well-being, including those with memory issues, psychiatric conditions, or intellectual disabilities.
    - **Transportation**: Individuals without personal transportation or with mobility limitations need accessible and reliable options, especially in emergencies and evacuations.
- **Integrating Vulnerability Assessments:** Leverage tools from local climate vulnerability assessments and hazard mitigation plan reviews to identify areas where AFN populations overlap with high-risk zones (e.g., flood plains,

wildfire-prone areas). This integration helps prioritize mitigation actions in regions where vulnerable populations are most exposed.

5.4 Coordination with AFN Support Agencies

Effective mitigation planning requires robust coordination with both governmental and nongovernmental agencies that serve AFN populations. Best practices include:

- **Formal Partnerships:** Establish relationships and partnerships with agencies such as public health departments, social services, transportation authorities, community-based organizations, and disability advocacy organizations. These partnerships ensure that there is clear, ongoing communication and that roles and responsibilities are delineated before, during, and after disasters.
- **Joint Training and Exercises:** Conduct regular joint meetings, and exercises that include AFN components and identify additional resources to support the needs of the AFN community. These actions will help prepare all stakeholders to work together during a crisis and help identify gaps in current plans.
- **Outreach and Information Dissemination:** Ensure that all information, both pre-incident preparedness messages, response measures and post-incident recovery plans are accessible to all audiences. This includes using multiple languages, various communication formats (e.g., large-print, audio, sign-language, and digital formats), and culturally appropriate messaging to reach all segments of the community.

5.5 AFN Conclusion

A hazard mitigation plan builds a foundation for a resilient, inclusive community. By ensuring that AFN and other vulnerable populations are included in every phase of planning, from initial stakeholder engagement to the development of tailored mitigation actions and coordinated response strategies, communities can minimize disaster impacts and foster long-term resilience. Drawing on best practices from national frameworks and local planning guides, and by implementing ADA-compliant shelter operations, emergency managers can create a plan that truly serves every member of the community. This inclusive approach not only saves lives and property during disasters but also strengthens community trust and the overall effectiveness of emergency management efforts.

6 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

6.1 Hazard Identification Overview

The hazard identification and risk assessment process provide a foundation for Los Angeles County's hazard mitigation planning efforts by identifying, profiling, and assessing the risks associated with natural, technological, and human-caused hazards. This section builds on the framework established in the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan, incorporating insights from the 2023 Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP), the 2024 Los Angeles Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), the Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment, the State of California Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Risk Index.

Based on these sources hazards were included and addressed in the 2025 AHMP according to their frequency, severity and impact to Los Angeles County, see below Table 6-1. Hazards that did not meet the threshold of moderate risk will not be prioritized within the plan. Additionally, three new natural hazards (Extreme Heat, Drought, and Severe Wind/Tornado) and four human-caused hazards (Mass Violence, Cyber Incidents, Transportation Incidents, and Public Health Emergencies) are included in the 2025 AHMP.

Table 6-1 Hazard Inclusion/ Omission

Hazard	Comment
Earthquake	Hazard is included in the plan due to its high frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Wildfire	Hazard is included in the plan due to its high frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Heat Wave	Hazard is included in the plan due to its high frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Tornado	Hazard is included in the plan due to its high frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County. Tornado is incorporated with the Severe Wind/ Tornado hazard profile.
Land Movement	Hazard is included in the plan due to its high frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.

Hazard	Comment
Lightning	Hazard is included in the plan due to its high frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County. Lightening is incorporated with the Wildfire and Flooding hazard profiles.
Flooding	Hazard is included in the plan due to its frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County. The Flooding hazard profile incorporates both Riverine and Coastal Flooding.
Drought	Hazard is included in the plan due to its frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Strong Wind	Hazard is included in the plan due to its frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County. Strong Wind is incorporated with the Severe Wind and Tornado hazard profile.
Tsunami	Hazard is included in the plan due to its frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Winter Weather	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its minimal frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Hail	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its minimal frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Avalanche	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its minimal frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Cold Wave	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its lack of frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Hurricane	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its lack of frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Ice Storm	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its lack of frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.
Volcanic Activity	Hazard is omitted from the plan due to its lack of frequency, severity, and impact to Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County faces a wide range of hazards due to its geographic diversity, population density, and economic significance. The following hazards were identified and prioritized from the previously mentioned sources based on historical occurrences, potential impacts, and future risks:

1. Wildfire
2. Earthquake
3. Extreme Heat
4. Drought
5. Flooding
6. Dam Failure
7. Land Movement
8. Tsunami
9. Severe Wind and Tornado
10. Mass Violence
11. Cybersecurity Incidents
12. Transportation Incidents
13. Public Health Emergencies

Among these hazards, six were identified to be potentially exacerbated by climate change including wildfire, extreme heat, drought, flooding, land movement, and severe wind and tornadoes. Additional human-caused hazards were included based on the 2024 THIRA including mass violence, cybersecurity incidents, transportation incidents, and public health emergencies. The results of the public Personal Disaster Impact Survey validated that these hazards are of significant concern to county residents. A risk assessment table comparing hazards to critical infrastructure is in Appendix C.

Table 6-2 Changes in Development and Vulnerability

Hazard	Change (Increase/ Decrease)	Reason
Earthquake	No Change	While new construction adheres to modern seismic codes aging infrastructure in high seismic zones remain vulnerable. Continued population growth in older neighborhoods with limited

Hazard	Change (Increase/ Decrease)	Reason
		retrofitting increases overall exposure.
Wildfire (Lightning)	Increase in Vulnerability	Urban expansion into Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas has increased the number of homes at risk. Post 2020 development in high fire severity zones has continued, though defensible space regulations and new fire-safe planning are improving resilience for new builds.
Extreme Heat	Increase in Vulnerability	Population density, urban heat islands, and development in inland valleys increases exposure. Older multi-family units without air conditioning remain a concern. More outdoor workers and people experiencing homelessness (PEH) add to vulnerable population.
Land Movement	Stable to Slight Increase	Most new development avoids known landslide-prone areas due to zoning and geotechnical review. However, climate-driven precipitation variability and wildfires continue to destabilize slopes in developed areas.
Flooding (Lightning)	Increase in Vulnerability	New impervious surfaces from development increase stormwater runoff. Older flood control infrastructure is strained under heavier, more frequent rain events.

Hazard	Change (Increase/ Decrease)	Reason
Drought	Increase in Vulnerability	Continued population growth and water demand in arid and semi-arid zones has outpaced gains in conservation. Agricultural vulnerability persists in high desert areas.
Severe Wind and Tornado	Increase in Vulnerability	Los Angeles County is experiencing more frequent and intense wind events, including tornadoes. As urban development expands, tree canopies and overhead utilities in densely developed areas continue to contribute to cascading hazards. In response, efforts are underway to underground utility lines in high-risk areas.
Tsunami	Stable	Revised tsunami inundation maps have refined the at-risk zones. New developments in coastal areas are largely outside the updated hazard areas or comply with stricter coastal building codes.
Dam Failure	Stable/ Slight Increase	While no new major dams have been constructed in recent years, downstream development continues to increase population and critical infrastructure exposure within inundation zones.

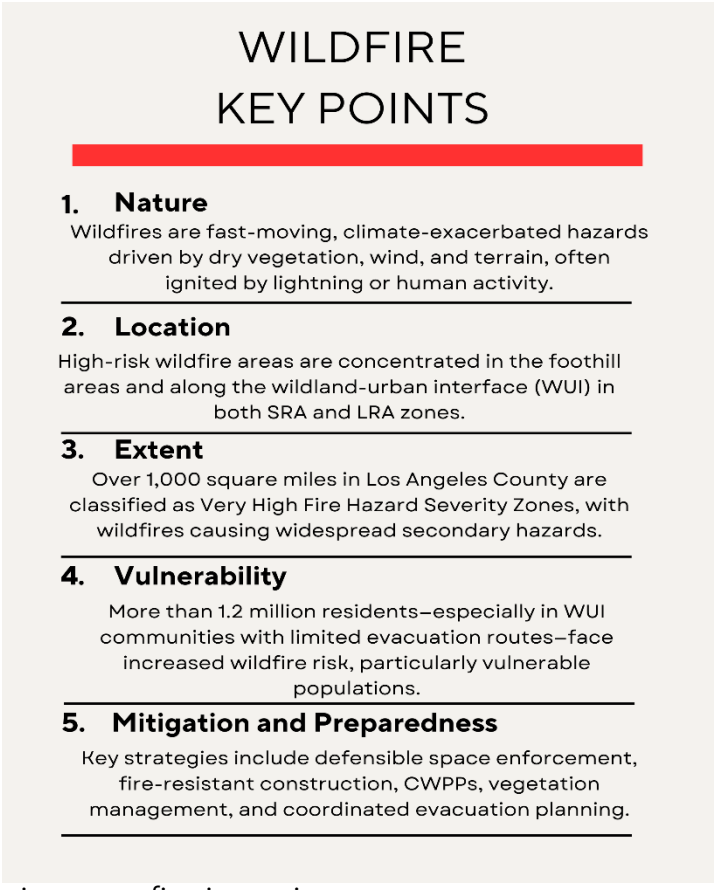
6.2 Wildfire

6.2.1 Nature

Wildfires are fast-moving, uncontrolled fires that consume vegetation and rapidly spread, often threatening lives, structures, and infrastructure. These fires can be ignited by natural causes, such as lightning, or human activities, including unattended campfires, downed power lines, and arson. The increasing frequency, duration, and intensity of wildfires in Los Angeles County are possibly linked to the changing climate, with hotter temperatures, prolonged droughts, and reduced humidity levels making the region highly susceptible to fires.

Factors Influencing Wildfire Behavior

- **Topography**: Fires spread more rapidly on steep slopes and are often driven by the Santa Ana winds.
- **Fuel Load**: Dense, dry vegetation and high tree mortality increase fire intensity.
- **Weather Conditions**: High temperatures, strong winds, and low humidity elevate fire risk, with the changing climate contributing to a lengthened fire season.



Wildfires also create secondary hazards such as poor air quality, landslides, flooding, and debris flows—especially in areas with recent burn scars where vegetation loss increases soil instability.

6.2.2 Location

Los Angeles County is one of the most wildfire-prone regions in the United States. Based on the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps, significant wildfire risk exists in the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Palos Verdes Hills, and Puente Hills. The 2024 THIRA and Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment identify an increasing risk to communities located in or near these high-risk areas.

Los Angeles County has three primary wildfire management zones:

- **Federal Responsibility Areas (FRAs):** Lands administered or controlled by the federal government where federal agencies have administrative and protection responsibility for wildfires.
- **State Responsibility Areas (SRAs):** Wildland areas where CAL FIRE is responsible for suppression efforts.
- **Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs):** Developed regions where local agencies, such as Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), provide fire protection.

For a better visual representation of this Wildfire Hazard within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A. Included in Appendix A are several Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for reference.

6.2.3 Extent

According to CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps, Los Angeles County contains:

- 386.06 square miles (8.11%) classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Areas, LRAs.
- 625.01 square miles (13.13%) classified as Very High (FHSZ) in State Responsibility Areas, SRAs.

Wildfires pose a significant threat not only through the immediate damage they cause to lives, property, and natural resources, but also through the secondary hazards that continue after the flames are extinguished.

In the aftermath of a fire, communities often face increased risks of flash floods, debris flows, and degraded air quality. These post-fire impacts can compound the initial destruction, placing additional strain on infrastructure, health systems, and recovery efforts.

6.2.4 History

Los Angeles County has experienced numerous devastating wildfires in recent decades, including:

- **Canyon Fire (1968) –** Burned 22,000 acres, destroyed 147 homes, and led to mass evacuations.
- **Old Topanga Fire (1993) –** Consumed 16,516 acres, destroying 388 structures and causing three fatalities.
- **Sayre Fire (2008) –** Destroyed 489 structures, including over 600 mobile homes.
- **Station Fire (2009) –** The largest fire in Los Angeles County history, burning 160,577 acres, destroying 209 structures, and causing two firefighter fatalities.
- **Woolsey Fire (2018) –** Burned 96,949 acres, destroyed 1,643 structures, and resulted in three fatalities.
- **Bobcat Fire (2020) –** Scorched 115,796 acres, destroying 171 structures and damaging numerous infrastructures in the Angeles National Forest.
- **Palisades Fire (2025) –** Resulted in significant destruction and loss of life, burning 23,707 acres, destroyed approximately 6,833 structures, and causing 12 civilian fatalities.
- **Eaton Fire (2025) –** Resulted in significant destruction and loss of life, burning 14,021 acres, destroying approximately 9,418 structures, and causing 17 civilian fatalities.

These fires highlight the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires, emphasizing the urgent need for stronger mitigation and preparedness efforts.

The Los Angeles County area has experienced federally declared wildfires and are shown in the table below. There have been no state proclamations for wildfires in the last five years.

Federally Declared Wildfire/Fire Management Assistance Declaration in Los Angeles County from 1/1/2020 to 3/28/2025

Date	Incident Name	No.	Category
1/8/2025	California Wildfires and Winds	4856	Federal Declaration
1/8/2025	California Eaton Fire	5550	Fire Management Assistance Declaration
1/8/2025	California Hurst Fire	5551	Fire Management Assistance Declaration
1/7/2025	California Palisades Fire	5549	Fire Management Assistance Declaration
12/10/2024	California Franklin Fire	5548	Fire Management Assistance Declaration
9/11/2024	California Bridge Fire	5537	Fire Management Assistance Declaration
10/16/2020	California Wildfires	4569	Federal Declaration
9/13/2020	California Bobcat Fire	5374	Fire Management Assistance Declaration

6.2.5 Probability

With several guaranteed wildfires each year, the probability of wildfire ignition in Los Angeles County is gradually increasing, driven largely by climate change. There is a 100% chance of a fire occurring each year within the geographic planning area. Historically, wildfires occurred between June and November, but recent years have shown a year-round fire season due to hotter, drier conditions and more intense weather variability.

Longer dry periods, reduced humidity, and increased temperatures, coupled with historic drought and vegetation die-off, have created critically dry fuel beds. These events make even small ignition sources capable of generating major wildfires.

Santa Ana winds continue to serve as a major accelerant, contributing to rapid fire spread and severe fire behavior. When combined with urban encroachment into fire-prone areas, these conditions elevate both the frequency and destructiveness of wildfires.

Projections from the 2024 THIRA and the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment confirm that wildfire probability will continue to rise unless significant fuel reduction, land use planning, and climate adaptation strategies are implemented across all jurisdictions.

The 2024 THIRA estimates that:

- Over 1.2 million residents live in high-risk wildfire zones.
- Communities near the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) are at the greatest risk, especially those with limited evacuation routes, and the Access and Functional Needs community.
- Vulnerable populations, including seniors, low-income households, and people with disabilities, face heightened challenges during evacuations.

6.2.6 Vulnerability

Los Angeles County faces high wildfire vulnerability due to its extensive Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), with over 1.2 million residents that live in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs). These communities are particularly susceptible because many homes lack defensible space, fire-resistant construction, or adequate emergency access.

Vulnerable populations including (but not limited to): seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income households, and those dependent on electrical medical equipment, face significant evacuation and health risks during wildfire events, especially in WUI communities with limited ingress/egress and high fuel loads.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT BREAKDOWN		
Supervisorial District	**Population in High-Risk Wildfire Zones**	**Percentage of District Population**
District 1	**150,000**	**12%**
District 2	**75,000**	**6%**
District 3	**425,000**	**30%**
District 4	**250,000**	**20%**
District 5	**500,000**	**32%**

Contextual Overview

Very High FHSZ in LRA jurisdiction includes dense hillside residential areas under local fire authority responsibility. These are some of the most vulnerable communities due to terrain, vegetation, and constrained emergency access.

Critical infrastructure is also at risk, with wildfire exposure threatening fire stations, law enforcement facilities, hospitals, utilities, transportation corridors, and emergency communication systems. Disruption to these essential services during wildfire events can compound vulnerabilities and delay response and recovery. For a better understanding of critical infrastructure at risk please see Appendix C.

Total Facilities Affected:

- **Very High LRA**: 120
- **High SRA**: 8
- **Very High SRA**: 76

With the continued expansion of developments into fire-prone areas has significantly increased wildfire risk. Many homes in the WUI lack proper defensible space and fire-resistant building materials, making them particularly vulnerable. Additionally, limited evacuation routes in some WUI communities create challenges for emergency response and evacuations. Stricter zoning laws, building regulations, and vegetation management policies are the best practices to reduce risk.

Department/ Agency	Very High FHSZ (LRA)	High FHSZ (SRA)	Very High FHSZ (SRA)
Animal Care and Control	1	0	1
Fire Department	39	1	14
Health Services	1	0	0
Library	7	1	2
LACMA / NHM	1	0	0
Office of Education	3	0	3
Other County Offices	0	0	0
Parks & Recreation	13	1	12
Public Health	52	4	41
Public Works	0	0	0
Sheriff's Department	3	1	3

Wildfires threaten essential infrastructure, including:

- **Transportation**: Damage to roads and bridges affects evacuation and emergency response.
- **Utilities**: Power lines, gas pipelines, and water infrastructure, including dams, are vulnerable to fire damage.
- **Emergency Services**: Public safety and healthcare facilities near wildfire-prone areas face operational disruptions.
- **Public Services**: Parks, libraries, schools, and other public areas could be lost or damaged.

New emerging patterns suggest that climate change may be influencing wildfire risks in Los Angeles County through:

- **Extending fire seasons:** Historically, peak fire season occurred from June to November, but fires are now starting and burning year-round.
- **Increasing fuel dryness:** Higher temperatures and prolonged droughts reduce vegetation moisture levels, making fires more intense.
- **Raising fire frequency:** Hotter, drier conditions contribute to more frequent ignitions, particularly in WUI areas.

Extent of Exposure

- **Total Area Exposed**: 243.72 sq mi
- **Supervisorial Districts (SD) Impacted**:
    - **SD3**: 117.95 sq mi (27.29%)
    - **SD5**: 95.61 sq mi (3.36%)
    - **SD1**: 16.23 sq mi (4.60%)
    - **SD4**: 9.10 sq mi (4.27%)
    - **SD2**: 4.83 sq mi (1.33%)

For a better visual representation of this Wildfire Hazard within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for several Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps.

6.2.7 Impacts

Impacts for past fires vary depending on scope and severity, including the January 2025 fires, including the Palisades and Eaton Fires, resulted in widespread destruction across Los Angeles County, burning over 37,000 acres and destroying more than 16,000 structures combined, with nearly 30 civilian fatalities. These events caused cascading impacts such as prolonged power outages, degraded water pressure affecting firefighting and residential supply, and overwhelmed emergency services. Transportation routes and communications infrastructure were disrupted. Communities, especially in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), experienced major economic losses due to the destruction of homes, businesses, and public facilities. Post-fire hazards like debris flows and landslides further compounded recovery challenges, with water infrastructure contamination and sedimentation requiring emergency remediation. The scope and severity of these fires underscore the increasing vulnerability of critical infrastructure and the urgent need for enhanced mitigation strategies across high-risk zones.

Problem Statement

Many hillside communities within LRA Very High FHSZ zones face critical access and water supply issues during fires. These areas often include aging structures and narrow roads, complicating firefighting and evacuation. Investments in defensible space, local code enforcement, and community wildfire protection planning are vital to saving lives and minimizing losses.

6.2.8 Mitigation and Preparedness

Los Angeles County is implementing a multi-agency approach to mitigate wildfire risks.

Key strategies include:

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs):** Strengthening fire prevention measures in high-risk areas.
- **Community Preparedness:** Educating residents on wildfire readiness through outreach campaigns, emergency alert systems, and neighborhood preparedness programs.
- **Defensible Space Requirements:** Enforcing brush clearance around structures.
- **Enhanced Building Codes:** Promoting fire-resistant materials for new developments.
- **Vegetation Management:** Reducing fuel loads through prescribed burns and hazardous tree removal.
- **Evacuation Planning:** Improving coordination between OEM, LASD, LACoFD, and other jurisdictions to ensure clear evacuation policies and procedures.

Additional details on the County's proactive and ongoing efforts to reduce wildfire risk, including long-term planning, infrastructure hardening, and community-based initiatives, is located in the dedicated section titled "Mitigation Strategies."

6.2.9 Summary

Wildfires remain one of the most significant hazards in Los Angeles County, posing risks to life, property, and critical infrastructure. The expansion of development into WUI areas, increasing fire severity due to climate change, and ongoing challenges with evacuation and mitigation require proactive, coordinated efforts across agencies. Strengthening fire prevention policies, improving emergency response coordination, and integrating climate adaptation measures are essential to enhancing wildfire resilience for Los Angeles County.

6.3 Earthquake

6.3.1 Nature

Earthquakes occur due to the sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust, generating seismic waves that cause ground shaking. These events, often triggered by movement along fault lines, vary in intensity depending on factors such as magnitude, depth, and proximity to populated areas. In addition to the initial shaking, secondary hazards such as surface faulting, liquefaction, landslides, tsunamis, and aftershocks can worsen the damage. Los Angeles County, located in a highly active seismic region, faces significant risks from these natural events, necessitating extensive mitigation efforts and preparedness planning.

EARTHQUAKE KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Earthquakes occur when there is a sudden release of energy from the Earth's crust, creating seismic waves.
2. **Location**
   Los Angeles County is in one of the most highly active seismic regions, having multiple active faults.
3. **Extent**
   The San Andreas Fault remains the greatest threat, with a high chance of an M 6.7+ occurring.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Residents in high-risk seismic zones could be extremely impacted, along with people experiencing homelessness, low income, and the access and functional needs community.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Efforts include strengthening building codes, upgrading critical infrastructure, expanding public education, and enhancing emergency response planning.

- The most common effects of earthquakes include violent shaking, structural damage, and disruptions to infrastructure.
- Secondary effects can include, but are not limited to, utilities outages, traffic congestion and transportation systems being impassable, and an increase of fire risks, from broken gas and water lines.

- Earthquakes occur with little to no warning, making preparedness essential for minimizing loss of life and property.

6.3.2 Location

Los Angeles County is one of the most seismically active regions in the United States, with multiple active fault systems capable of generating destructive earthquakes.

Major faults include:

- San Andreas Fault – Capable of M 8.0+
- Newport-Inglewood Fault – M 7.4
- Malibu Coast Fault System – M 6.7
- San Fernando Fault – M 6.6
- Santa Monica Fault – M 7.0
- Whittier Fault – M 7.2
- Sierra Madre Fault – M 6.0-7.0

For a better visual representation of this Earthquake Hazard within LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for earthquake fault maps.

6.3.3 Extent

According to US Geological Survey, there are two types of earthquake measurements, magnitude (Mw) and intensity (i). Magnitude is a measure of the energy released at the source of the earthquake. Intensity scale help measure impact on people and structures.

Earthquake impact is based on magnitude scale is as follows:

- Great–Mw > 8,
- Major–Mw = 7.0 – 7.9
- Strong–Mw = 6.0 – 6.9
- Moderate–Mw = 5.0 – 5.9
- Light–Mw = 4.0 – 4.9
- Minor–Mw = 3.0 – 3.9
- Micro–Mw < 3

Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale is from I to XII, which refers I, as not felt and XII as extreme.

Figure 6.3.1 Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale

CIIM Intensity	People's Reaction	Furnishings	Built Environment	Natural Environment
I	Not felt			Changes in level and clarity of well water are occasionally associated with great earthquakes at distances beyond which the earthquakes felt by people.
II	Felt by a few.	Delicately suspended objects may swing.		
III	Felt by several; vibration like passing of truck.	Hanging objects may swing appreciably.		
IV	Felt by many; sensation like heavy body striking building.	Dishes rattle.	Walls creak; window rattle.	
V	Felt by nearly all; frightens a few.	Pictures swing out of place; small objects move; a few objects fall from shelves within the community.	A few instances of cracked plaster and cracked windows with the community.	Trees and bushes shaken noticeably.
VI	Frightens many; people move unsteadily.	Many objects fall from shelves.	A few instances of fallen plaster, broken windows, and damaged chimneys within the community.	Some fall of tree limbs and tops, isolated rockfalls and landslides, and isolated liquefaction.
VII	Frightens most; some lose balance.	Heavy furniture overturned.	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction, but considerable in some poorly built or badly designed structures; weak chimneys broken at roof line, fall of unbraced parapets.	Tree damage, rockfalls, landslides, and liquefaction are more severe and widespread wiht increasing intensity.
VIII	Many find it difficult to stand.	Very heavy furniture moves conspicuously.	Damage slight in buildings designed to be earthquake resistant, but severe in some poorly built structures. Widespread fall of chimneys and monuments.	
IX	Some forcibly thrown to the ground.		Damage considerable in some buildings designed to be earthquake resistant; buildings shift off foundations if not bolted to them.	
X			Most ordinary masonry structures collapse; damage moderate to severe in many buildings designed to be earthquake resistant.	

Over 75% of unincorporated Los Angeles County is at risk for severe to extreme shaking in a future earthquake.

The region's dense urban environment, combined with aging infrastructure, increases the likelihood of extensive damage and prolonged recovery times.

Faults running beneath critical infrastructure corridors, including freeways and power grids, pose a significant threat to public safety and economic stability of the planning area.

6.3.4 History

Los Angeles County has a long history of destructive earthquakes, with some of the earliest recorded events dating back to the early 19th century. The San Juan Capistrano Earthquake of 1812 (M 7.5) was among the first to be documented, causing the collapse of Mission San Juan Capistrano and resulting in 40 fatalities. Over the years, the county has experienced numerous significant quakes, including the devastating 1857 Fort Tejon Earthquake (M 7.9), the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake (M 6.6), and the infamous 1994 Northridge Earthquake (M 6.7), which caused billions in damages and led to widespread infrastructure failures. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for earthquakes in the last five years.

Major Earthquakes in Los Angeles County (1812 – Present)

Date	Magnitude	Name / Location	Notable Impact
December 8, 1812	7.5	San Juan Capistrano Earthquake	Destroyed Mission San Juan Capistrano, killed 40 people.
December 21, 1812	7.1	West Ventura Earthquake	Caused significant shaking in Southern California.
January 9, 1857	7.9	Fort Tejon Earthquake	Largest earthquake on the San Andreas Fault; ruptured 225 miles.
July 21, 1952	7.5	Kern County Earthquake	Strong shaking felt in Los Angeles; major damage to Bakersfield.
February 9, 1971	6.6	San Fernando Earthquake	65 deaths, $553 million in damages, collapse of Veterans Hospital.
October 1, 1987	5.9	Whittier Narrows Earthquake	8 deaths, 200 injuries, $358 million in damages.
February 28, 1990	5.7	Upland Earthquake	30 injuries, $12.7 million in damages.

June 28, 1991	5.6	Sierra Madre Earthquake	1 death, 100+ injuries, $40 million in damages.
January 17, 1994	6.7	Northridge Earthquake	57 deaths, 8,700 injuries, $40 billion in damages, freeways collapsed.
July 29, 2008	5.5	Chino Hills Earthquake	8 injuries, minor structural damage.
March 28, 2014	5.1	La Habra Earthquake	Few injuries, $10 million in damages.
July 6, 2019	7.1	Ridgecrest Earthquake	Widespread damage in Southern California, infrastructure impacts.

6.3.5 Probability

Trends in Seismic Activity

Over 163 earthquakes of M 5.0 or greater have been recorded in Southern California since 1812.

The San Andreas Fault remains the greatest seismic hazard, with a 59% chance of an M 6.7+ event in the next 30 years.

Future Earthquake Occurrence

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates the following probabilities for a major earthquake in Los Angeles County in the next 30 years:

- 60% chance of an M 6.7+ earthquake
- 46% chance of an M 7.0+ earthquake
- 31% chance of an M 7.5+ earthquake

6.3.6 Vulnerability

The county's vulnerability to earthquakes extends beyond physical infrastructure, affecting its residents and essential services. Older buildings, particularly unreinforced masonry and soft-story structures, are at high risk of collapse, posing significant

dangers to residents and businesses. Seismic retrofitting, early warning systems, and stricter building codes have improved resilience, but vulnerabilities remain in older structures and critical infrastructure.

Critical Infrastructure at Risk

- **Highways, bridges, and transportation routes:** A major earthquake could severely disrupt mobility, shipment of goods and services while also delaying emergency response and evacuations. Major highways such as, but not limited to the I-5, I-10, US-101, CA-60, CA-14, I-405, I-710, and I-105 could be impacted.
- **Energy grids and water system:** Disruptions could leave millions without power and clean water.
- **Hospitals and emergency services:** 325 hospitals and 1,299 fire stations in the Los Angeles County could suffer functional impairments.
- **Unreinforced masonry and soft-story buildings:** Many older structures are highly susceptible to collapse during strong ground shaking.

County Specific Critical Facilities Affected:

- Fire Department: 314 facilities (93.18%)
- Public Works: 201 facilities (87.39%)
- Health Services: 56 facilities (85.71%)
- Public Health: 37 facilities (92.50%)
- Libraries: 78 branches (89.66%)
- Parks: 179 (97.79%)
- Education: 70 (85.37%)

Los Angeles County lies at the intersection of multiple major fault lines, including the San Andreas Fault. According to the hazard matrix, the risk of violent ground shaking is prevalent countywide, particularly in urban centers and regions with critical infrastructure. The potential consequences of violent seismic shaking include widespread structural damage, disruption of services, economic losses, and human casualties.

Populations at Risk

- The THIRA estimates over 2 million residents could be significantly impacted in a major seismic event, particularly those in high-risk seismic zones.

- People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) populations: 75,000+ unhoused individuals in Los Angeles County live in areas at risk of violent shaking.
- Low-income and individuals with access and functional needs (AFN): For more details on impacted population please see Section 5.

Extent of Exposure

- **Total Area Exposed**: 3,041.91 sq mi
- **Supervisorial Districts (SD) Impacted**:
    - **SD5**: 1,950.78 sq mi (69.50%)
    - **SD3**: 379.41 sq mi (87.99%)
    - **SD1**: 349.17 sq mi (98.95%)
    - **SD2**: 362.95 sq mi (99.99%)
    - **SD4**: 210.92 sq mi (99.10%)

6.3.7 Impacts

Los Angeles County has a long history of experiencing damaging earthquakes due to its location along multiple active fault systems, including the San Andreas, Newport-Inglewood, and Whittier faults. Historic earthquakes such as the 1971 San Fernando (M6.6) and 1994 Northridge (M6.7) events caused catastrophic losses. The San Fernando earthquake resulted in 65 deaths, the collapse of hospital structures, and over $550 million in damages, while the Northridge earthquake caused 57 deaths, more than 8,700 injuries, and an estimated $40 billion in economic losses, including widespread infrastructure failures such as collapsed freeways and damaged utility systems.

Impacts from future major seismic events are projected to be even more severe due to population density, aging infrastructure, and increasing development in seismically vulnerable areas. Over 75% of unincorporated Los Angeles County is at risk of severe to extreme ground shaking. Current estimates suggest that a large-magnitude earthquake could displace up to 2.2 million people, injure or kill thousands, and result in over $200 billion in combined economic losses, including $113 billion in property damage and $68 billion in business interruptions.

The County's critical systems; power, water, transportation, healthcare, and communications, are especially vulnerable. A major earthquake could impair up to 325 hospitals and 1,299 fire stations and disrupt critical infrastructure for millions. Populations with heightened vulnerability include the 75,000+ people experiencing homelessness, those with access and functional needs, and residents of older, unreinforced masonry and soft-story structures.

Without sufficient mitigation, a future earthquake could result in cascading failures across multiple sectors and prolong the County's recovery for years. These risks highlight the urgency for continued investment in seismic retrofitting, stricter enforcement of building codes, expanding statewide early warning systems, and equitable preparedness programs targeting at-risk vulnerable populations.

- **Casualties and injuries:** Depending on the time of day and location, thousands could be injured or killed in a severe earthquake.
- **Economic disruption:** A significant earthquake could halt business operations, damage supply chains, and force thousands into unemployment.
- **Housing displacement:** An estimated 2.2 million residents could be displaced, with tens of thousands requiring emergency sheltering.

Economic Impact

A major earthquake in Los Angeles County could result in over $200 billion in economic losses, with a total of $118 trillion-dollar exposure. Losses can include:

- $68 billion in business interruptions
- $51 billion in lost economic activity
- $113 billion in property damages

Problem Statement

The pervasive exposure of Los Angeles County to violent earthquake shaking presents a systemic threat to public safety, economic stability, and essential services. Nearly all major departments and infrastructure elements are located within high-shaking hazard zones. The extensive reach across all five Supervisorial Districts (SD) amplifies the challenge, highlighting the urgent need for retrofitting, public education, preparedness programs, and resilient design policies. Failure to address this hazard could lead to catastrophic loss of life and functionality in the event of a major seismic event.

6.3.8 Mitigation and Preparedness

Efforts to reduce earthquake risks in Los Angeles County include strengthening building codes, enhancing emergency preparedness, and retrofitting vulnerable structures.

Key efforts to mitigate earthquake risks include:

- Strengthening building codes and enforcing retrofitting laws
- Upgrading critical infrastructure
- Expanding public education and early warning systems
- Enhancing emergency response planning

By proactively implementing these measures, Los Angeles County aims to reduce casualties, infrastructure damage, and economic losses in future seismic events.

Seismic Retrofitting Programs

- **Soft story retrofit program**: Mandates seismic upgrades for older apartment buildings.
- **Non-ductile concrete building retrofits**: Strengthens older commercial and residential structures.
- **Hospitals and emergency facilities retrofitting**: Ensures critical services remain operational post-earthquake.

Policy and Regulatory Measures

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1857: Strengthens building standards for multi-story structures.
- AB 2681: Requires cities and counties to inventory vulnerable buildings.
- Updated California Building Code (CBC): Enforces stricter seismic design criteria for new construction.
- Public Education: Teaching to Drop, Cover and Hold On; the household preparedness checklist, educate residents on emergency response, retrofitting, and disaster preparedness.
- Early Warning/ ShakeAlert System: Provides real-time earthquake early warnings to residents via mobile alerts and public messaging.
- Public earthquake drills: Annual Great California ShakeOut encourages preparedness.

6.3.9 Summary

Los Angeles County remains at high risk for devastating earthquakes, with scientific projections indicating a strong likelihood of a significant seismic event in the coming decades. The region has experienced numerous historic earthquakes, and the potential for future large-scale disasters remains ever-present. While advances in engineering, emergency preparedness, and mitigation efforts have improved resilience, challenges persist, particularly regarding aging infrastructure and vulnerable communities. Continued investments in retrofitting, public education, and early warning systems will be critical in minimizing casualties, economic losses, and recovery challenges in future earthquakes.

6.4 Extreme Heat

6.4.1 Nature

Extreme heat refers to prolonged periods of high temperatures, often accompanied by high humidity, posing significant health risks such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The urban heat island (UHI) effect, prevalent in densely built areas like Los Angeles County, intensifies these conditions by absorbing and retaining heat. The changing climate conditions through time in the region exacerbate for the rising of daily temperature and for the increasing of extreme heat days in the County. This leads to health issues, increase energy demand, and strain on infrastructure.

EXTREME HEAT KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Prolonged periods of high temperatures pose significant health risks such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Urban heat island (UHI) is rampant in Los Angeles County.
2. **Location**
   Los Angeles County is vulnerable to extreme heat because of its diverse landscape and urban density.
3. **Extent**
   Predictions show a significant rise in frequency and intensity of heat waves, with inland areas being more susceptible.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Populations most vulnerable to extreme heat are elderly individuals, low-income communities, outdoor workers, people experiencing homelessness, and the access and functional needs community.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   To manage extreme heat, Los Angeles County has implemented cooling centers, urban greening initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and building codes and regulations.

6.4.2 Location

Los Angeles County is particularly susceptible to extreme heat due to its diverse geography and urban density. All of Los Angeles County may experience extreme heat, nonetheless inland regions, including the valleys and high desert areas experience

higher temperatures compared to coastal areas. The urban heat island (UHI) effect can increase temperatures in cities and developed areas than the less developed areas. Urban centers with extensive concrete and asphalt surfaces further amplify heat retention, contributing to elevated temperatures and increased UHI effect in the county.

6.4.3 Extent

The severity of heat events in Los Angeles County has been increasing. Projections indicate a significant rise in the frequency and intensity of heat waves, with inland areas potentially experiencing temperatures exceeding 110°F. The urban heat island effect can cause urban areas to be several degrees warmer than their rural counterparts, exacerbating the impact of heat waves. The chart below shows the levels of heat wave impacts used to measure heatwave severity. HeatRisk, an experimental measure developed by the NWS in collaboration with the CDC, classifies heat events by their impact on human health. It ranges from Green (0) which is little or no risk to Magenta (4), which means extreme heat with no overnight relief.

Category	**Figure 6.4.1 Risk of Heat-Related Impacts**
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
Orange 2	Moderate - This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.
Red 3	Major - This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
Magenta 4	Extreme - This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

National Weather Service (NWS), 2024

August, being the hottest month of the year that the planning area experiences the Figure 6.4.2 below shows, the average high temperature for August 2024 in Los Angeles County. As shown, the temperature varies by location but remains higher than average monthly temperature.

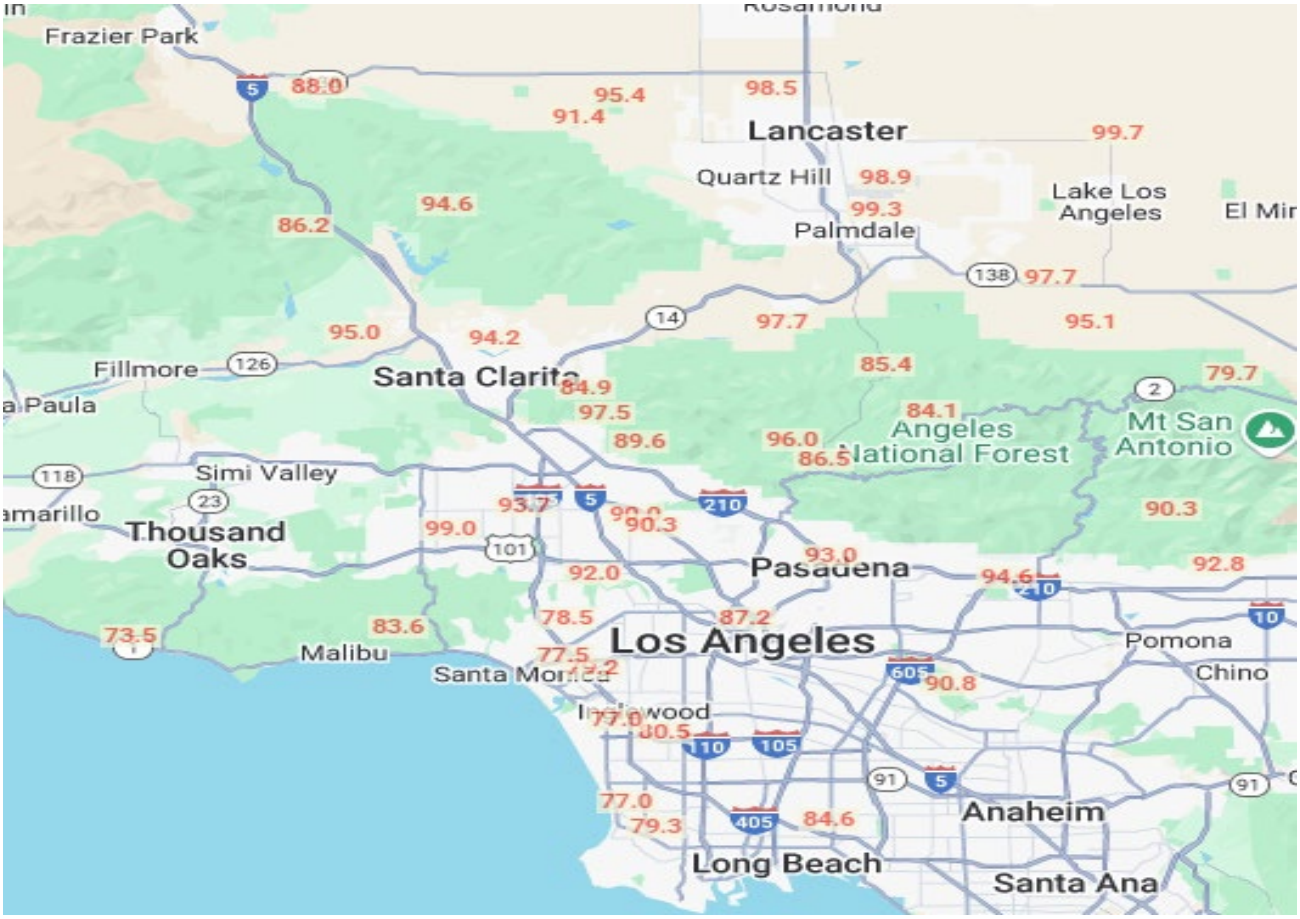


Figure 6.4.2, Mean Max Temperature for August 2024, National Weather Service

6.4.4 History

Because of the changing climate conditions and the geographical location, Los Angeles County has been experiencing extreme heat waves in the past years. It has a history of extreme heat events, with temperatures frequently reaching 100 degrees or more, especially during the summer months. In some cases, these extreme heat events are record-breaking heat waves surpassing their all-time highs.

Extreme Heat events include:

- **August 2020:** A severe heatwave led to widespread power outages, affecting nearly 500,000 residents.

- **September 2020:** The San Fernando Valley recorded a record high temperature of 121°F.
- **August 2022:** A record-breaking heatwave in late summer exceeded 100°F
- **September 2024:** A severe September heatwave pushed temperatures 10-20°F above normal, hitting 109°F in Long Beach

The History of Extreme heat events highlight the increasing trend of extreme heat occurrences in the region. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for extreme heat in the last five years. Even though there were no declared extreme heat emergencies, the county has issued several heat alerts and taken measures to protect residents from the impacts of heat waves during these periods.

6.4.5 Probability

Extreme heat events are an annual occurrence in Los Angeles County, though severity of such events vary per year based on other conditions, such as El Niño. Climate models project a substantial increase in the likelihood of extreme heat events in Los Angeles County. By mid-century, the county could experience more than five major heat waves annually, with some models suggesting up to tenfold increases in frequency. This heightened probability necessitates proactive mitigation and adaptation strategies.

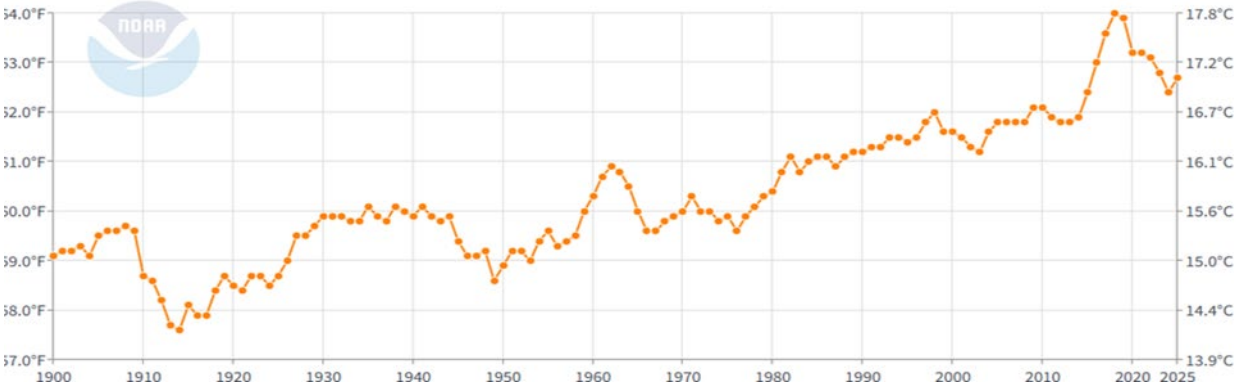


Figure 6.4.3, Average Temperature 1900-2025, NOAA, NCEI, 2025.

6.4.6 Vulnerability

Extreme heat poses a significant and growing threat to Los Angeles County, where rising temperatures, urban heat islands, and widespread social vulnerability intersect. Those most at risk include the elderly, low-income households lacking air conditioning,

people experiencing homelessness (PEH), individuals with access and functional needs (AFN), and the County's large population of outdoor and non-air-conditioned indoor workers. Infrastructure is also strained; electricity demand spikes during heatwaves, often overwhelming the power grid and triggering outages. Water systems experience increased demand and evaporation losses, while roadways and rail lines are subject to buckling or operational delays. In recent years, Los Angeles County has experienced severe consequences from prolonged heat events, reinforcing the urgent need for heat resilience strategies targeting both people and critical services.

Los Angeles County–Specific Impacts and Data

- 491,600 residents experienced power outages during the August 2020 heatwave.
- 96% of the County's 1,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines are exposed to moderate to high extreme heat risk.
- 1.7 million residents are considered highly vulnerable due to age, income, disability, or chronic health conditions.
- Over 300,000 outdoor workers are at elevated risk for heat-related illness and injury.
- Thousands of heat-related emergency visits occurred during multi-day heat events in 2020 and 2022; especially in neighborhoods with limited shade and high surface temperatures.
- 50+ cooling centers have been activated across the County during recent heatwaves to support at-risk populations.
- High heat contributes to worsened air quality, increased wildfire smoke exposure, and economic losses due to infrastructure damage, productivity decline, and rising healthcare costs.

6.4.7 Impacts

Los Angeles County has faced significant and growing impacts from extreme heatwaves over the past two decades. In August 2020, a prolonged heatwave caused rolling blackouts affecting nearly 500,000 customers, overwhelmed the state's electrical grid, and forced the activation of emergency conservation protocols. That same summer, the San Fernando Valley hit 121°F, leading to widespread strain on

HVAC systems and increased emergency room visits for heat-related illnesses. The 2022 and 2024 heatwaves brought similar conditions—temperatures over 100°F across the region led to localized transformer failures, asphalt buckling, and strain on water delivery systems due to elevated demand. During these events, outdoor workers, the elderly, and low-income residents without access to cooling systems were among the most affected. Economic activity was disrupted, with reports of business closures, service delays, and increased healthcare costs. In 2024, Long Beach reached a record 109°F, causing a spike in electricity demand and triggering emergency energy alerts across Southern California. Heat-related deaths and hospitalizations have also trended upward, particularly in neighborhoods with low tree canopy and high impervious surfaces. These impacts underscore the need for resilient infrastructure and targeted adaptation strategies to safeguard health and essential services.

6.4.8 Mitigation and Preparedness

The most effective way to reduce the negative impacts of an extreme heat event is to develop a comprehensive heat response plan that has individual strategies to effectively manage heat waves during peak seasons of the year. The plan might include forecasting and monitoring, education and awareness, and heat wave response.

To address extreme heat, Los Angeles County has implemented several measures:

- **Cooling Centers:** Establishment of air-conditioned public spaces where residents can seek relief during heatwaves. These centers are facilities such as libraries, community centers, and senior centers. Residents can locate the nearest cooling center using resources provided by the county. *Additional resources can be found at https://ready.lacounty.gov/heat/*
- **Urban Greening Initiatives:** Programs aimed at increasing green spaces, planting trees, and creating parks to provide shade and reduce ambient temperatures. These efforts help mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educational initiatives to inform residents about heat risks, prevention strategies, and resources available during extreme heat events. These campaigns emphasize the importance of hydration, recognizing heat-related illness symptoms, and utilizing cooling centers.
- **Building Codes and Regulations:** Incorporation of heat-mitigating designs and materials in new constructions and retrofits, such as cool roofs and reflective

pavements, to reduce heat absorption. These measures aim to lower indoor temperatures and decrease reliance on air conditioning.

These strategies are designed to reduce heat exposure, protect vulnerable populations, and enhance community resilience against extreme heat events.

6.4.9 Summary

Extreme heat poses a growing threat to Los Angeles County, with increasing frequency and intensity of heat waves exacerbated by urban heat island (UHI) effects. Understanding these impacts of extreme heat and taking appropriate precautions, residents of Los Angeles County can protect themselves and their communities from this growing climate hazard. The county has undertaken various mitigation efforts, including the establishment of cooling centers, urban greening projects, public education campaigns, and the implementation of heat-conscious building practices. Ongoing adaptation and proactive planning are essential to safeguard public health, infrastructure, and the environment from the adverse effects of extreme heat.

6.5 Drought

6.5.1 Nature

Drought is a prolonged period of below-average precipitation that leads to water shortages, impacting agriculture, ecosystems, and urban water supplies. Unlike other natural disasters, drought develops gradually, making it difficult to predict and mitigate. In Los Angeles County, droughts are a recurring issue due to the region's arid climate and dependence on imported water supplies.

Drought severity is determined by its duration, intensity, geographic extent, and water demand. Climate change is exacerbating these factors, leading to hotter temperatures, reduced precipitation, and increased evaporation rates. Wildfires are also projected to increase in frequency and intensity during drought season.

DROUGHT KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Drought is a slow-developing hazard worsened by climate change, leading to hotter, drier conditions and water shortages.
2. **Location**
   L.A. County's drought risk is high due to its arid climate and dependence on imported water sources.
3. **Extent**
   Droughts are classified into five levels; L.A. experienced drought conditions for 376 straight weeks from 2011–2019.
4. **Vulnerability**
   All residents are affected by dought, especially vulnerable groups, face risks from water shortages, wildfires, and health impacts.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   The County is expanding recycling, stormwater capture, and conservation programs to improve drought resilience.

There are four common classifications of drought:

- **Meteorological Drought**: A prolonged period of below-normal precipitation.

- **Hydrological Drought**: A reduction in surface and groundwater levels due to prolonged precipitation deficits.
- **Agricultural Drought:** A lack of soil moisture that affects crop growth and livestock sustainability.
- **Socioeconomic Drought:** When water shortages impact drinking water supplies, sanitation, public services, and economic activities.

6.5.2 Location

Drought is regional in nature and typically affects the entire Los Angeles County planning area. Given the county's reliance on imported water from the Sierra Nevada snowpack and the Colorado River, reduced availability of these sources significantly increases vulnerability.

6.5.3 Extent

Drought is a recurring natural hazard that can severely impact agriculture, water supply, ecosystems, and communities. To monitor and communicate drought conditions across the United States, the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), produces weekly U.S. Drought Monitor maps. These maps categorize drought conditions into five levels based on intensity, duration, and impact on various sectors, including agriculture, water resources, and public health.

Each drought category reflects a different level of severity, from short-term dry conditions that may slow crop growth, to long-term, widespread water shortages that require emergency response. These classifications help decision-makers, farmers, and water managers respond appropriately to emerging or ongoing drought conditions. See Figure 6.5.1 below for more information.

Drought Categories and Associated Impacts:

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS
D4	EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT	• Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses • Critical shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells • Water emergencies and possible mandatory rationing • Severe impacts on ecosystems and wildlife habitats
D3	EXTREME DROUGHT	• Major agricultural losses and pasture failure • Widespread water shortages • Water use restrictions likely enforced • Increased risk of wildfires and heat-related stress
D2	SEVERE DROUGHT	• Crop and pasture losses becoming likely • Water shortages becoming common • Local governments may implement water restrictions • Hydropower generation and irrigation potentially impacted
D1	MODERATE DROUGHT	• Noticeable damage to crops and pastures • Water levels in streams and reservoirs begin to decline • Voluntary water-use restrictions may be requested • Some stress on fish and wildlife populations
D0	ABNORMALLY DRY	• Early signs of drought, with short-term dryness slowing planting and crop growth • If improving lingering water deficits as area recovers from drought • Pastures or vegetation may show signs of delayed recovery

Figure 6.5.1 Drought Categories and Associated Impacts

These classifications not only help guide resources and planning but also raise awareness about the broader consequences of prolonged dryness. Understanding the extent and severity of drought helps ensure timely response and mitigation efforts at local, state, and federal levels.

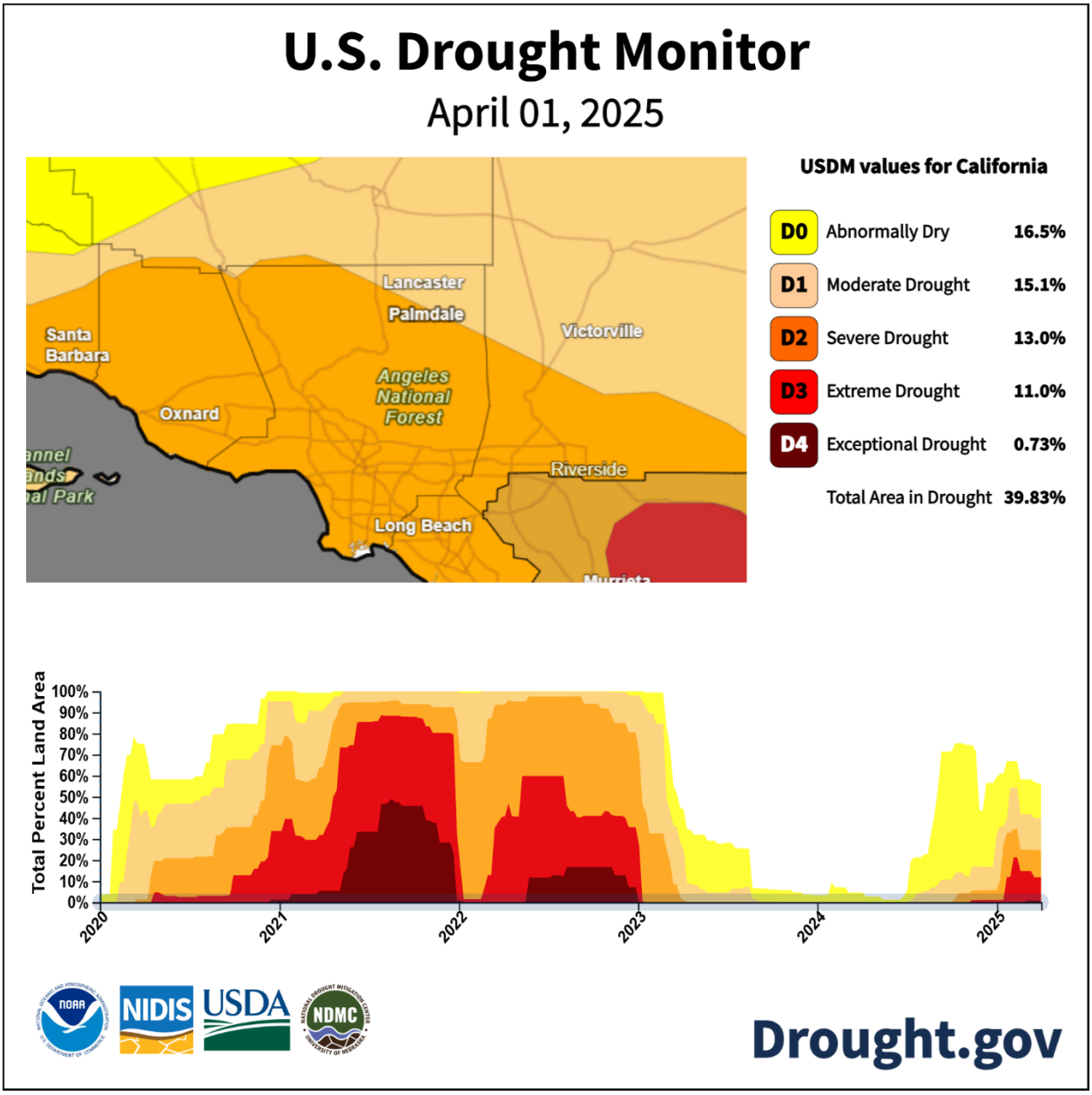


Figure 6.5.2, U.S. Drought Monitor, 2025

6.5.4 History

Los Angeles County has experienced multiple significant droughts, with some lasting several years. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for drought in the last five years.

Notable historical drought periods include:

1. 1917-1921 – A widespread drought affecting most of California.
2. 1976-1977 – One of the driest two-year periods in recorded history.
3. 1987-1992 – A six-year drought that severely impacted water supplies and agriculture.
4. 2007-2009 – A prolonged drought leading to state-imposed water restrictions.
5. 2011-2017 – The most severe drought in modern history, resulting in groundwater depletion and mandatory conservation measures.
6. 2020-2022 – California experienced a significant drought, with Los Angeles County experiencing "abnormally dry" conditions.
7. 2024-2025 – Los Angeles County is continuing to experience abnormally dry conditions, with lower average rainfalls and arid conditions.

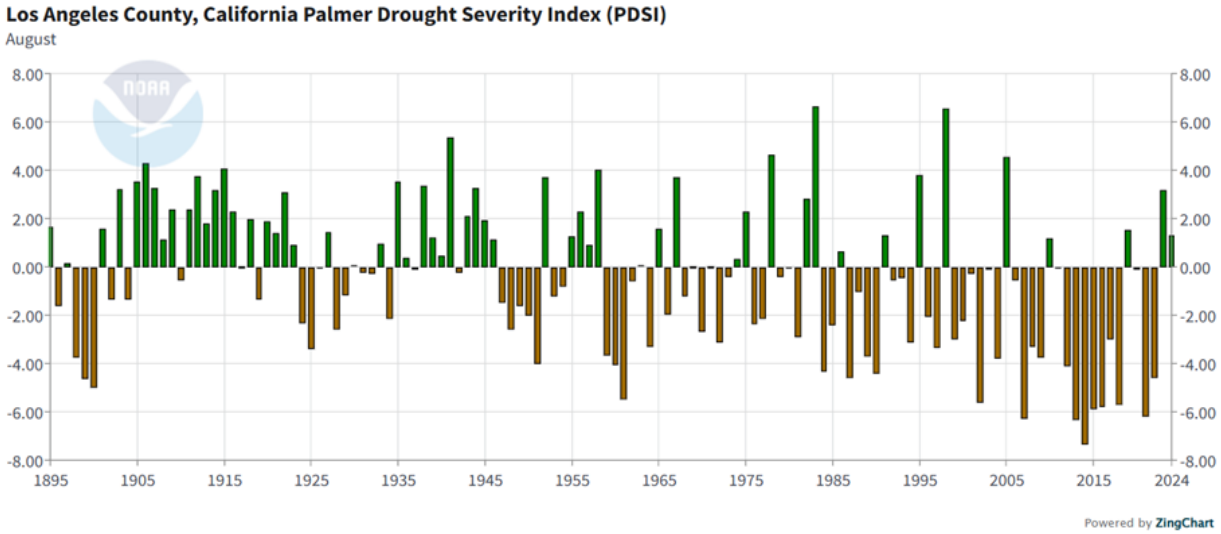


Figure 6.5.3, NOAA Drought Severity Index, 2024

The chart above, the Palmer Drought Severity Index, shows how drought conditions have been changing since 1895. The Palmer Drought Severity Index measures how dry or wet an area is by comparing rainfall and temperature to long-term averages. It gives a number (positive or negative) showing drought severity or excess moisture.

Los Angeles County was in some form of drought for 376 consecutive weeks from December 20, 2011, until March 14, 2019. The State and the County passed several resolutions and regulations at different times to mitigate drought impacts like water

conservation regulations. There were no federally declared drought disasters in the area in the past five years in the planning area.

6.5.5 Probability

Climate scientists predict that Los Angeles County and the rest of Southern California will get drier, while Northern California will get hotter. Rising temperatures contribute to higher evaporation rates and declining snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, a critical source of water for Southern California. The frequency of extreme droughts is expected to increase, reducing available water resources and heightening competition between urban, agricultural, and environmental needs. Long-term droughts have a 100% of occurring every ten-years, with potential for longer and more destructive drought events due to climate change.

6.5.6 Vulnerability

Los Angeles County's 10 million residents face growing vulnerabilities during prolonged droughts, with over 75% of community water systems exhibiting at least one drought-related risk, such as reliance on a single source or aging infrastructure. The County's dependence on imported water—serving over 60% of residents—increases exposure to supply disruptions from reduced Sierra Nevada snowpack and Colorado River allocations. All residents, and visitors of Los Angeles County are affected by water shortages during a prolonged drought conditions.

Vulnerabilities include:

- **Low-income households**, often lacking water-efficient appliances and cooling systems.
- **Agricultural industry** with over 140,000 acres of irrigated farmland in the County is at risk of reduced water allocation and drying pastures for livestock.
- **Wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities**, where over 1 million residents face heightened wildfire risk due to dry vegetation and limited firefighting water supply.
- **Critical infrastructure** operations may be impacted by a range of factors from reduced hydropower availability when reservoir levels decrease to power station cooling challenges.

These vulnerabilities illustrate the far-reaching, cross-sector impacts of drought on the County's economy, environment, and most at-risk communities.

6.5.7 Impacts

Over the past five years, Los Angeles County has experienced intensifying drought conditions marked by rising temperatures, reduced snowpack, and persistent water shortages. By 2022, 75% of the County's community water systems showed at least one drought vulnerability, including reliance on a single water source or aging infrastructure. Public health impacts have also emerged, with 1,113 cases of Valley fever reported in 2020, linked to dry soil and dust exposure. Hydropower reductions during drought periods increased reliance on natural gas, contributing to elevated energy costs for residents. These compounding impacts have strained water supply, health systems, and infrastructure, reinforcing drought as a major and growing hazard for Los Angeles County.

6.5.8 Mitigation and Preparedness

To combat increasing drought risks, Los Angeles County has implemented water conservation policies, infrastructure investments, and emergency response measures. Key strategies include:

Water Management and Conservation

- Expanding water recycling and desalination programs to reduce reliance on imported water.
- Implementing drought-tolerant landscaping initiatives to lower residential and commercial water use.
- Enforcing water efficiency regulations for new developments and upgrading older properties with water-saving strategies.

Infrastructure Improvements

- Enhancing groundwater recharge projects to increase local water storage.
- Upgrading stormwater capture systems to maximize water retention during rainy seasons.
- Developing new water storage facilities to provide additional supply resilience.

Community Preparedness and Public Awareness

- Launching county-wide conservation campaigns to encourage sustainable water use.
- Increasing financial incentives for water-efficient appliances and irrigation systems.
- Strengthening emergency drought response plans to ensure equitable water distribution during crises.

6.5.9 Summary

Drought remains a persistent and growing threat to Los Angeles County's water security and economic stability. Climate change projections indicate more frequent and severe droughts, placing greater strain on water supply systems, public health, and agriculture. By implementing proactive water management strategies, investing in infrastructure resilience, and promoting community awareness, the County can mitigate the long-term impacts of drought and ensure sustainable water resources for future generations.

6.6 Flooding

6.6.1 Nature

Flooding is a persistent and increasingly severe hazard in Los Angeles County, driven by heavy rainfall, storm surge, stormwater drainage, and rising sea levels. The county's complex hydrology, which includes rivers, creeks, and an extensive urban flood control system, is highly susceptible to overflow events when precipitation exceeds drainage capacity. The effects of climate change are exacerbating flood risks by intensifying storms, altering precipitation patterns, and increasing sea levels, leading to greater coastal inundation and inland flash floods.

Unlike other regions that experience seasonal flooding due to snowmelt, flooding in Los Angeles County primarily occurs during winter storms and atmospheric river events, which bring intense rainfall and lightning over short periods.

FLOODING KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Flooding in Los Angeles County is driven by heavy rainfall, storm surge, stormwater drainage, and rising sea levels.
2. **Location**
   Areas at risk of flooding include communities near rivers, foothills, valleys, coastlines, and recent burn scars.
3. **Extent**
   Approximately 243.32 square miles of Los Angeles County are in a 500-year floodplain.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Residents within floodplains or people experiencing homelessness living near rivers are especially vulnerable to floods.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Actions focus on floodplain land use regulations, stormwater management and drainage, and maintaining flood control measures.

- The region's high degree of urbanization contributes to flash flooding, as paved surfaces prevent natural absorption of water, leading to rapid runoff and street flooding.

- Burn scars from recent wildfires further compound flood risks by reducing vegetation cover, destabilizing hillsides, and increasing the likelihood of land movement.

Flooding also creates secondary hazards, including erosion, infrastructure damage, water contamination, and transportation disruptions. Stormwater runoff can overwhelm wastewater treatment facilities, leading to hazardous spills. Landslides and mudflows in post-wildfire areas pose additional risks to homes, roads, and critical infrastructure. These compounding threats highlight the urgent need for comprehensive flood mitigation efforts to protect communities, infrastructure, and the environment.

6.6.2 Location

Flood hazards are geographically widespread, with more than 240 square miles of land located within the 100- and 500-year floodplains. Historically significant events, such as the 1938 and 1969 floods, as well as more recent storms in 2023 and 2024, have caused substantial damage to infrastructure, triggered evacuations, and challenged long-term recovery efforts. Socially vulnerable populations, including older adults, individuals with access and functional needs, and low-income households, face disproportionate impacts due to limited financial resources, inadequate insurance coverage, and reduced access to services. The County's flood control system includes concrete river channels, levees, storm drains, debris basins and reservoirs; has helped mitigate some flood risks but remains vulnerable to high-intensity storms that exceed design capacities.

Major Flood-Prone Areas:

- Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, and Santa Clara River: These major waterways are prone to overflow during extreme storm events, particularly during El Niño years.
- Ballona Creek and Malibu Creek: These urban watersheds experience rapid runoff and flash flooding, especially in developed areas.
- Foothills, Valleys, and Recent Burn Scar Areas: Post-wildfire regions face heightened risk of flash floods and debris flows following storms.
- Antelope Valley: In desert regions, stormwater pools into temporary lakes, causing flooded roadways and infrastructure damage.

- Coastal Communities: Rising sea levels and storm surges threaten beachfront properties, harbors, and businesses.

Urban areas are particularly vulnerable due to impervious surfaces and outdated drainage systems. During intense storms, neighborhoods in Downtown Los Angeles, South LA, and the San Fernando Valley frequently experience street flooding and traffic disruptions, demonstrating the limitations of existing infrastructure in handling modern storm events.

For a better visual representation of this Flooding Hazard within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for flood and inundation maps.

6.6.3 Extent

Los Angeles County faces a significant and evolving flood risk, with impacts ranging from localized urban inundation to widespread riverine flooding and destructive debris flows. Although the County has invested heavily in flood control infrastructure; including an extensive network of dams and debris basins; these systems are increasingly strained and cannot fully eliminate the threat. A growing number of residents are exposed to dangerous flooding each year, a situation made worse by the limitations of aging infrastructure and the complexities of urban hydrology. Intense rainfall events, especially those associated with atmospheric rivers, are occurring more frequently and with greater severity, often overwhelming drainage systems and resulting in severe flooding of streets and neighborhoods. Compounding this risk are burn scars from recent wildfires, which heighten the likelihood of mudslides and debris flows that threaten both life and property. As climate patterns shift and extreme weather events become more common, the flood vulnerability of Los Angeles County continues to deepen across its diverse geography.

Flood severity is typically measured using the 100-year and 500-year flood recurrence intervals, which indicate a 1% and 0.2% annual probability of flooding, respectively. These designations guide floodplain management and mitigation efforts.

Key Flood Hazard Statistics in Los Angeles County:

- 243.32 square miles (5.11%) of land have a 0.2% annual flood probability.
- 4.19 square miles (0.09%) have a 1% annual flood probability.

Key Flood Hazard Statistics for Unincorporated Los Angeles County:

- 64.77 square miles (2.13%) have a 0.2% flood probability.
- 1.23 square miles (0.04%) have a 1% flood probability.

As climate change accelerates sea-level rise and extreme rainfall events, these flood-prone areas may expand, affecting more residents, infrastructure, and businesses.

FLOOD IMPACT ON LAND AREA		
Area	**0.2% Annual Flood Probability**	**1% Annual Flood Probability**
Los Angeles County	243.32 sq. mi. (5.11%)	4.19 sq. mi. (0.09%)
Unincorporated LA County	64.77 sq. mi. (2.13%)	1.23 sq. mi. (0.04%)

6.6.4 History

Los Angeles County has experienced numerous severe flood events, many of which have caused catastrophic damage to infrastructure, property, and human life. Over the decades, climate variability, rapid urbanization, and an aging flood control system have led to repeated flooding disasters. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for earthquakes in the last five years.

Below are some of the most significant historical and recent flood events affecting the region.

Notable Flood and Lightning Events in Los Angeles County:

- **1938 Los Angeles Floods**: One of the deadliest floods in county history, caused by weeks of torrential rainfall, resulting in over 100 deaths, the destruction of thousands of homes, and widespread infrastructure damage, particularly to bridges and roadways.
- **1969 Winter Storms**: Heavy rains led to massive debris flows in the San Gabriel Mountains, severe urban flooding across Los Angeles, and multiple dam breaches, prompting major evacuations.
- **1992-1993 El Niño Floods**: A series of storms triggered landslides, flash flooding, and major coastal erosion, with significant damage to Pacific Coast Highway and residential areas.
- **2017 Winter Storms (DR-4305)**: Record-breaking rainfall led to significant urban flooding, road closures, and mudslides, with severe impacts across multiple communities.

- **October 2021**: Los Angeles County experienced a rare and intense thunderstorm with a significant amount of lightning.
- **September 2022 Hurricane Kay**: A pacific hurricane that caused significant rainfall along with risk of mudflows, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion.
- **January 2023 Atmospheric River Event (DR-4683)**: Heavy rainfall overwhelmed storm drains, causing significant flooding in Hollywood, Baldwin Hills, and low-lying inland areas, leading to evacuations and infrastructure damage.
- **February 2023 Los Angeles Floods (DR-4699)**: A series of intense storms caused widespread flash flooding, freeway closures, and landslides, demonstrating the increasing vulnerability of the county's urban areas to extreme precipitation events.
- **August 2023 Tropical Storm Hilary (DR-4750)**: Several locations in the mountains of Southern California received over 10 inches of rainfall which set daily and/or monthly rainfall records, in many locations in Southern California, including within Los Angeles County. It also created significant threat of flash and riverine flooding prompted the evacuation of numerous vulnerable communities near burn scars in the region.
- **December 2023 Pacific Storm**: Storm surges and extreme coastal flooding led to significant erosion along the coastline, particularly impacting Marina del Rey, Long Beach, and Venice Beach.
- **February - March 2024 Atmospheric River Storm (DR-4769)**: One of the most intense rainfall events in recent history, resulting in severe flash floods, mudslides, and power outages, with many homes and businesses sustaining flood damage.

6.6.5 Probability

Flood recurrence in Los Angeles County is influenced by both natural climate variability and the increasing effects of climate change. Historically, severe flooding is most likely during strong El Niño events, which occur approximately every 2 to 7 years and can persist for several months to multiple years. These events bring elevated precipitation levels and increase the likelihood of both inland and coastal flooding.

As climate change accelerates, the frequency and intensity of flood-generating events are expected to increase, altering traditional recurrence intervals and expanding the areas at risk. There is a 95% chance of a flooding event occurring each year withing Los Angeles County.

Key climate-related drivers include:

- **Sea-Level Rise**: Projected to rise by 6 inches to over 2 feet by 2050, increasing the risk of tidal and storm surge flooding in coastal communities.
- **Atmospheric River Events**: According to the 2024 THIRA, these events are becoming more frequent and intense, leading to elevated flash flood and debris flow risks.
- **El Niño Cycles**: Still expected every 2 to 7 years, but with increased variability and storm intensity that can overwhelm local drainage and flood control systems.

These evolving conditions challenge existing floodplain maps and design assumptions, highlighting the need for adaptive planning, updated risk models, and continued investment in resilient infrastructure and flood mitigation strategies.

6.6.6 Vulnerability

Los Angeles County faces widespread and layered vulnerabilities to flooding, shaped by a combination of environmental exposure and complex social factors. Physical vulnerability is pronounced in areas located within FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), post-wildfire burn scars, and low-lying urban drainage basins that are prone to flooding. However, the degree of risk is significantly heightened for certain populations who may lack the resources or capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood events. Socially vulnerable groups, including older adults, individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs (AFN), mobile home residents, people experiencing homelessness, and low-income households; are more likely to reside in structurally vulnerable housing.

According to the 2021 Los Angeles County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, more than a quarter of residents living within the 100-year floodplain earn less than $20,000 annually, underscoring the disproportionate economic burden faced by those least able to absorb the costs of recovery. Climate vulnerability data further demonstrates that marginalized communities in flood-exposed areas face elevated risks due to flooding events. The vulnerability landscape is further complicated by a shortage of affordable flood-resilient structures, and an increasing number of residents living in areas newly exposed due to climate-driven changes in precipitation and runoff patterns.

6.6.7 Impacts

Flooding in Los Angeles County leads to a broad range of direct and cascading impacts on people, infrastructure, environment, and the economy. The County's extensive network of critical facilities, including hospitals, fire stations, wastewater treatment plants, schools, and power substations. These areas face recurring exposure within both 100- and 500-year floodplains. Damage to these facilities not only compromises their physical integrity but also threatens their functionality during emergency response operations.

Flooding often disrupts lifeline services such as electricity, potable water, sanitation, and transportation, with rural and unincorporated areas facing the greatest challenges to rapid restoration. Mobile homes, frequently concentrated in low-lying or under-drained neighborhoods, are especially susceptible to flood damage due to construction limitations and inadequate protective measures. Previous flood events have resulted in significant debris flows, road closures, train stoppages, and damage to public and private structures.

Primary Vulnerabilities & Impacts:

- Over 1,470 structures are estimated to be damaged in a 100-year flood event, with total damages exceeding $769.7 million in property losses in unincorporated Los Angeles County.
- Additionally, more than 180 critical facilities are exposed in the 500-year floodplain, while 70 are within the 100-year floodplain, including transportation assets, utilities, emergency services, and hazardous materials facilities.
- A 100-year flood event could displace over a thousand people with many requiring sheltering, support and recovery efforts.
- Approximately 19,563 tons of building-related debris could be generated by a 100-year flood event, with clean-up requiring more than 780 truckloads, posing logistical, environmental, and public health challenges.
- 28.6% of households in the 100-year floodplain are economically disadvantaged, earning under $20,000 per year, limiting their ability to evacuate, recover, or pay for mitigation improvements.
- A large share of flood-prone properties are either uninsured or underinsured. The average flood insurance claim payout is $7,298, which is only about 1% of the 2019

average replacement cost of structures in the floodplain—indicating significant gaps in financial resilience.

- Wildfire burn scars and post-fire hydrophobic soils significantly increase flood and debris flow risks, particularly in foothill and canyon communities. This hazard continues to grow in severity with climate-driven fire seasons.

Estimated Damage to Critical Facilities in Unincorporated Areas from 100-Year Flood

Sector	Number of Facilities Affected	Average % of Total Value Damaged	
		Structure	Content
Safety & Security	1	7.56	10.24
Food, Water & Sheltering	9	6.72	18.73
Health & Medical	0	N/A	N/A
Energy	1	23.90	47.79
Communications	0	N/A	N/A
Transportation	59	1.41	8.86
Hazardous Materials	0	N/A	N/A
Total/Average	**70**	**9.90**	**21.40**

Estimated Damage to Critical Facilities in Unincorporated Areas from 500-Year Flood

Sector	Number of Facilities Affected	Average % of Total Value Damaged	
		Structure	Content
Safety & Security	4	28.39	37.56
Food, Water & Sheltering	41	7.73	27.01
Health & Medical	0	N/A	N/A
Energy	1	23.90	47.79
Communications	2	5.00	16.00
Transportation	107	3.38	19.74
Hazardous Materials	30	10.00	15.00
Total/Average	**185**	**13.07**	**27.18**

Charts Source: LA County Public Works; 2021 County Comprehensive Flood Plan

6.6.8 Mitigation and Preparedness

Los Angeles County's flood mitigation strategy reduces hazard exposure, enhances community resilience, and supports long-term climate adaptation. Grounded in FEMA's National Mitigation Framework, CalOES planning guidance, and local policy, the County implements both structural and non-structural measures to address current and future flood risks. Core actions include regular maintenance and targeted upgrades to

stormwater infrastructure, restoration of floodplains, and integration of flood hazard data into land use planning. The County also prioritizes the protection of critical facilities and vulnerable housing through site retrofits, property acquisition, and elevation programs. Public outreach is conducted through a bilingual, ADA-accessible Program for Public Information, which promotes flood safety awareness, emergency preparedness, and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

To ensure that mitigation is both data-driven and community-centered, the County utilizes climate projections and FEMA's HAZUS modeling to inform investments, while coordinating with regional partners to align local actions with broader watershed strategies. Key components of the approach include:

- Upgrading culverts, debris basins, and drainage systems to manage increased runoff
- Promoting low-impact development (LID) and incorporating green infrastructure in urban design
- Updating ordinances and the General Plan to discourage development in high-risk areas
- Maintaining inventories of repetitive loss areas and prioritizing resources for the most vulnerable populations

This comprehensive strategy ensures Los Angeles County not only meets federal and state standards but advances flood risk reduction in a way that safeguards people, property, and natural systems for the future.

6.6.9 Summary

Flooding is one of the most persistent and complex natural hazards in Los Angeles County, intensified by climate change, urbanization, and aging infrastructure. The Los Angeles County region experiences a range of flood types, including stormwater runoff, flash flooding, coastal inundation, and post-wildfire debris flows. These events are most common during winter storms and atmospheric river systems. High-density development, extensive paved surfaces, and fire-damaged hillsides contribute to rapid runoff and increased overall flood vulnerability. Areas along (but not limited to) the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Clara Rivers, as well as coastal communities and foothill regions, are particularly at risk.

Los Angeles County's mitigation strategy is proactive and multifaceted. It includes infrastructure upgrades, nature-based solutions, land use policy updates, and public education. Core priorities focus on protecting critical facilities, reducing exposure in high-risk housing, and promoting community resilience. Planning efforts are supported by FEMA's HAZUS risk modeling and local climate projections. Despite progress, more than 750,000 residents remain at risk from major flood events, reinforcing the need for continued investment in comprehensive, flood risk reduction across the county.

6.6.10 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Repetitive Loss (RL)

According to the Los Angeles County Public Works, there are 55 Repetitive Loss (RL) properties in 28 RL areas of Unincorporated Los Angeles County as of 2025, and 8 Severe Repetitive Loss Properties (SRLP). A Repetitive Loss (RL) property is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than $1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in any rolling 10-year period since 1978. Updated location information about RL properties in Unincorporated Los Angeles County were not available during the drafting of this plan, but is being finalized and will be included in subsequent hazard mitigation efforts. Data from 2011 showed that 24 RL properties were located in the SFHA. At the time, the Los Angeles County Public Works stated, "the majority of the repetitive losses are associated with localized urban drainage flood problems, even for properties within a FEMA-designated flood zone." The Los Angeles County Public Works oversees RL mitigation projects.

6.7 Dam Failure

6.7.1 Nature

Dam failure refers to the structural collapse of a dam that results in the sudden and uncontrolled release of stored water. Such failures can occur due to age-related deterioration, inadequate spillway capacity, structural damage from seismic activity or flooding, and poor maintenance. The catastrophic release of water from a dam failure has the potential to cause human casualties, significant economic loss, and environmental destruction. This type of disaster is particularly dangerous because it can occur suddenly, leaving little time for evacuation or emergency response efforts.

The magnitude of flooding from dam failure often exceeds the capacity of downstream channels, causing rapid inundation of surrounding areas. This flooding can lead to extensive property damage, erosion, infrastructure destruction, and contamination of water supplies. Additionally, secondary hazards such as landslides and debris flows can be triggered, compounding the disaster's impact. The structural stress on dams may rise as dams age, and climate variability increases the frequency of extreme precipitation events. Planning efforts include both dams and debris basins. To simplify language of the plan both reservoir dams and storm water debris basins will be referred to as dams.

DAM FALURE
KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Dam failures are a structural collapse of a dam that results in the sudden and uncontrolled release of water.

2. **Location**
   There are over 90 dams in Los Angeles County of which 33 are owned and operated by the County.

3. **Extent**
   70 dams are classified as high or extremely high hazard dams of which 31 are owned by the County.

4. **Vulnerability**
   High population density communities within potential dam inundation areas are vulnerable to major impacts.

5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Actions focus on structural reinforcements, emergency planning efforts, and implementation of early warning systems.

6.7.2 Location

Los Angeles County has over 90 dams regulated by the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). Fifteen (15) of these dams and eighteen (18) debris basins are owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Public Works (PW). In 2017, the California Legislature mandated that all state-jurisdictional dams (excluding those classified as Low Hazard) develop dam breach inundation maps and Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) approved by DSOD and Cal OES.

Many of these dams are located near highly populated areas, increasing the potential for human and economic impacts during a failure event. Seventy (70) dams are classified as High or Extremely High hazard potential dams, meaning their failure could result in significant loss of life and widespread property damage.

The Whittier Narrows Dam, reclassified as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) highest-priority dam safety concern, poses one of the greatest risks due to its potential to flood highly populated areas from Pico Rivera to Long Beach. USACE has determined that an extreme storm event has a 1 in 900 (0.1%) chance of causing catastrophic failure annually. Mitigation actions related to County-owned dams are prioritized based on their hazard level and potential to impact populated areas.

For a better visual representation of this Dam Failure Hazard within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for all the County owned dams and debris basins maps.

6.7.3 Extent

The Federal Guidelines for Inundation Mapping of Flood Risks Associated with Dam Incidents and Failures (FEMA P-946, 2013) categorizes dam hazards into four classifications:

- **Low Hazard**: Minimal damage expected, no loss of life.
- **Significant Hazard**: Potential for property damage and economic disruption.
- **High Hazard**: Likely to result in loss of life and significant damage to critical infrastructure.
- **Extremely High Hazard (DSOD Classification)**: Could cause large-scale fatalities and inundate areas with over 1,000 residents.

Given the population density of Los Angeles County, a dam failure classified as High or Extremely High Hazard would likely cause substantial human casualties, displace entire communities, and inflict severe economic and environmental damage. Table 6-3 and 6-4 below shows a list of dams and debris basins owned by PW along with their hazard classifications. Potential mitigation actions described in this AHMP are only applicable to the dams and debris basins owned by PW and implementation of these actions are the responsibility of the PW Stormwater Engineering Division – Dams Section.

Table 6-3: Los Angeles County PW Dam Hazard Status

Dam Name	Hazard Status	Location
Big Dalton	Extremely High	Glendora, CA
Big Santa Anita	Extremely High	Monrovia, CA
Big Tujunga No. 1	Extremely High	Tujunga, CA
Cogswell	Extremely High	Azusa, CA
Devils Gate	Extremely High	LA Canada Flintridge, CA
Live Oak	Extremely High	La Verne, CA
Morris	Extremely High	Azusa, CA
Pacoima	Extremely High	Pacoima, CA
Puddingstone	Extremely High	San Dimas, CA
Puddingstone Diversion	High	La Verne, CA
San Dimas	Extremely High	La Verne, CA
San Gabriel No. 1	Extremely High	Azusa, CA
Sawpit	Extremely High	Monrovia, CA
Sierra Madre	High	Sierra Madre, CA
Thompson Creek	Extremely High	Claremont, CA

Table 6-4: Los Angeles County PW Debris Basin Hazard Status

Debris Basin Name	Hazard Status	Location
Bailey Debris Basin	High	Sierra Madre, CA
Big Dalton Debris Basin	High	Glendora, CA
Blanchard Debris Basin	High	Tujunga, CA
Brand Debris Basin	High	Glendale, CA
Eaton Wash Debris Basin	Extremely High	Pasadena, CA
La Tuna Debris Basin	Extremely High	Sun Valley, CA
Laguna Regulating Basin	Significant	Alhambra, CA
Little Dalton Debris Basin	Extremely High	Glendora, CA
Lower Sunset Debris Basin	High	Burbank, CA
Morgan Debris Basin	High	Glendora, CA
Rubio Debris Basin	High	Altadena, CA
Santa Anita Debris Basin	Low	Arcadia, CA
Sawpit Debris Basin	Extremely High	Monrovia, CA

Debris Basin Name	Hazard Status	Location
Schoolhouse Debris Basin	High	Los Angeles, CA
Sierra Madre Villa	Extremely High	Sierra Madre, CA
Stevenson Ranch	High	Stevenson Ranch, CA
Stough Debris Basin	Extremely High	Burbank, CA
Wilson Debris Basin	High	Los Angeles, CA

6.7.4 History

Los Angeles County has experienced one of the deadliest dam failures in U.S. history:

- St. Francis Dam Failure (March 12-13, 1928):
  - Released 12.4 billion gallons of water
  - At least 411 fatalities
  - Devastated towns from San Francisquito Canyon to Ventura County
  - Resulted in sweeping changes to California dam safety regulations and the creation of state oversight for civil engineers

While no major dam failures have occurred in recent decades, concerns over aging dam infrastructure, seismic risks, and increasing climate variability have raised alarms about future risks. Studies indicate that many California dams, including those in Los Angeles County, require structural updates to withstand modern hydrological conditions and potential seismic activity. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for dam failure in the last five years.

6.7.5 Dam Coordination

Los Angeles County Public Works coordinates with local, state, and federal agencies to mitigate flood risk hazards to downstream communities from its dams. At the local level, PW works with cities and public agencies during development of Emergency Action Plans (EAP). This provides local stakeholders with the opportunity to review the EAP, provide feedback, and confirm responsibilities and roles during an EAP activation. At request from local jurisdictions, PW may provide tours of its dam facilities, where information on dam safety and the potential hazards associated with dam failures are shared.

At the state level, PW works with the DSOD to meet compliance with state dam safety standards and flood management at all of PW's dams. This includes annual dam

inspections, review, approval, and oversight of dam construction projects, review of dam safety monitoring, and oversight of other dam safety regulatory activities. PW also coordinates with various state agencies, including DSOD, Cal OES, and Caltrans during development of EAPs.

At the federal level, PW works with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to meet compliance with state dam federal standards and flood management at PW's San Gabriel Dam, which is under FERC jurisdiction. This includes annual dam inspections, review, approval, and oversight of dam construction projects, review of dam safety monitoring, EAP coordination, and oversight of other dam safety regulatory activities. PW also coordinates with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on operations of interconnected dam facilities and emergency response planning for USACE facilities that may be in the pathway of dam failure impacts.

Information Sharing

PW provides critical information to relevant local, state, and federal stakeholders to address hazard mitigation related to dam safety. This includes:

- **Emergency Action Plans (EAPs):** EAPs outline the roles, responsibilities, and procedures to follow in the event of a dam emergency. The EAPs include inundation maps, which show areas that would be affected by a dam failure, helping to identify populations at risk. These plans are shared with stakeholders to ensure a coordinated response. Due to the sensitive nature of information contained within the EAPs, they are confidential and not released to the general public.
- **Inundation Maps:** Inundation maps are critical tools for identifying areas and populations at risk in the event of a dam failure. They also indicate potential impacts on critical infrastructure facilities such as hospitals, schools, and transportation networks. These maps are shared with relevant stakeholders recognized in the EAP and are available to the general public through the DSOD Dam Breach Inundation Map Web Publisher.

6.7.6 Probability

Los Angeles County contains over 90 state-jurisdictional dams, with approximately 70 classified as High or Extremely High Hazard by the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), meaning their failure could result in loss of life and significant property damage.

Although comprehensive failure probabilities are not published for each dam, FEMA and DSOD guidance suggest that the general annual probability of failure for High Hazard dams nationwide ranges from 0.01% to 0.1% (or 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 1,000) depending on maintenance, age, seismic vulnerability, and other site-specific factors.

Applying this range to Los Angeles County:

- The aggregate annual probability of a significant dam failure event in the county—across one or more of the 70 high-risk dams—is estimated at between 0.1% and 0.5% annually, factoring cumulative exposure and different hazard classifications. (Such as earthquake or flood related)
- Climate change, aging infrastructure, and seismic activity in Los Angeles County increase systemic risk across multiple structures simultaneously.

In summary, while the individual likelihood of failure for any one dam is very low, the overall countywide probability of at least one major dam failure event is low but still warrants continued vigilance, maintenance, and emergency planning.

6.7.7 Vulnerability

A catastrophic dam failure in Los Angeles County could have severe consequences for hundreds of thousands of residents. The densely populated nature of the county, combined with the location of several large dams near residential and commercial areas, increases the potential for widespread displacement, loss of life, and economic damage. The 2024 THIRA identifies multiple high-risk zones where dam failure could result in extensive flooding and mass evacuations.

- High-risk dams, among others, pose a significant threat to densely populated communities. A breach in any of these dams could inundate entire neighborhoods, affecting more than 500,000 residents in low-lying areas and floodplains.
- Socially vulnerable populations, including elderly individuals, the AFN community, people experiencing homelessness, low-income communities, and non-English-speaking residents face heightened risks during evacuations and recovery due to limited mobility, financial constraints, and access to resources.
- Educational and healthcare institutions are at risk, with several schools, hospitals, and long-term care facilities located in flood-prone areas. A major dam failure could result in school closures, displacement of students, and disruption of healthcare services.

- Evacuation and emergency sheltering demands would be substantial, requiring the rapid mobilization of resources to support displaced residents. Temporary shelters, emergency medical services, and logistical support would need to be activated to accommodate evacuees.

Los Angeles County relies heavily on dams and reservoirs for water storage, flood control, and supply regulation. Catastrophic dam failure poses an acute threat to life and property, especially in low-lying, highly populated downstream areas.

Extent of Exposure

- **Total Area Exposed**: 490.64 sq mi
- **Supervisorial Districts (SD) Impacted**:
  - **SD5**: 223.88 sq mi (7.97%)
  - **SD1**: 162.25 sq mi (45.98%)
  - **SD2**: 66.57 sq mi (18.32%)
  - **SD3**: 25.76 sq mi (5.97%)
  - **SD4**: 12.17 sq mi (5.72%)
- **Critical Facilities Affected**:
  - Fire Department: 112 (33.22%)
  - Public Works: 92 (40.00%)
  - Health Services: 29 (44.62%)
  - Public Health: 17 (42.50%)
  - Libraries: 30 (34.48%)
  - Parks: 65 (35.50%)
  - Education: 34 (41.46%)

Problem Statement

Dam failure, while rare, can have catastrophic consequences in densely populated downstream areas. With significant portions of critical infrastructure exposed—particularly in SD1 and SD5—planning for emergency evacuations, early warning systems, infrastructure hardening, and downstream development regulation is critical to saving lives and reducing loss.

A failure or breach of a High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) in Los Angeles County would result in catastrophic consequences for downstream communities, with the greatest vulnerabilities concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Rapid and massive flooding would likely inundate residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, and industrial zones within minutes to hours, depending on proximity and topography. Critical infrastructure—including hospitals, fire and police stations, schools, and major transportation corridors—would be severely impacted, disrupting emergency services and evacuation routes. Thousands of people, including vulnerable populations such as those with Access and Functional Needs (AFN), elderly residents, and low-income households, would face immediate life-threatening conditions, displacement, and limited access to medical care or shelter. Economic losses would be compounded by damage to utilities, including power substations and water systems, potentially leaving large swaths of the region without essential services. The sheer scale of devastation from a dam failure, especially at facilities such as Whittier Narrows or Castaic Dam, underscores the critical importance of continued risk reduction, early warning systems, and dam rehabilitation efforts.

6.7.8 Data Limitations

A limitation of this AHMP is that planning efforts only covered PW-owned dams in Los Angeles County. Future mitigation planning should include other dam owners and operators in Los Angeles County such as the US Army Corps of Engineers. The data on high-hazard dams reviewed during the 2025 AHMP planning process was generally suitable for the analysis required. Future opportunities for obtaining additional data to be considered in the next update to the plan should:

- Incorporate more current information as it becomes available.
- Assess any new or updated EAPs for dams owned by Los Angeles County.
- Identify and review more current structural or condition assessment data to inform future risk assessments.
- Involve other dam owners within Los Angeles County in future planning efforts.

6.7.9 Impacts

A dam failure in Los Angeles County would have catastrophic and immediate consequences for life, property, and critical infrastructure, particularly in the densely populated downstream areas. The sudden release of impounded water from a High or Extremely High Hazard dam could inundate neighborhoods within minutes, allowing little to no time for evacuation. More than 500,000 residents live within identified dam inundation zones, many of whom are in socially vulnerable populations—including

individuals with limited mobility, low-income households, and people experiencing homelessness—making rapid evacuation and sheltering especially challenging. County-owned high hazard potential dams and their locations are listed in Table 6-3. Inundation maps for County-owned high hazard potential dams are listed in Appendix A-7.

Critical infrastructure is also at significant risk. Hospitals, fire stations, law enforcement facilities, emergency operations centers, schools, and wastewater treatment plants located in downstream zones may be damaged or rendered inoperable, severely disrupting emergency response and life-sustaining services. Major transportation routes such as interstates, rail lines, and arterial roads could be submerged or washed out, impeding rescue and recovery efforts. Additionally, power substations, water distribution networks, and telecommunications infrastructure could suffer cascading failures, contributing to widespread outages and prolonged recovery periods.

The economic consequences of dam failure would be immense. Beyond property damage, business operations in inundated areas would halt, leading to loss of employment, tax revenue, and economic activity. Industrial zones (especially those near major flood control reservoirs or channels) could potentially release hazardous materials if overwhelmed, posing secondary environmental and public health hazards. Debris accumulation, sedimentation, and contamination could severely impact ecosystems, water quality, and flood control infrastructure downstream, complicating both emergency cleanup and long-term environmental recovery.

Given the scale of potential impacts, dam failure is considered a stable low-probability but high-consequence hazard in Los Angeles County, requiring continued investment in structural mitigation, emergency preparedness, and public awareness to reduce the severity of its effects.

6.7.10 High Hazard Potential Dams Goals

Goal 1: Enhance resilience across dam/debris basin infrastructure, including high-hazard potential dams, and other critical facilities within dam inundation zones.

Goal 2: Encourage structural reinforcement or retrofits for aging and vulnerable dams.

Goal 3: Ensure all dams/ debris basins have updated Emergency Action Plans (where applicable) and updated dam inundation mapping consistent with state standards.

6.7.11 Mitigation and Preparedness

Los Angeles County and state agencies have implemented various mitigation efforts to reduce the risks associated with dam failures:

- **Structural Reinforcements:** Upgrading spillways, strengthening earthen dams, and implementing seismic retrofitting measures.
- **Emergency Action Plans (EAPs):** Mandated by DSOD for all High and Extremely High hazard dams to guide evacuation and response efforts.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Improved flood monitoring and automated alert systems to notify at-risk communities in real-time.

6.7.12 High Hazard Potential Dam Prioritization

The risk assessment within the 2025 AHMP considers the county planning area's vulnerability and potential impacts related to HHPDs. Mitigation actions and planning efforts that are related to mitigating long-term vulnerabilities to County-owned HHPDs will automatically be given a HIGH priority as described in the overall mitigation action prioritization criteria in Section 7.6. The County Departments responsible for implementing the associated mitigation actions, along with the priority, potential funding source, and expected time frame are listed in Section 7.8.

6.7.13 Summary

Los Angeles County has 90 state-jurisdictional dams, with 70 classified as High or Extremely High hazard, meaning their failure could result in widespread loss of life and economic devastation. While regulatory oversight has improved dam safety, aging infrastructure, seismic threats, and increased storm intensity remain challenges. Continued investment in retrofits, early warning systems, and emergency planning is essential to mitigating the risk of catastrophic dam failures.

6.8 Land Movement

6.8.1 Nature

Land movement refers to the downward movement of rock, soil, or debris along a slope due to gravity. This process can occur suddenly or gradually over time, depending on contributing factors such as soil composition, slope stability, and external triggers. Land movement encompass a variety of movement types including mudflows, rockfalls, debris flows, land slumps, land subsidence, and soil movement. In Los Angeles County, the diverse topography and geological formations make certain areas more prone to land movement, particularly during periods of intense precipitation, seismic activity, or human land-use modifications.

LAND MOVEMENT KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Land movement is the downward movement of rock, soil, or debris due to gravity.
2. **Location**
   Hillside, canyon, and coastal bluff communities along with areas near recent burn scars are at particular risk.
3. **Extent**
   Approximately 750 square miles (15.75%) of Los Angeles County are within high-risk landslide zones.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Approximately 1.2 million residents in Los Angeles County could be affected by land movement.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Actions focus on regulating land use and strengthening infrastructure resilience.

Climate change exacerbates land movement by increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall and flooding, which can lead to accelerated erosion and heightened landslide risks.

Land movement often occur in conjunction with other natural hazards, exacerbating their impact. Some of the primary contributing factors include:

- **Seismic Activity**: Earthquakes can destabilize slopes, leading to land movement and rockfalls. The force of seismic shaking can cause sudden failures, particularly in areas with pre-existing instability.
- **Heavy Rainfall and Flooding**: The likelihood of land movement increases after successive storms. Prolonged or intense rainfall saturates soil, reducing its cohesion and triggering slope failures.
- **Coastal Erosion**: Waves and storm surge erode coastal cliffs, leading to instability and eventual collapse, particularly in areas such as County beaches and coastal communities, many of which have previously experienced significant erosion.
- **Wildfires**: Loss of vegetation due to fires reduces the soil's ability to retain moisture, making slopes more susceptible to erosion and land movement during subsequent rain events.
- **Burn Scars**: Wildfire burn scars significantly elevate the risk of land movement by stripping the land of stabilizing vegetation. Areas affected by major fires such as the Woolsey Fire (2018), Bobcat Fire (2020), Bridge Fire (2024), Eaton Fire (2025), and Palisades Fire (2025) have shown increased susceptibility to land movement due to reduced soil stability and rapid runoff during rainstorms.

6.8.2 Location

Los Angeles County is home to multiple regions susceptible to land movement due to steep slopes, unstable geology, and weather patterns. The California Geological Survey (CGS) Landslide Susceptibility Map highlights high-risk areas. For a better visual representation of the Land Movement Hazard within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for maps that show areas that are susceptible to land movement and recent burn scars.

Potential land movement areas include (but are not limited to):

- Santa Monica Mountains
- San Gabriel Mountains
- Sierra Pelona Mountains
- Baldwin Hills
- Puente Hills
- Palos Verdes Hills

These areas are particularly vulnerable due to their steep terrains, weak rock formations, and history of slope movement. Additionally, human activities such as grading, excavation, and construction in these regions can further destabilize the ground, increasing the likelihood of land movement. Areas impacted by past wildfires, known as burn scars, are also highly susceptible to land movement, as the loss of vegetation reduces soil stability and increases erosion risks during heavy rains. This is particularly concerning in wildfire-prone areas such as the Santa Monica Mountains and the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, where post-fire land movement have historically caused significant damage.

6.8.3 Extent

The extent of land movement in Los Angeles is significant and varied, influenced by its unique geological setting. According to the 2011 CGS Landslide Susceptibility Map, approximately 750 square miles (15.75%) of Los Angeles County fall within high-risk landslide zones. The highest concentrations of deep-seated landslide susceptibility are distributed as follows:

Table 6-5 Landslide Susceptibility Map

Area	High-Risk Landslide Zones (sq. miles)	Percentage of Total Land Area
Los Angeles County	750.02	15.75%
Unincorporated Areas	577.63	18.99%
Supervisorial District 1	17.29	7.02%
Supervisorial District 2	2.73	1.68%
Supervisorial District 3	114.61	26.58%
Supervisorial District 4	105.12	23.89%
Supervisorial District 5	509.31	18.14%

6.8.4 History

Land movement have historically caused significant damage in Los Angeles County, often resulting in property destruction, infrastructure damage, and road closures. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for dam failure in the last five years. Some of the most notable events include:

- **1956 – Portuguese Bend Landslide**: A massive landslide on the Palos Verdes Peninsula began in 1956 and remains active today. The movement of land has displaced homes and infrastructure, highlighting the region's ongoing geologic instability.
- **1994 – Northridge Earthquake-Induced Land movement**: The earthquake triggered more than 11,000 moving events, primarily in the Santa Susana Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains, causing extensive road and structural damage.
- **March 1995 – Pacific Palisades Landslide**: Heavy rains weakened the coastal bluffs, leading to a 300-foot-wide collapse that buried part of the Pacific Coast Highway under 30 feet of debris.
- **March 2005 – Sunset Mesa Landslide**: A slope failure near Malibu caused over 20,000 cubic yards of debris to block roadways and damage property.
- **July 2023 – Peartree Lane Land Movement (Rolling Hills Estates)**: A sudden slope failure resulted in the displacement of 12 homes, which were red-tagged due to structural instability.
- **September 2024 – Accelerated Land Movement in Rancho Palos Verdes**: A significant increase in land movement, with certain areas shifting up to four inches per week toward the ocean, threatening roads and over 250 residential properties.

6.8.5 Types of Land Movement

Debris Flow/ Mudflow/ Soil Movement

Debris flow involves the rapid movement of a dense mixture of water, soil, rock, and organic material down a slope. This process can have significant impacts on landscapes, ecosystems, and human infrastructure.

Debris flows are characterized by their fluid-like behavior and ability to transport large objects, such as boulders and trees. They can travel at high speeds making them highly destructive. The composition of a debris flow can vary, but it typically includes:

- **Water**: A crucial component that facilitates movement.
- **Soil and Rock**: These provide the bulk of the material in a debris flow.
- **Organic Material**: Includes vegetation and other natural debris that get caught in the flow.

Mudflows are rapid movements of water-saturated earth materials that can cause significant damage to both natural environments and human settlements. Mudflows are characterized by their fluid-like motion, which occurs when soil, rocks, and debris become saturated with water. This saturation reduces the friction between particles, allowing the mass to move downhill under the influence of gravity. Key characteristics include:

- **Speed and Volume:** Mud flows can travel at speeds up to 35 miles per hour and can carry large volumes of material, including rocks, trees, and even vehicles.
- **Consistency:** The consistency of a mud flow can vary from a thick, viscous slurry to a watery flow. This depends on the proportion of water to solid materials.
- **Path:** Mud flows typically follow existing drainage patterns, such as river channels and valleys, but can also carve new paths, leading to unpredictable and widespread damage.

Soil movement is a natural process that significantly impacts the environment and human activities. It involves the displacement of soil particles due to various natural and human caused factors. Key characteristics include:

- **Landslides:** Often occurring in hilly areas, landslides involve the downward movement of rock and soil. They can be sudden and fast-moving, making them particularly dangerous.
- **Soil Creep:** This is a slow and gradual movement of soil down a slope, often unnoticed until significant damage occurs.
- **Soil Liquefaction:** During an earthquake, saturated soil can temporarily lose its strength and behave like a liquid, causing structures to sink or tilt.

Causes

In Los Angeles County, several factors contribute to the occurrence of debris flows/mudflows/ soil movement:

- **Heavy Rainfall and Storm Events:** Intense and prolonged rainfall, often associated with storms, can saturate the soil, reducing its stability and triggering debris flows.

The region's Mediterranean climate, with wet winters and dry summers, creates conditions conducive to such events.

- **Wildfires:** Los Angeles County frequently experiences wildfires, which can burn and destabilize vegetation that normally helps hold soil in place. The loss of vegetation increases the risk of soil erosion and, consequently, debris flows during subsequent rainfalls.
- **Steep Terrain:** The county's mountainous terrain, including areas like County mountainous areas, is particularly prone to debris flow. The steep slopes facilitate the rapid movement of debris downhill.
- **Soil Composition:** Certain soil types, such as clay-rich soils, can become highly unstable when saturated with water, making them more susceptible to debris flow.
- **Human Activity:** Urban development, road construction, and deforestation can alter natural landscapes and exacerbate conditions that lead to debris flow.
- **Seismic Activity:** Los Angeles County is situated in a highly active seismic zone, making it prone to earthquakes. Seismic activity can lead to soil liquefaction, landslides, and ground shaking, all contributing to soil displacement.

Land Subsidence

Land subsidence is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to various natural and human-induced factors. This hazard can have significant impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and communities.

A reduction in land elevation is one of the most noticeable features of land subsidence, leading to significant changes in the landscape. This phenomenon can occur due to natural processes, such as the dissolution of limestone, as well as human activities like the excessive extraction of groundwater, oil, or natural gas. Furthermore, land subsidence increases the risk of flooding because the lower elevation can lead to poor drainage and water accumulation. As the ground sinks, it often results in the formation of depressions, fissures, and sinkholes, which can dramatically alter the geography and infrastructure of the area.

- **Depressions:** Are sunken or low-lying areas on the Earth’s surface, often formed by natural or man-made processes.
- **Fissures:** Are a long, narrow crack or linear opening in the Earth’s crust.
- **Sinkholes:** Are holes in the ground causes by the collapse or sinking of surface material into an underlying void.

Causes

- **Groundwater Extraction:** One of the primary causes of land subsidence in Los Angeles County is the excessive extraction of groundwater. As water is pumped out of underground aquifers, the ground above can sink or settle, leading to subsidence.
- **Oil and Gas Extraction:** The removal of oil and natural gas from beneath the earth's surface also contributes to land subsidence. This extraction can create voids and reduce pressure in subterranean layers, causing the ground to sink.
- **Natural Soil Compaction:** Over time, natural processes such as soil compaction can lead to gradual subsidence. In areas with loose or unconsolidated soils, the weight of overlying materials compacts the ground, resulting in a lowering of the land surface.

Rock Falls

Rock falls are a natural geological phenomenon where rock fragments break free from a steep slope or cliff and tumble downward. These events can range from small pebbles dislodging to massive boulders crashing down with significant force and impact.

Rock falls are characterized by:

- **Speed and Suddenness:** Rock falls occur quickly and without much warning, making them particularly dangerous.
- **Varied Sizes:** The size of the falling material can range from small pebbles to large boulders, impacting the severity of the event.
- **Path Predictability:** While the initial trigger point is often identifiable, the path of descent can be unpredictable due to varying terrain and obstacles.

Causes

The primary causes of rock falls include:

- **Weathering and Erosion:** Over time, weathering processes such as freeze-thaw cycles, chemical weathering, and the action of water can weaken rock structures. Erosion can undermine the base of slopes, making rocks more susceptible to falling.
- **Seismic Activity:** Los Angeles County is located in a seismically active region. Earthquakes can dislodge rocks from cliffs and steep slopes, triggering rock falls.

- **Heavy Rainfall:** Intense or prolonged rainfall can saturate the ground, increasing the weight and pressure on rock faces. This saturation can lead to the loosening and collapse of rocks.
- **Human Activity:** Construction, mining, and other human activities can destabilize rock formations. The vibrations from heavy machinery and blasting can initiate rock falls.

6.8.6 Probability

Landslides and other land movement events happen in Los Angeles County fairly often, especially after heavy rain or in areas that recently had wildfires or are prone to sliding.

- Small landslides (like debris flows) are most likely during years with heavy rain, especially El Niño years. These happen every 2 to 7 years; there is 14% to 50% chance each year during those cycles.
- In high-risk zones (like steep mountain slopes with a history of movement), probability is 1–2% chance per year, especially following multi-year wet periods or major wildfires.
- Some areas of the County have been experiencing continuous sliding.

6.8.7 Vulnerability

Land movement pose risks to life, property, and essential infrastructure. The 2024 THIRA projects that approximately 1.2 million residents in Los Angeles County could be directly or indirectly affected by land movement. The most at-risk populations include:

- Residents of hillside and canyon communities such as Malibu, Topanga, and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.
- Homeowners in coastal bluff areas that are facing erosion-driven slope failures.
- Communities in wildfire burn scar areas, where the loss of vegetation increases landslide probability during heavy rains.
- The Access and Functional Needs (AFN) community who may face challenges in evacuating or leaving landslide-prone areas.

Contextual Overview

Los Angeles County's diverse topography includes many hillside communities susceptible to deep-seated landslides, especially after wildfire or heavy rain. These hazards can isolate communities, damage property, and disrupt lifelines.

Extent of Exposure

- **Total Area Exposed**: 284.57 sq mi
- **Supervisorial Districts (SD) Impacted**:
    - **SD5**: 151.96 sq mi (5.41%)
    - **SD3**: 90.23 sq mi (20.93%)
    - **SD4**: 25.94 sq mi (12.20%)
    - **SD1**: 13.77 sq mi (3.90%)
    - **SD2**: 2.68 sq mi (0.74%)
- **Critical Facilities Affected**:
    - Fire Department: 41 (12.17%)
    - Public Works: 32 (13.91%)
    - Health Services: 12 (18.46%)
    - Public Health: 4 (10.00%)
    - Libraries: 9 (10.34%)
    - Parks: 27 (14.92%)
    - Education: 8 (9.76%)

Problem Statement

Landslides pose a serious risk to hillside communities and access routes, especially in areas recovering from wildfire. Current development and road infrastructure may not be resilient against slope failure. Mitigation actions should include slope stabilization, targeted buyouts or relocations, and early warning systems.

6.8.8 Impacts

Los Angeles County's diverse landscape and dense population make it highly susceptible to the effects of land movement, affecting critical infrastructure and raising significant economic, social, and safety concerns.

Transportation Networks

Los Angeles County's extensive transportation network is vital for daily commutes, goods transport, and emergency services. Land movement can severely impact these systems:

- **Road Damage**: Causes closures, hazardous driving conditions and costly repairs, as seen annually on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), and many other local roads.
- **Bridge Compromise**: Affects structural integrity, necessitating closures and expensive reconstructions.
- **Public Transit Disruptions**: Impacts train tracks and bus routes, leading to delays and service interruptions.
- **Rail Systems:** Track misalignment can cause delays and potential derailments, affecting both passenger and freight lines.

Water Supply Systems

The county's water delivery system is complex and vulnerable to land movement:

- **Compromised Pipelines**: Leads to ruptures or leaks, disrupting supply and requiring major repairs.
- **Reservoir Impact**: Landslides can affect water quality and storage capacity.

Energy Infrastructure

Land movement poses risks to Los Angeles County's energy infrastructure, including:

- **Electrical Grid Vulnerabilities:** Land movement can damage power lines and substations, causing outages.
- **Gas Pipeline Risks:** Soil shifts can result in gas leaks or explosions, endangering safety.

Communication Systems

Reliable communication is critical, and land movement can disrupt:

- **Telecommunication Towers:** Structural damage can impair cellular and internet services.
- **Underground Cables:** Earth shifts can damage cables, affecting connectivity.

Emergency Services Facilities

- **Hospitals and Fire Stations:** Essential for emergency response, but structural damage could impede operations, underscoring the need for resilient construction and strategic planning.

Economic Impacts

- **Infrastructure Damage:** Leads to costly repairs and maintenance of roads, bridges, and buildings.
- **Property Loss:** Homeowners face financial losses due to property damage or devaluation.

Environmental Impacts

- **Ecosystem Disruption:** Soil movement can lead to habitat loss and affect local flora and fauna.
- **Increased Pollution:** Erosion can result in sediment runoff, degrading water quality in rivers and oceans.

For a better visual representation of the Land Movement Hazard within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for maps that show areas that are susceptible to land movement and recent burn scars.

6.8.9 Mitigation Strategies

To reduce the impact of land movement, Los Angeles County has implemented several mitigation and preparedness strategies, including:

- **Land Use and Development Regulations:** Restricting development in high-risk landslide zones to prevent new structures from being built on unstable terrain.
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** Reinforcing existing infrastructure through slope stabilization projects, retaining walls, and improved drainage systems.

- **Stabilization Regulations:** Implementing stricter grading and excavation regulations to minimize the destabilization of slopes.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Enhancing landslide early notifications by monitoring potential movement areas and precipitation thresholds.
- **Evacuation Planning:** Developing evacuation plans for at-risk communities, ensuring residents receive timely alerts and clear guidance.
- **Public Education:** Conducting public education campaigns to inform residents about recognizing landslide warning signs and preparedness measures.
- **Operational Area Coordination**: Increasing coordination across state, federal, and Office of Emergency Management officials with local jurisdictions to improve forecasting and response efforts.

6.8.10 Summary

Land movement remains a significant hazard in Los Angeles County, particularly in steep and coastal regions. The Palos Verdes Peninsula, Santa Monica Mountains, and San Gabriel Mountains are among the most vulnerable areas, with climate change and human activities exacerbating risks. By implementing land-use regulations, infrastructure reinforcements, and emergency response improvements, the County can enhance resilience and reduce losses in the future. Local governments and communities must actively monitor and manage contributing factors to effectively mitigate the impacts of land subsidence.

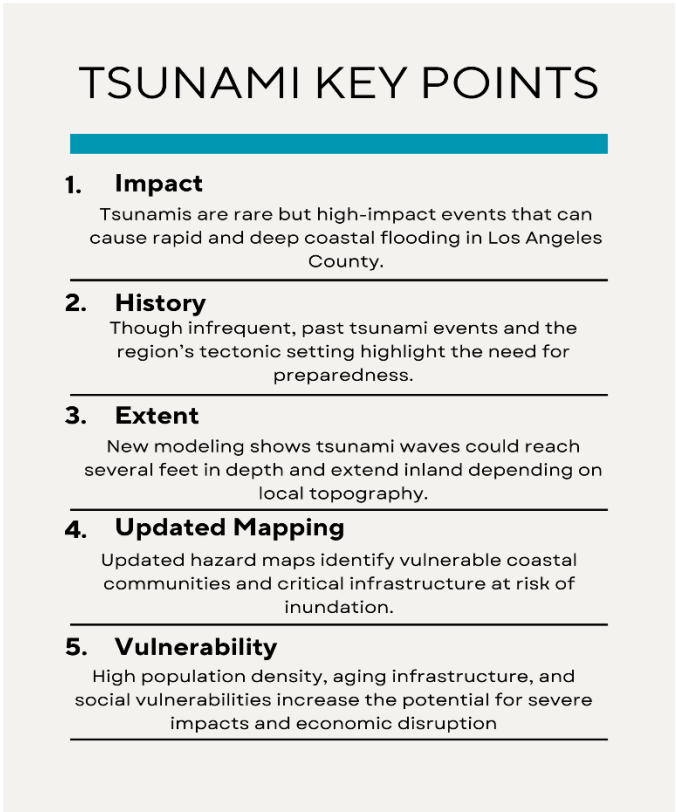
6.9 Tsunami

6.9.1 Nature

This section characterizes tsunamis as high-energy, long-wavelength ocean waves generated primarily by significant offshore seismic events (such as subduction zone earthquakes), submarine landslides, or volcanic eruptions. In the context of Los Angeles County, tsunamis represent a relatively infrequent but potentially high-impact hazard that could produce rapid coastal inundation and surge impacts.

Characteristics:

- Triggered mainly by distant, large-magnitude seismic events.
- Features long wavelengths and prolonged arrival times.
- Capable of producing rapid, deep inundation along low-lying coastal areas.
- In summary, tsunamis are dynamic natural phenomena with the potential to cause sudden coastal flooding and damage if a triggering event occurs.



6.9.2 Location

The updated tsunami hazard profile focuses on the coastal areas of Los Angeles County. The new zone map—developed using enhanced modeling techniques and updated coastal geomorphology data—highlights areas along the Pacific shoreline that are at risk. These include regions adjacent to the Los Angeles Basin, parts of Long Beach, Santa Monica Bay, and other low-elevation coastal zones.

For a better visual representation of Tsunami Inundation zones within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for a "Tsunami Inundation Area" map.

Important Details:

- Coastal segments from the western margins of the Los Angeles Basin extending to the border with Orange County.

Overall, the coastal areas of Los Angeles County, containing our communities and infrastructure, face heightened exposure.

6.9.3 Extent

Using the latest hydrodynamic and inundation modeling, the updated tsunami inundation (zone) map provides a refined view of the extent of potential flooding. The map illustrates how tsunami waves could propagate inland, showing revised boundaries that account for current sea-level conditions and future sea-level rise projections.

Highlights:

- Inundation depths and reach have been recalculated, with some areas potentially experiencing water levels up to several feet in depth.
- The inland reach of flooding varies by local topography, with flat, low-lying areas showing the greatest potential for impacts. Impacted areas include, but are not limited to, Long Beach, The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, Marina del Rey, Venice and Santa Monica.
- Critical infrastructure within the updated zones has been identified to prioritize mitigation and evacuation routes for planning.

In essence, the extent of tsunami impacts is now mapped more precisely, offering local decision-makers a clearer view of potential flooding depths and distances inland.

6.9.4 History

Historically, significant tsunami events in the Los Angeles region are rare, though distant seismic events (for example: the 1960 Chilean tsunami, or the most recent 2022 Tonga tsunami) have been known to produce measurable impacts. Historical records combined with geological studies indicate that while tsunamis have occurred in the past, their frequency is low compared to other hazards. However, the region's proximity to major tectonic boundaries necessitates ongoing vigilance.

Historical Context:

- Past events have been sporadic but can serve as valuable lessons for preparedness.
- Historical inundation records and sediment studies confirm that tsunamis have reached the Los Angeles coast in prehistory.
- Lessons learned from past minor events underscore the importance of maintaining updated hazard maps.

Thus, while historical tsunami events are infrequent, they provide a critical context for understanding future risks and guiding preparedness measures. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for tsunami in the last five years.

6.9.5 Probability

The probability of a tsunami affecting Los Angeles County is generally low when compared to more frequent hazards like earthquakes or floods. Nevertheless, the potential for a distance source tsunami generated by a distant, large seismic event remains a realistic risk. Updated probabilistic assessments—incorporating recent seismic data and tsunami modeling indicate that while the overall likelihood is low, the consequences in the event of a tsunami can be severe.

Probability Considerations:

- Low annual probability but high consequence if an event occurs; Los Angeles County has about a 2% annual chance.
- Distance source events from subduction zones across the ocean contribute most to the risk.
- Continuous monitoring and updated modeling are essential to reassess the risk over time.
- In summary, the probability of a tsunami remains low, but due to the potential for high-impact outcomes, it warrants continuous study and preparedness.

6.9.6 Vulnerability

Coastal vulnerability in Los Angeles County is significantly influenced by factors such as urban density, low-elevation terrain, aging infrastructure, and socio-economic conditions. The updated tsunami zone map now better delineates areas where these vulnerabilities are most pronounced, highlighting communities that may have limited evacuation routes and fewer resources to recover from rapid inundation. About 75,000 people live in parts of Los Angeles County that could be flooded by a tsunami. Many people also work in these coastal areas, and around 660 unhoused individuals live there, making them especially at risk because they may not have easy access to shelter or transportation.

Tourism adds even more people to these areas, especially during busy weekends or holidays. Places like Santa Monica can see up to 300,000 visitors a day during peak times. This makes evacuating harder if a tsunami warning is issued. Roads near the coast can quickly become crowded, and visitors may not know the best way to leave. Traffic could slow down emergency plans, so it's important to have clear signs, early warnings, and good traffic control to help people get to safety quickly.

Factors:

- High population density in low-lying coastal areas.
- Critical infrastructure (e.g., hospitals, utilities, ports and shipping, transportation networks) located within the inundation zones.
- Socio-economic and language barriers that may hinder effective emergency response.
- Limited natural barriers in some coastal segments.
- Vulnerable communities include those with high population densities and critical infrastructure near the coast.

Ultimately, the vulnerability of the region is compounded by both physical exposures and social factors, underscoring the need for targeted mitigation efforts.

Contextual Overview

Coastal communities in Los Angeles County, including ports and tourist zones, are at risk from tsunamis. These rare but highly destructive events can inundate coastal infrastructure with little warning.

Extent of Exposure

- **Total Area Exposed**: 32.89 sq mi
- **Supervisorial Districts (SD) Impacted**:
    - **SD4**: 15.83 sq mi (7.43%)
    - **SD3**: 12.59 sq mi (2.92%)
    - **SD2**: 2.03 sq mi (0.56%)
- **Critical Facilities Affected**:
    - Fire Department: 16 (4.75%)
    - Public Works: 9 (3.91%)
    - Health Services: 3 (4.62%)
    - Public Health: 1 (2.50%)
    - Libraries: 5 (5.75%)
    - Parks: 13 (7.26%)
    - Education: 3 (3.66%)

Problem Statement

Tsunamis can cause rapid and catastrophic coastal flooding. With critical coastal infrastructure and residential areas exposed, especially in SD4 and SD3, there is a need for robust evacuation planning, vertical evacuation shelters, and community outreach to enhance preparedness and reduce vulnerability.

6.9.7 Impacts

Should a tsunami occur, the potential impacts on Los Angeles County could be extensive. Parts of Los Angeles County that could be impacted by a Tsunami are Marina Del Rey, Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach, and other beach communities in low lying areas. The updated impact assessments reflect possible scenarios ranging from significant property damage to loss of life and long-term economic disruption. The new zone map aids in quantifying these impacts by providing detailed inundation depths and spatial extents, thereby allowing for better risk communication and planning.

Potential Impacts:

- Severe flooding of coastal infrastructure and residential areas.
- Disruption of transportation, utility services, and emergency response operations.
- Economic losses in key sectors such as tourism, shipping, and local commerce.
- Social impacts including displacement, loss of livelihoods, and challenges in emergency sheltering.

In short, the potential impacts of a tsunami are far-reaching, necessitating robust mitigation, evacuation, and recovery planning to minimize harm.

For a better visual representation of Tsunami Inundation zones within the LA County planning area, please reference Appendix A for a "Tsunami Inundation Area" map.

6.9.8 Summary

The updated tsunami section for the 2025 AHMP incorporates the latest scientific findings and mapping techniques to provide a more precise understanding of tsunami risks in Los Angeles County. By integrating an updated inundation zone map, the revision clarifies the spatial extent of potential flooding and highlights the vulnerabilities in coastal communities. This comprehensive update is designed to guide decision-makers in enhancing preparedness, targeting mitigation strategies, and strengthening community resilience.

Key Takeaways:

- **Nature:** Tsunamis are infrequent but high-energy events capable of rapid coastal inundation.
- **Location & Extent:** The updated zone map identifies vulnerable coastal areas with revised inland flood extents.
- **History & Probability:** Historical events are rare; however, distance events remain a realistic risk.
- **Vulnerability & Impacts:** High population density and critical infrastructure in coastal zones amplify risk, with potential for severe economic and social disruption.

This updated section is intended to serve as a critical tool for policymakers, emergency managers, and community stakeholders as they work together to reduce the long-term risks associated with tsunamis and enhance overall regional resilience.

6.10 Severe Wind and Tornado

6.10.1 Nature

Severe wind and tornadoes pose significant threats to life, property, and infrastructure, though they differ in frequency and intensity within Los Angeles County. Severe wind events, particularly Santa Ana winds, are a recurring natural hazard that can cause widespread damage, including downed power lines, tree falls, and structural damage. These winds originate from high-pressure systems over the Great Basin, funneling dry and warm air through mountain passes into the coastal and valley regions at high speeds. Additionally, storm-driven winds, microbursts, straight-line winds and gust fronts associated with severe weather can create hazardous conditions, often leading to transportation disruptions, fire hazards, and prolonged power outages.

WIND & TORNADO KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Severe wind events such as Santa Ana winds and occasional tornadoes can cause widespread disruption, infrastructure damage, and increased wildfire risk
2. **Location**
   High-wind zones are common in canyon passes, valleys, and coastal regions, while tornadoes may occur sporadically throughout the county during severe storm activity.
3. **Extent**
   Santa Ana and storm-driven winds can exceed 80 mph; tornadoes in the area typically range from EF-0 to EF-1, with limited but impactful damage.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Critical infrastructure, older or poorly constructed buildings, wildfire burn scars, and residents with limited mobility are most at risk from high wind and tornado events.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Strengthening building codes, retrofitting infrastructure, vegetation management, tornado-resistant construction, early warning systems, and public education.

Tornadoes, while relatively rare in the region, have been recorded and can cause localized but intense damage. These violent windstorms form when unstable atmospheric conditions produce rotating updrafts, resulting in a funnel cloud that contacts the ground.

6.10.2 Location

Severe wind events affect the entire Los Angeles County planning area, with the strongest occurrences in canyon passes, valleys, and coastal regions. The Santa Ana winds are most intense in the fall and winter months, particularly impacting areas in the Valley, and foothill communities of the County. Storm-driven winds, on the other hand, can impact any part of the county and vary in intensity based on weather patterns. These winds can reach speeds of 60 to 80 mph, sometimes exceeding those thresholds, leading to significant damage.

Tornadoes are more sporadic in occurrence and can develop in various parts of the county, particularly in lowland areas where severe thunderstorms have the potential to form rotating systems.

6.10.3 Extent

Winds and breezes are common occurrences in LA County. As wind speeds increase so does the potential for a catastrophic event. Hot dry winds can reach high speeds as they descend from the inland desert regions, creating not only critical wind events but also extremely dangerous fire conditions and contributing to the spread of wildfires. The winds are classified in the Beaufort Wind Scale, see Figure 6.10.1 below. Beaufort wind scale is an empirical scale that relates wind speed to observed conditions at sea or land. It uses numerical scale from 1-12 to describe wind force based on visual observations of the effects of the wind and gives quantitative measures of the wind. For example, o is described as ‘calm’ a sea like a mirror while 12 described as hurricane force with devastating conditions.

Tornadoes are classified using the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale Figure 6.10.2. The Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale is specifically used to rate the intensity of tornados based on the damage they cause (damage indicators) such as building types, and trees. It ranges from EF-0 to EF-5, with increasing numbers indicate stronger tornados and more severe damage. While tornadoes in the region typically do not exceed EF-1

intensity, they can still produce damaging winds above 100 mph, capable of tearing roofs off buildings, uprooting trees, and overturning vehicles.

Beaufort Wind Scale:

Force	Wind (Knots)	WMO Classification	Appearance of Wind Effects	
			On the Water	On Land
0	Less than 1	Calm	Sea surface smooth and mirror-like	Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	Light Air	Scaly ripples, no foam crests	Smoke drift indicates wind direction, still wind vanes
2	4-6	Light Breeze	Small wavelets, crests glassy, no breaking	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, vanes begin to move
3	7-10	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps	Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended
4	11-16	Moderate Breeze	Small waves 1-4 ft. becoming longer, numerous whitecaps	Dust, leaves, and loose paper lifted, small tree branches move
5	17-21	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves 4-8 ft taking longer form, many whitecaps, some spray	Small trees in leaf begin to sway
6	22-27	Strong Breeze	Larger waves 8-13 ft, whitecaps common, more spray	Larger tree branches moving, whistling in wires
7	28-33	Near Gale	Sea heaps up, waves 13-19 ft, white foam streaks off breakers	Whole trees moving, resistance felt walking against wind

8	34-40	Gale	Moderately high (18-25 ft) waves of greater length, edges of crests begin to break into spindrift, foam blown in streaks	Twigs breaking off trees, generally impedes progress
9	41-47	Strong Gale	High waves (23-32 ft), sea begins to roll, dense streaks of foam, spray may reduce visibility	Slight structural damage occurs, slate blows off roofs
10	48-55	Storm	Very high waves (29-41 ft) with overhanging crests, sea white with densely blown foam, heavy rolling, lowered visibility	Seldom experienced on land, trees broken or uprooted, "considerable structural damage"
11	56-63	Violent Storm	Exceptionally high (37-52 ft) waves, foam patches cover sea, visibility more reduced	
12	64+	Hurricane	Air filled with foam, waves over 45 ft, sea completely white with driving spray, visibility greatly reduced	

Figure 6.10.1 Beaufort Wind Scale

Enhanced Fujita Scale:

THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE (EF SCALE)		
EF RATING	**3 Second Gust (MPH)**	**DAMAGE**
EF 0	65-85 MPH	Light: Branches broken, minor roof damage
EF 1	86-110 MPH	Moderate: Roofs damaged; trees uprooted
EF 2	111-135 MPH	Considerable: Roofs torn off, large trees down
EF 3	136-165 MPH	Severe: Homes destroyed; cars lifted
EF 4	166-200 MPH	Devastating: Houses leveled; debris airborne
EF 5	Over 200 MPH	Incredible: Homes swept away; total destruction

Figure 6.10.2 Enhanced Fujita Scale

6.10.4 History

Los Angeles County has experienced multiple severe wind events and occasional tornadoes in recent history which caused destructions, and wildfires. There have been no federal declarations or state proclamations for Severe Wind & Tornadoes in the last five years. Some notable incidents include:

- **November-December 2011:** A wind event caused more than $35 million in damages and severely impacted several foothill communities and unincorporated areas.
- **December 2019:** An EF-0 tornado touched down in South Los Angeles, causing minor roof damage and downing power lines.
- **January 2021:** A severe windstorm impacted the region, leading to damage across multiple communities and emergency response efforts to clear roadways.
- **September 2021:** An EF-0 tornado developed near the community Lake of Los Angeles; %no damage was reported.

- **April 2023:** An EF-0 tornado recorded in Cerritos causing tree damage.
- **March 2023** (**DR# 4699):** An EF-1 tornado struck Montebello, one of the strongest tornadoes recorded in the area, causing significant damage to commercial structures and vehicles.
- **May 2023:** An EF-0 tornado occurred near the communities of Carson and Compton damaging buildings and vehicles.
- **August 2023 (DR# 4750):** Tropical Storm Hillary impacting Los Angeles County.
- **February 2024**: Strong winds impacting across Eastern Santa Monica Mountain and Santa Clarita Valley.
- **March 2024**: Strong winds impacting areas around San Gabriel Valley.
- **January 2025 (DR# 4856):** A severe windstorm impacted the region, leading to a Potentially Dangerous Situation (PDS), red flag conditions. Several fires broke out in the area, which exhibited extreme fire behavior, causing widespread destruction.
- **March 2025 (DR# 4856):** As part of a storm event, an EF-0 tornado struck Pico Rivera, California, at 3:15am, with wind speeds reaching up to 85 mph.

6.10.5 Probability

Severe wind events are a regular occurrence in Los Angeles County, with a high probability, 99% chance recurring annually. Santa Ana winds are particularly common during the cooler months, and climate patterns suggest that extreme wind events may become more frequent due to changing weather dynamics. Because wind events and tornados are localized in nature, probability vary from one area to another and is difficult to determine percentage of happening in one area. Tornadoes remain a low-probability hazard, 10% chance, in the planning area; however, given past occurrences, they cannot be ruled out entirely. Atmospheric conditions capable of producing tornadoes may arise during severe thunderstorms, particularly in winter storm systems that generate strong wind shear. While the likelihood of an EF-2 or stronger tornado is minimal, the potential for localized damage remains. The Santa Ana winds occur ten to twenty-five times annually and can last for several days, posing a recurring threat of damage and disruption in Los Angeles County.

6.10.6 Vulnerability

Severe wind and tornadoes can be extensive, affecting both infrastructure and public safety. High-wind events pose a risk to critical infrastructure, particularly power lines, communication systems, and transportation networks. Buildings, especially older structures and mobile homes, are vulnerable to wind-related damage, including roof failures, window breakage, and structural collapse.

In addition to physical damage, severe wind events can cause significant economic disruptions. Prolonged power outages impact businesses, healthcare facilities, and emergency response services. Road closures and debris blockages hinder mobility and commerce, while wind-driven wildfires, a secondary hazard of Santa Ana winds, can lead to devastating losses.

Public safety is also a major concern, with risks of flying debris, vehicle accidents, overturned vehicles, and respiratory issues caused by airborne dust and pollutants stirred up by high winds.

Severe wind and tornado events disproportionately impact certain populations and infrastructure in Los Angeles County due to both geographic exposure and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. These hazards can disrupt critical services, exacerbate existing inequalities, and significantly damage structures not built to withstand extreme wind conditions.

Vulnerable Populations

Out of the county's estimated 10.2 million residents, the following populations are considered especially vulnerable:

- Older Adults (65+): Approx. 1.6 million residents (15.5%)—more likely to suffer injury or health complications during wind-related power outages and evacuation events.
- Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Populations: Estimated 1.7 million individuals (17%) including those with disabilities, limited mobility, or communication barriers.
- Low-Income Households: Over 13% of households fall below the poverty line and may lack the resources for structural mitigation or relocation during prolonged outages.

- People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH): Over 75,000 individuals (2024 LAHSA count), at direct risk from falling debris and lack of shelter during windstorms.
- Mobile Home Residents: Approximately 98,000 units countywide, concentrated in inland valleys and foothill communities that are highly exposed to Santa Ana winds.
- Children Under Age 5: Around 600,000 countywide, vulnerable to respiratory complications from airborne particulates and debris stirred by strong winds.
- Economic Impact: Business disruptions, increased insurance claims, and the costs of emergency response and recovery add financial burdens to local communities.

Critical Infrastructure at Risk

Severe wind and tornado events can cause widespread cascading failures in vital systems, including:

- Power Infrastructure: Los Angeles County contains over 20,000 miles of overhead power lines vulnerable to high-wind damage and fire ignition.
- Medical Facilities: Over 350 licensed hospitals and health clinics, many reliant on uninterrupted power and access for vulnerable patient populations.
- Transportation Corridors: Major highways (I-5, I-10, US-101) and over 3,100 bridges, particularly in canyon and foothill areas, are susceptible to obstruction by fallen trees and debris.
- Communication Towers: Over 800 critical telecom sites serve the county's emergency communications and can be disrupted by high wind gusts.
- Schools: Approximately 2,300 public K–12 schools and 100+ college campuses face operational disruptions from power outages or infrastructure damage during events.

6.10.7 Impacts

Severe wind and tornado events pose significant threats to critical infrastructure, public safety, and community operations in Los Angeles County. High winds, such as those during Santa Ana events, regularly damage power lines, uproot trees, and disable

transportation corridors. A notable example occurred in January 2025, when widespread windstorms caused power outages for more than 200,000 customers, including approximately 127,000 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) customers and over 52,000 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers. During this same period, wildfires exacerbated by the strong winds impacted several medical facilities, disrupting critical health services and requiring the emergency relocation of patients.

Tornadoes, while rare, have also demonstrated destructive capacity in localized areas. In March 2025, an EF-0 tornado touched down in Pico Rivera, downing power lines and trees and obstructing roadways, highlighting the potential for tornadic activity to impact urban communities. These hazards not only endanger life and property but also threaten economic continuity and the functioning of emergency services, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods and areas with aging infrastructure.

6.10.8 Mitigation and Preparedness

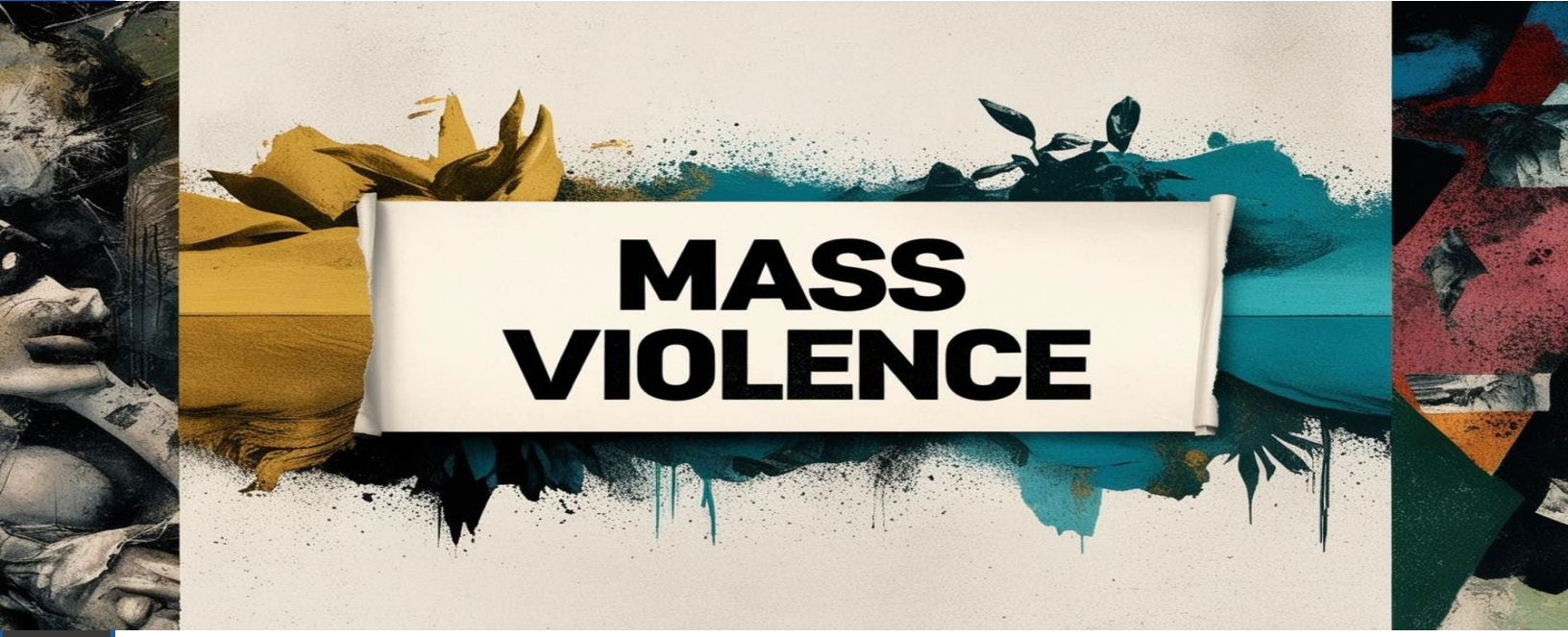
Efforts to mitigate the effects of severe wind and tornadoes should focus on improving structural resilience, enhancing early warnings and alerts, and increasing public awareness of such events.

Severe Wind and Tornado Mitigation

- Strengthening building codes to require wind-resistant design features. Promoting the use of wind-resistant materials and construction techniques in new developments.
- Conducting regular tree-trimming and vegetation management to reduce infrastructure damage risks.
- Retrofitting and reinforcing critical infrastructure, such as power lines and utility systems, to withstand high-wind conditions.
- Implementing public education campaigns on windstorm preparedness and safety measures.
- Leveraging early warning alerting and preparedness messaging, as well as integrating emergency messaging with local broadcast and mobile networks.

6.10.9 Summary

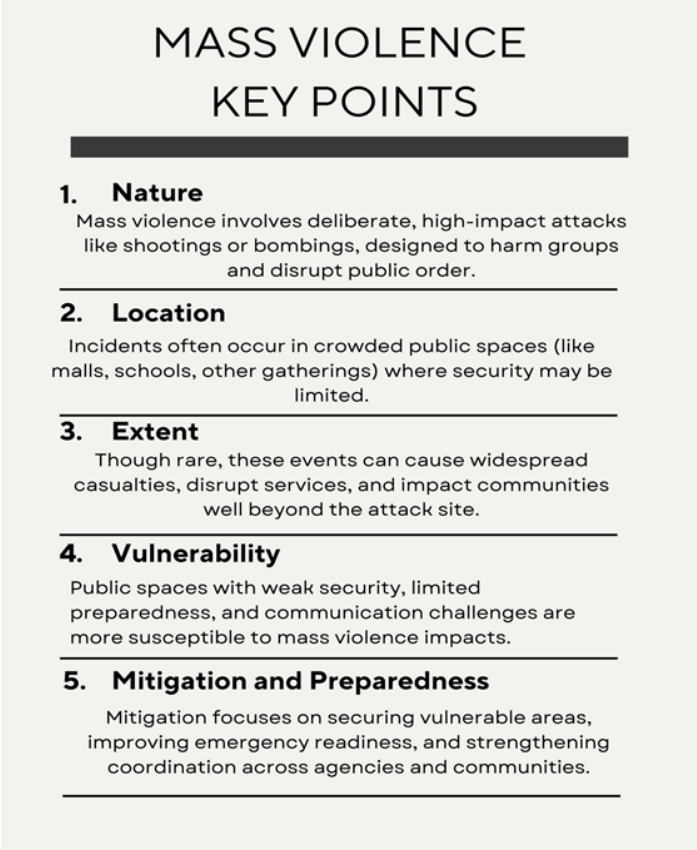
Severe wind and tornadoes, though differing in frequency, remain potential hazards for Los Angeles County. Santa Ana winds and storm-driven gusts regularly impact the region, causing damage to infrastructure and increasing wildfire risks. While tornadoes are rare, their occasional occurrence necessitates preparedness and mitigation efforts. By implementing stronger building codes, reinforcing critical infrastructure, and enhancing preparedness and public awareness, the county can reduce its vulnerability to these hazards, helps to better protect its residents from potential hazards of severe winds and tornado and improve community resilience.



6.11 Mass Violence

6.11.1 Nature

This section outlines the defining characteristics of mass violence, which includes intentional, high-impact incidents such as terrorism, active shooter events, vehicle-rammings, and other coordinated attacks. Understanding the nature of these events is critical for developing effective mitigation strategies.



- Mass violence includes both targeted attacks (e.g., ideologically motivated terrorism) and opportunistic acts (e.g., active shooters or violent assaults in public spaces).
- These incidents are characterized by their low warning time, high lethality, and potential to incite widespread fear and panic.

- Acts of mass violence may be perpetrated by individuals, small groups, or well-organized networks, and can involve firearms, explosives, vehicles, or biological agents.
- These attacks often aim to disrupt societal functions, damage infrastructure, or exploit vulnerabilities in soft targets such as schools, places of worship, or entertainment venues.

In summary, the nature of mass violence lies in its deliberate intent to inflict harm on groups and disrupt public order, making strong mitigation measures essential for protecting life and property of Los Angeles County.

6.11.2 Extent

The potential extent of mass violence is characterized by its ability to cause widespread disruption and significant loss of life and property.

- Events can result in many casualties and severe physical and psychological impacts.
- Mass violence can disrupt essential services, strain emergency response systems, and create cascading socioeconomic effects.
- The overall disruption may extend far beyond the immediate scene, affecting broader community resilience.

In essence, while these events may be rare, their extensive impacts necessitate comprehensive planning and resilient infrastructure.

6.11.3 History

Historical data illustrates that mass violence has evolved over time, with earlier events shaping current mitigation strategies and more recent incidents underscoring emerging vulnerabilities. Previous mitigation and other plans referenced events such as large-scale terrorist attacks and active shooter incidents.

- Recent events in the last five years include high-profile active shooter incidents at schools, public transportation hubs, and commercial centers, as well as vehicle-ramming attacks in urban areas.

Overall, the historical trend shows that while frequency remains low, the severity of mass violence incidents has escalated, necessitating continual updates to mitigation strategies.

6.11.4 Location

Mass violence incidents tend to occur in areas where people naturally congregate, including urban centers, transportation hubs, educational and religious institutions, shopping centers, and public events and venues.

- Public spaces such as transit stations, stadiums, malls and other locations where large number of people assemble, are considered higher-risk areas.
- Critical infrastructure location, like government buildings and commercial center, are often targeted.
- Certain events may also occur in areas lacking adequate physical security or surveillance.

Thus, identifying and securing high-density locations is a key focus for mitigating the effects of mass violence.

6.11.5 Probability

The probability of mass violence incidents is difficult to predict precisely; however, the potential for occurrence is recognized as a persistent low-frequency, high-impact risk that requires constant vigilance.

- Such incidents are statistically rare yet present a disproportionate risk due to their catastrophic consequences.
- Threat assessments and intelligence reports indicate that evolving tactics may increase probability over time.
- Continuous monitoring and updated threat analyses (e.g., via THIRA processes) are essential in quantifying risk levels.

In summary, while mass violence events are not common, their inherent unpredictability and high severity demand that communities prepare as if an incident could occur at any time.

6.11.6 Vulnerability

Mass violence depends on a variety of factors, including physical infrastructure design, public awareness, security preparedness, and interagency coordination.

- Critical vulnerabilities include open public spaces with minimal physical barriers or limited or ineffective safety / security protocols in place.
- Gaps in training and preparedness among first responders can exacerbate the situation during an active incident.
- Social vulnerabilities—such as communication gaps or lack of multilingual emergency information—may hinder rapid response and community resilience.

Thus, reducing vulnerability involves investing in infrastructure hardening, robust security measures, regular training exercises, and effective public communication strategies.

6.11.7 Impacts

The impacts of mass violence events are multifaceted, life safety, community stability, and the local economy.

- Immediate impacts include fatalities, injuries, and trauma among affected populations.
- Secondary impacts may encompass prolonged disruption of local services, economic downturns, and lasting psychological effects on communities.
- Long-term consequences can involve extensive resource allocation for recovery and mitigation, further straining public systems.

Mass violence inflicts immediate harm and often triggers a chain of secondary impacts that complicate community recovery and strain long-term resilience efforts.

6.11.8 Summary

In conclusion, mitigating the hazards of mass violence requires an integrated, multi-layered approach that spans prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Communities must implement measures to secure high-risk locations, upgrade physical and digital security, enhance interagency coordination, and continuously update training and threat assessments.

- Mitigation strategies include physical security enhancements (e.g., barriers and surveillance), regular active shooter drills, improved emergency communication systems, and coordinated law enforcement and public health responses.
- Investment in resilience-building measures and community outreach helps to ensure that, in the event of an incident, communities can recover quickly and effectively.

This section underscores that while mass violence events are rare, their potential for high impact demands rigorous preparedness and adaptive mitigation strategies to safeguard lives and maintain community functionality.

6.12 Cybersecurity Incidents

6.12.1 Nature

Cybersecurity incidents refer to disruptive events affecting digital networks and systems. These events involve the unauthorized electronic or physical access of information systems that jeopardizes or disrupts the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information. Cyber incidents can range from minor targeted data breaches to large-scale ransomware attacks and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) events that compromise critical infrastructure. Common types of cybersecurity incidents include, but are not limited to:

CYBERSECURITY KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Cybersecurity incidents are disruptive events affecting information systems that can cause widespread disruption.
2. **Location**
   Given the global nature of cybersecurity incidents, an attack originating from across the world can manifest with local impacts.
3. **Extent**
   Smaller-scale cybersecurity incidents can compromise data and result in financial loss while large-scale attacks can cause widespread disruptions to critical infrastructure.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Organizations without technical defenses, use outdated systems, or lack training for employees are more vulnerable.
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Actions focus on implementing a robust cybersecurity program along with continuity of operations and disaster recovery planning.

- **Data Breaches:** The compromise, unauthorized disclosure, or unauthorized acquisition of information.

- **Malware:** Malicious hardware, firmware, or software that is intentionally included or inserted in a system for a harmful purpose.
- **Ransomware:** A type of malicious software designed to lock access to a system until a ransom payment is received. Note that ransom payment is not a guarantee that system access will be restored by the threat actor.
- **Denial of Service (DoS):** An attack meant to shut down a machine or network, rendering it inaccessible to its intended users.
- **Distributed Denial of Service (DDos):** A DoS attack that uses numerous hosts to perform the attack.
- **Insider Threats:** When an insider (e.g., an employee or vendor) uses their authorized access, wittingly or unwittingly, to do harm to an organization.
- **Phishing Attacks:** The fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable senders in order to induce individuals to reveal information or download malware by clicking on a link.

Key characteristics of a cybersecurity incident include:

Rapid Onset: Impacts to operations can occur suddenly and evolve quickly.

- **Sophistication:** Can be highly sophisticated with state or non-state actors involved.
- **Hybrid Attacks:** May involve both cyber and physical components due to interdependencies.
- **Non-Malicious Incidents:** Technological failures that cause similar impacts to cybersecurity incidents may also occur due to non-malicious reasons such as a software or hardware issue.

Understanding the inherent digital nature and complex characteristics of these incidents is critical to developing effective prevention and mitigation strategies.

6.12.2 Location

Unlike traditional hazards that have a physical geographic footprint, cybersecurity incidents are inherently transboundary. However, their effects manifest locally through the disruption of critical services and systems and necessitate regionally coordinated preparedness and response efforts.

Jurisdictional Relevance:

- Impact local government networks and county infrastructure.
- Affect public and private sector systems within Los Angeles County.
- Disrupt critical infrastructure such as utilities and cause cascading impacts.
- Involve cyber nodes that, while globally distributed, converge on regional networks.

Critical Sectors Impacted:

- Hospitals and healthcare facilities.
- Financial, banking, or payroll systems.
- Transportation providers and systems.
- Utilities such as electricity, gas, and water.
- Emergency response and public safety agencies.

6.12.3 Extent

The extent of cybersecurity incidents is measured not only by the volume of compromised data or financial loss but also by the potential disruption to essential services and critical infrastructure.

Scope of Impacts:

- Rapid spread across interconnected digital systems.
- Potential for cascading failures that disrupt multiple sectors.
- Economic losses that may run into millions of dollars.

Measurable Factors:

- Number of systems compromised.
- Downtime of critical infrastructure and services.
- Financial costs from remediation and lost productivity.

The extensive reach of cybersecurity incidents—both in terms of economic impact and service disruption—highlights the need for robust digital defenses, continuity of operations planning, backup systems and redundancies, disaster recovery strategies, and regional cyber response coordination.

6.12.4 History

Historically, cybersecurity incidents have evolved from isolated breaches to coordinated attacks that leverage global networks. Early cybersecurity incidents focused on data theft and vandalism. More recent attacks have grown increasingly sophisticated and targeted critical infrastructure or use complex ransomware. Cyber threat actors include state-sponsored groups along with non-state groups such as criminal enterprises and terrorist organizations. Recent years have seen cybersecurity incidents affecting large corporations, public entities including local governments, and critical infrastructure sectors. Previous major cybersecurity incidents have included:

- **2024 Los Angeles County Superior Court Ransomware Attack:** Resulted in the shutdown of nearly every court system, a multi-day closure of the court, and cascading impacts to operations.
- **2024 Hospital Group Attack:** A major hospital company experienced an attack that caused IT and phone system outages and disrupted patient care at several Los Angeles County hospitals.
- **2024 Telecommunication Industry Attacks**: A series of attacks against telecommunications providers in the United States resulted in compromised customer data.
- **2023 City Attack:** A cybersecurity incident at a city within Los Angeles County caused city IT systems to be taken offline.
- **2022 Aviation Industry Attacks:** A series of cybersecurity incidents targeting the airports and airlines caused transportation system disruptions.

The historical progression from rudimentary attacks to highly coordinated cybersecurity incidents underscores the growing importance of proactive risk management in the digital realm.

6.12.5 Probability

The probability of cybersecurity incidents occurring is increasing as digital interconnectivity expands and as attackers continue to innovate their methods.

Risk Trends:

- Rapid expansion of the Internet of Things (IoT), the network of internet-connected devices ranging from smart refrigerators to autonomous vehicles, has added new attack vectors to the threat landscape.
- Increasing sophistication of cybercriminal methods including zero-day exploits, a previously unknown cybersecurity vulnerability.
- Growing frequency of reported incidents nationally and globally.

Contributing Factors:

- Inadequate cybersecurity measures in legacy systems still being used by organizations.
- Underinvestment in cyber defense infrastructure or cybersecurity expertise.
- Greater digital reliance in everyday operations without proper continuity of operations planning.

Given current trends and technological developments, the likelihood of cybersecurity incidents remains high, necessitating ongoing vigilance and enhanced preparedness measures. As cybersecurity incidents continue to increase in frequency, the potential for an incident to cause cascading and widespread impacts to critical infrastructure increases as well.

6.12.6 Vulnerability

Vulnerability in the context of cybersecurity refers to the susceptibility of digital systems to attack. This is influenced by both technological and organizational factors including, but not limited to: outdated software or use of legacy systems, insufficient patch management, inadequate segmentation and defense-in-depth strategies, and lack of cybersecurity training among personnel. Organizational challenges also contribute to cybersecurity vulnerability including, but not limited to: budget constraints, gaps in coordination, and rapid technology adoption without corresponding security protocols.

According to the 2024 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), over 616,000 people may be affected by a large-scale cybersecurity incident with cascading impacts to utilities. Over 123,000 of those impacted in the THIRA scenario are estimated to have access and functional needs and over 77,000 people are

estimated to have limited English proficiency. Depending on the utilities affected by the incident, a widespread amount of the population could be without utility service for an extended period. Addressing these vulnerabilities is essential to reduce the risk and potential disruption of cybersecurity incidents, calling for both technical upgrades and improved interagency coordination.

6.12.7 Impacts

The impacts of cybersecurity incidents are multifaceted, affecting economic stability, public safety, and critical infrastructure operations.

Direct Impacts:

- Disruption of critical services (e.g., healthcare, emergency response, transportation, etc.).
- Extended duration Continuity of Government or Continuity of Operations event.
- Financial losses due to ransom payments, remediation costs, and potential legal fees.
- Loss, compromise, or unauthorized release of sensitive data.

Indirect impacts:

- Erosion of public trust in digital services and affected institutions.
- Cascading effects on physical infrastructure (e.g., power grid, water systems, wastewater, etc.).
- Long-term economic repercussions from reduced competitiveness.
- The significant impacts—both direct and cascading—of cybersecurity incidents necessitate comprehensive mitigation and recovery strategies that address both technical and socioeconomic dimensions.

6.12.8 Summary

In summary, cybersecurity incidents represent an evolving and critical threat that intersects with multiple aspects of community resilience and safety.

Key Takeaways:

- Cyber incidents are dynamic, sophisticated, and far-reaching in impact
- They affect local systems despite their global nature

- Historical trends and increasing digital dependency heighten both probability and vulnerability
- Impacts extend beyond financial loss to include service disruption and cascading infrastructure failures

Cybersecurity incidents demand a proactive, coordinated response that integrates robust technical defenses with cross-sector planning and recovery efforts. By understanding the nature, scope, and potential consequences of these incidents, communities can build more resilient digital and physical infrastructures to safeguard against this growing threat.

6.13 Transportation Incidents

6.13.1 Nature

This section describes the inherent characteristics of transportation incidents that can disrupt the continuous flow of people, goods, and emergency services across Los Angeles County. Transportation incidents can be triggered by a variety of factors including natural events, human error, and deliberate acts. Other characteristics include:

- **Affected Modes of Transportation:** Incidents can involve any mode of transportation such as multi-vehicle collisions, hazardous material spills, rail derailments, aviation incidents, and maritime disruptions.
- **Cascading Impacts:** Disruptions to the transportation system often have the potential to trigger cascading failures due to the interconnected design of highways, rail networks, airports, and seaports.
- **Contributing Factors:** Incidents may be influenced by both predictable factors (e.g., rush-hour congestion) and unpredictable occurrences (e.g., extreme weather or infrastructure failure).

6.13.2 Location

The county's network encompasses highways, rail, airports, ports, and local roads that are critical to regional mobility and commerce.

- **Freeways:** Los Angeles County boasts an extensive freeway system with over 1,200 miles of high-capacity roads including corridors such as I-5, I-405, I-10, I-710, and I-210.
- **Major Transportation Hubs:** The County is home to three commercial airports including Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Long Beach Municipal Airport (LGB), and the Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) along with several general aviation airports. The County owns and operates Brackett Field Airport, Compton/Woodley Airport, San Gabriel Valley Airport, General William J. Fox Airfield, and Whiteman Airport. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which are two of the busiest ports in the United States and vital for national and international trade, are also in Los Angeles County. Additionally, Los Angeles Union Station serves as the largest passenger rail station on the west coast.
- **Other Transportation Networks:** The county includes robust passenger rail, bus, and paratransit systems, along with freight rail systems, emerging mobility options such as taxis and rideshare services, and enhanced bicycle networks. This comprehensive network is the backbone for daily commuting, freight movement, and emergency response across the region.

6.13.3 Extent

The scope of transportation incidents spans multiple modes of travel and can have widespread consequences across the county's integrated infrastructure. Road incidents may include multi-vehicle collisions, hazardous material spills, and roadway fires impacting multiple vehicles with potential delays in emergency responses.

- Rail disruptions can impede commuter and freight services, impacting both local transit and regional connectivity.
- Air and maritime incidents—such as delays at major airports or disruptions at port facilities—can significantly affect commerce, supply chains, and public safety.
- Cascading effects across interconnected transportation modes may exacerbate congestion and strain additional infrastructure systems such as power, water, and emergency communications.

The extensive and interdependent nature of these networks means that an incident in one area can quickly influence multiple transportation systems.

6.13.4 History

Los Angeles County has a long record of transportation-related incidents that have disrupted mobility and commerce.

- **2024 Vincent Thomas Bridge Fire:** A semi-truck carrying lithium-ion batteries overturned and caught fire, causing the bridge to be closed for several days.
- **2023 I-10 Freeway Fire:** A fire in a pallet yard below the I-10 freeway in Downtown Los Angeles caused an eight-day closure for repairs and major cascading disruptions.
- **2020 Delta Air Lines Flight 89 Fuel Drop:** Shortly after takeoff from LAX, a Boeing 777 encountered engine problems and conducted a fuel dump over populated areas, injuring over 50 people on the ground.
- **2008 Chatsworth Metrolink Derailment:** A Metrolink passenger train collided with a Union Pacific freight train injuring over 130 people and causing 25 deaths.
- **2007 Newhall Pass Tunnel Fire:** A multi-vehicle collision involving over 30 vehicles caused a fire within the tunnel injuring 10 people and causing 3 deaths.

The historical record reinforces the need to learn from previous events to enhance future preparedness and resilience.

6.13.5 Probability

The likelihood of transportation incidents in Los Angeles County remains elevated due to several converging factors including, but not limited to:

- High daily traffic volumes on freeways and arterials increase the risk of multi-vehicle accidents and congestion-related incidents.
- Aging infrastructure—including bridges, road surfaces, and rail systems—creates a persistent risk of failure, particularly under extreme weather conditions and during peak usage periods.
- The county's role as a major hub for freight and commuter traffic means that even minor incidents can escalate rapidly into larger disruptions.
- The frequent movement of hazardous materials and the increasing reliance on just-in-time delivery systems further elevate the risk of incidents with potentially severe consequences.

Together, these factors contribute to a consistently high probability of transportation incidents impacting the region.

6.13.6 Vulnerability

The vulnerability of Los Angeles County's transportation system is compounded by its interdependent design and its critical role in the regional economy.

- Limited redundancy in key corridors means that a disruption on one freeway or rail line can quickly overload alternate routes.
- Aging and overburdened infrastructure is less resilient to extreme events, leading to longer recovery times after incidents.
- The county's economic dependence on uninterrupted transportation for daily commuting and commercial freight increases exposure to significant losses during disruptions.
- Complex interdependencies between transportation systems, emergency services, and other critical sectors make the network highly sensitive to cascading failures.

This systemic vulnerability calls for coordinated, multi-agency efforts to bolster resilience and implement proactive mitigation measures.

6.13.7 Impacts

Transportation incidents can produce both immediate and long-lasting effects on public safety, commerce, and overall quality of life.

1. **Traffic and Mobility:** Disruptions can lead to severe congestion affecting hundreds of thousands of commuters and freight vehicles, delaying emergency services and disrupting daily operations.
2. **Economic Loss:** Interruptions in the movement of goods and people can result in substantial financial losses, impacting local businesses and the broader regional economy.
3. **Public Safety:** Extended delays in emergency response and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport times.
4. **Cascading Disruptions:** An incident in one mode (e.g., a major highway closure) can ripple through the transportation network, affecting rail, air, and maritime operations simultaneously and complicating recovery efforts.

These impacts highlight the critical need for robust mitigation strategies to manage both direct and indirect consequences of transportation incidents.

6.13.8 Summary

Los Angeles County's transportation network is among the most extensive and complex in the nation, serving millions of residents and underpinning a vital economic ecosystem. The diverse transportation modes, while facilitating mobility and commerce, also create vulnerabilities due to overlapping infrastructure and high traffic volumes.

- Aging infrastructure, coupled with the continuous movement of hazardous materials and the increasing pressures of daily usage, contributes to a high probability of incidents.
- Historical data demonstrate that even localized incidents can have far-reaching impacts, including prolonged traffic congestion, economic disruptions, and public safety challenges.

In conclusion, mitigating transportation incident risks in Los Angeles County requires an integrated, countywide approach that combines infrastructure upgrades, enhanced emergency response, and proactive maintenance strategies. Addressing these challenges is essential to safeguard public safety, ensure economic stability, and maintain the region's critical mobility infrastructure.

6.14 Public Health Emergencies

6.14.1 Nature

Public health emergencies in Los Angeles County encompass a broad spectrum of potential hazards, including infectious disease outbreaks, environmental health hazards, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) hazards. Given the county's diverse population, urban density, and economic significance, public health hazards require a coordinated response among government agencies, healthcare institutions, and community partners.

PUBLIC HEALTH KEY POINTS

1. **Nature**
   Public health emergencies include pandemics, disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, and environmental hazards.
2. **Location**
   Highly populated counties face unique public health vulnerabilities.
3. **Extent**
   Public Health Emergencies can derive from local, regional, national, or global sources, affecting various communities.
4. **Vulnerability**
   Older adults, individuals with chronic health conditions, those with low income or experiencing homelessness, and others within the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) community face increased risks during public health emergencies
5. **Mitigation and Preparedness**
   Efforts include vaccinations, disease tracking, healthcare support, public education, emergency supplies, and agency coordination.

Public health emergencies refer to incidents that pose a significant threat to the health of a population. These include, but are not limited to:

- Pandemics (e.g., COVID-19, Influenza)
- Bioterrorism (e.g., Anthrax, Smallpox, botulism)

- Vector-borne diseases (e.g., West Nile Virus, Zika)
- Foodborne and waterborne illnesses
- Chemical and radiological exposure
- Climate-related health threats (e.g., extreme heat, poor air quality, wildfires)

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS) collaborate to monitor threats, prevent outbreaks, and mitigate impacts when emergencies arise.

6.14.2 Location and Extent

Los Angeles County, home to over 9.7 million residents, is the most populous county in the United States. Its diverse geography (i.e., urban, coastal, mountainous, and rural) and demography lead to a range of public health vulnerabilities.

Public health emergencies can originate from local, regional, national, or global sources, impacting specific neighborhoods or the entire county. The extent of public health threats varies based on:

- The nature of the threat, such as transmission dynamics or availability of medical countermeasures.
- Population density (higher risks in urban centers for communicable diseases)
- Access to healthcare infrastructure
- Environmental conditions (air pollution, extreme heat events)

6.14.3 History

Public health emergencies in Los Angeles County have included:

- 2022 Monkeypox Outbreak
    - Approximately 2,500 cases were reported in Los Angeles County.
- COVID-19 Pandemic (2020–Present)
    - Over 3 million cases, 450,000 hospitalizations, and 45,000 deaths reported in the county alone.
- 2018 Hepatitis A Outbreak
    - Primarily affecting unhoused populations, requiring mass vaccination efforts.
- 2016-2017 West Nile Virus Outbreaks
    - Multiple cases of mosquito-borne infections leading to severe illness and fatalities.

- 2015-2016 Zika Virus Outbreak
    - No cases of local mosquito-borne transmission, but there were 122 cases reported in the County, with 121 being travel-related.
- 2015 Meningococcal Disease Cluster
    - An outbreak among men who have sex with men (MSM) led to a targeted vaccination campaign.
- 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic
    - Thousands of hospitalizations; schools and businesses affected.

6.14.4 Probability and Emerging Risks

The 2024 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) identifies that pandemics and bioterrorism remain high-probability threats. Future public health risks also include:

- Emergence of infectious diseases driven by global travel and climate change.
- Increased incidence of heat-related illnesses amid rising temperatures.
- Increased prevalence of respiratory diseases due to declining air quality.
- Rise of antimicrobial-resistant infections due to overuse of antibiotics.

The County of Los Angeles DPH continually assesses health threats and updates preparedness plans to address evolving concerns.

6.14.5 Vulnerability and Systemic Impacts

Certain populations in Los Angeles County may be disproportionately affected by public health emergencies:

- At-risk populations may be different for different hazards before, during, and after an emergency. It is important to assess each hazard in turn to identify those who may be disproportionately affected to improve preparedness and response efforts.

Public health emergencies strain the healthcare system, disrupt economic activity, and create mental health burdens. The 2024 THIRA report noted that:

- Healthcare infrastructure overload is a major concern during pandemics.
- Potential economic loss from business closures during a prolonged public health crisis could exceed billions of dollars.

6.14.6 Mitigation Strategies and Preparedness Efforts

Los Angeles County employs several mitigation and preparedness strategies:

- Mass Vaccination Campaigns
  - Annual flu shots, COVID-19 vaccinations, and outbreak-specific immunization efforts.
- Points-of-Dispensing (POD) sites
  - Disease Surveillance & Early Warning Systems
- Syndromic surveillance for emerging threats.
  - Targeted sampling surveillance.
- Healthcare Infrastructure Strengthening
  - Expanding hospital capacity for medical surge, and emergency medical resources.
- Community Outreach & Public Health Education
  - Disseminating critical information in multiple languages.
- Emergency Stockpiles (Strategic National Stockpile(SNS))
  - Deployment of antibiotics, antivirals, and personal protective equipment (PPE) in crisis situations.
- Coordination with Federal & State Agencies
  - Collaboration with FEMA, CDC, and the California Department of Public Health to enhance response capabilities.
- Anthrax Threat Simulations
  - The County of Los Angeles Metro system assessed as a high-risk area for bioterrorism response.

6.14.7 Summary

Public health emergencies pose significant challenges to Los Angeles County, impacting healthcare systems, vulnerable populations, and economic stability. While the COVID-19 pandemic provided a major stress test for response efforts, ongoing preparedness, surveillance, and mitigation strategies aim to protect residents from future threats.

Key Takeaways:

- Los Angeles County faces diverse health threats, including pandemics, bioterrorism, and climate-related illnesses.

- Vulnerable populations may suffer disproportionate impacts during public health crises.
- Preparedness efforts focus on surveillance, vaccination, emergency response, and coordination with federal and state partners.
- Future threats include emerging infectious diseases, heat-related illnesses, and antimicrobial resistance.

By continuing investments in public health preparedness, Los Angeles County aims to reduce risks and strengthen resilience against future health emergencies.

7 Mitigation Strategy

7.1 Mitigation Strategy Overview

The Mitigation Strategy section of the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) presents Los Angeles County's strategic blueprint for reducing risks and vulnerabilities posed over the long term associated with the hazards identified in the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment section. The strategies identified in this section drive mitigation activities based on existing capabilities while also identifying areas of potential future investment to build resilience across communities, critical facilities, and other infrastructure within Los Angeles County.

7.2 Mitigation Goals and Objectives

Mitigation goals are the long-term vision that the County hopes to achieve by implementing the various mitigation strategies described in this AHMP, as well as the broad guidelines that have shaped mitigation strategy development.

- **Goal 1: Protect life, property, infrastructure, the environment, and the economy through equitable mitigation strategies aimed at reducing risks of natural and human-caused hazards.**
    - Objective 1-1: Integrate vulnerable populations, including people with Access and Functional Needs (AFN), into the implementation of any potential mitigation actions.
    - Objective 1-2: Implement mitigation strategies that enhance resilience to disaster impacts across residential areas, commercial areas, infrastructure, high-hazard potential dams, and other critical facilities.
    - Objective 1-3: Inform strategic investments in climate adaptation, development, and redevelopment that are centered in equity and resilience.
- **Goal 2: Enhance community-wide partnerships in hazard mitigation across all levels of government, the private sector, and the public.**
    - Objective 2-1: Build a culture of disaster resilience and awareness of local hazards through public engagement, education, and outreach.
    - Objective 2-2: Strengthen direct coordination among Los Angeles County Operational Area partners to unify efforts for mitigation activities.
    - Objective 2-3: Utilize a whole community approach to address disparities in outcomes posed by the hazards identified in this AHMP.
- **Goal 3: Enhance planning, response, and recovery through hazard identification, assessment, mitigation, and resilience activities.**

  - Objective 3-1: Establish and maintain coordination between hazard mitigation activities and other emergency management functions.
  - Objective 3-2: Integrate hazard mitigation activities into preparedness for future large-scale planned events within Los Angeles County.
- **Goal 4: Ensure eligibility for FEMA grant funding to maximize equitable investment in hazard mitigation actions.**
  - Objective 4-1: Continue to meet all requirements for existing hazard mitigation grant programs used by the County.
  - Objective 4-2: Expand the County's ability to participate in grant programs not currently utilized by the County.

7.2.1 Changes in Mitigation Goals

The AHMP Advisory Committee reviewed the 2020 AHMP goals and updated them to reflect the most current County concerns and priorities. Therefore, the 2025 AHMP has introduced new goals and objectives to build a more resilient community. Table 7-1 (below) compares the 2025 AHMP goals with previous 2020 AHMP goals; all other goals above are new goals and objectives developed by the AHMP Advisory Committee.

Mitigation priorities change through time depending on the type of disaster impacting Los Angeles County, vulnerability, the strategies implemented, as well as other needs of the community. Priorities are also made based on current countywide Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) studies, National Risk Index Assessment, State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) and other local plans and guides. The previous 2020 AHMP integrated hazard data into several operational plans including but not limited to the General Plan, Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (OAEOP), amongst others. Addressing these changes will help to address Los Angeles County hazard priorities and to have mitigation strategies focused on the hazards that impact the region at most. The plan also added additional hazards and addressed a larger vulnerable population.

Table 7-1 Mitigation Goal Updates

Goals Addressed in 2020 AHMP	Goals for 2025-2030 Planning Period	Changes
Build a culture and practice disaster resilience	Goal 2 (see above).	Goal expanded; previous goal integrated as an

Goals Addressed in 2020 AHMP	Goals for 2025-2030 Planning Period	Changes
		objective under Goal 2 in the current AHMP.
Better plan for, respond to, and recover from, hazards and disasters including climate change, drought, earthquake, dam failure, flood, landslide, tsunami, and wildfire that affect Los Angeles County.	Goal 3 (see above).	Previous goal replaced with new goal.
More successfully adapt to hazards and disasters including climate change, drought, earthquake, dam failure, flood, landslide, tsunami, and wildfire that affect Los Angeles County.	Goal 1 (see above).	Previous goal replaced with new goal.

7.3 Existing Mitigation Capabilities

The mitigation strategies developed as part of this AHMP seek to maximize existing mitigation capabilities identified as currently available within the Los Angeles County Operational Area. These existing capabilities have been updated to reflect changes in human, technical, financial, legal, regulatory, education, and outreach resources since the 2020 AHMP.

7.3.1 Authorities, Policies, and Legal/Regulatory Resources

There are several existing authorities, policies, and other legal or regulatory resources applicable to hazard mitigation efforts in Los Angeles County. From the County Code of Ordinances to completed plans, these form the cornerstone of hazard mitigation activities by providing a foundation rooted in data, research, planning, Technical Ecological Knowledge (TEK) provided by our state and locally recognized indigenous communities, and elected officials' authority. The County aims to expand and improve upon these identified capabilities by adopting this AHMP, once approved, into the Safety Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan. This action will contribute to the County's ability to be considered for an additional cost-share on Public Assistance projects through the California Disaster Assistance Act. Table 7-2 provides an overview of existing capabilities related to authorities, policies, and legal/regulatory resources.

Table 7-2 Authorities, Policies, and Legal/Regulatory Resources

Authority, Policy, or Resource	Description	Hazards Addressed	Potential to Affect Development
Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (2023)	Establishes the coordinated emergency management system within the Los Angeles County Operational Area to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of large-scale emergencies regardless of cause, location, or complexity.	All-Hazard	No
Los Angeles County General Plan (2024)	Provides the policy framework for how and where the unincorporated County will grow through the year 2035.	All-Hazard	Yes
Los Angeles County Comprehensive Floodplain	Reviews existing floodplain management programs in the County and recommends enhancements to them through 35	Flood Land Movement	Yes

Authority, Policy, or Resource	Description	Hazards Addressed	Potential to Affect Development
Management Plan (2021)	mitigation actions. This plan is currently being reviewed and updated with completion targeted for early 2026.		
Los Angeles County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (2021)	Analyzes Repetitive Los Areas within Los Angeles County and fulfills Community Rating System requirements.	Flood Land Movement	Yes
County of Los Angeles Floodplain Management Plan Progress Report (2024)	Provides an annual update on the implementation of the action plan identified in the Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan and on the implementation and evaluation of outreach projects.	Flood Land Movement	Yes
County of Los Angeles Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Progress Report (2023)	Provide an annual update on the implementation of the action plan identified in the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis to ensure there is a continuing and responsive planning process.	Flood	Yes
Los Angeles County Fire Plan (2023)	Describes the wildfire environment, history, and pre-fire management strategies to enhance the protection of lives, property, and natural resources from wildland fire.	Wildfire	Yes

Authority, Policy, or Resource	Description	Hazards Addressed	Potential to Affect Development
Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2024)	Delineates the County's path toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon neutrality for unincorporated Los Angeles County.	Wildfire Extreme Heat Drought Flooding	Yes
Our County: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan (2019)	Outlines how local governments and stakeholders can enhance the well-being of all County communities while adapting to climate change and reducing damage to the natural environment, particularly focusing on communities disproportionately burdened by pollution.	Wildfire Extreme Heat Drought Flooding	Yes
Los Angeles County Floodplain Management Ordinance	Aims to minimize public and private losses resulting from flood conditions via uniformly applied regulations in flood prone, mudflow, or flood related erosion areas.	Flood Land Movement	Yes
Los Angeles County Code – Title 32: Fire Code	To build a new structure (or an addition equal to or greater than 50% of existing square footage), the Los Angeles County Fire Code requires review of its location, type of construction, topography, slope, amount and arrangement of vegetation, and overall site	Wildfire	Yes

Authority, Policy, or Resource	Description	Hazards Addressed	Potential to Affect Development
	settings—in order to create defensible space necessary for effective fire protection of homes in High Fire Severity Zones.		
Los Angeles County Code – Title 22: Planning and Zoning	Establishes the regulations governing land use and development and defines zoning for unincorporated Los Angeles County. Includes the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (Chapter 22.104), the Residential Design Standards Ordinance, and the Hillside Design Guidelines. These include requirements for development in Hillside Management Areas, which are defined as areas with 25% or greater natural slopes. The guidelines include specific and measurable design techniques that can be applied to residential, commercial, industrial, and other types of projects.	Wildfire Earthquake Land Movement	Yes
Los Angeles County Code – Title 31: Green Building Standards Code	Enhances the design and construction of buildings via building concepts with positive (or reduced negative) environmental impacts, and encourages sustainable construction practices	Extreme Heat Drought	Yes

Authority, Policy, or Resource	Description	Hazards Addressed	Potential to Affect Development
	across planning and design, energy efficiency, water conservation, material and resource efficiency, and environmental air quality.		
Los Angeles County Brush Clearance Program	Legally declares both improved and unimproved properties a public nuisance, and where necessary, requires the clearance of hazardous vegetation thereby creating defensible space for effective fire protection of property, life, and the environment. The Brush Clearance Program is a joint effort between the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Weed Hazard, and Pest Abatement Bureau (Weed Abatement Division).	Wildfire	Yes
Los Angeles County Code – Title 26: Building Code	Provides minimum standards to regulate the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, use, occupancy, location, and maintenance of all buildings, structures, grading, and certain equipment. Regulates construction	Earthquake Wildfire	Yes

Authority, Policy, or Resource	Description	Hazards Addressed	Potential to Affect Development
	near a known active earthquake fault (Chapter 1, Section 113), the materials and construction methods for construction in a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Area (Chapter 7A), structural design as it relates to earthquake hazards (Chapter 16, Section 1613), repair of certain buildings in High Earthquake Damage Areas (Chapter 94), earthquake hazard reduction for concrete tilt-up buildings (Chapter 95) and unreinforced masonry buildings (Chapter 96), among others. The Building Code also includes provisions for emergency housing during a proclaimed emergency.		

7.3.2 Human and Technical Resources

Existing human and technical resources across County Departments enable the County to plan, manage, conduct, and execute its wide range of hazard mitigation activities. The resources below represent a high degree of expertise in all facets of hazard mitigation available to support mitigation activities. The County aims to expand and improve upon these identified capabilities by expanding potential hazard training opportunities available to the Los Angeles County Operational Area. Additionally, as various special events are scheduled in Los Angeles County over the next five years, the County should seek to expand coordination and technical resources related to mass violence, cyber, and other special event-related hazards.

Table 7-3 provides an overview of existing capabilities related to human and technical resources.

Table 7-3 Human and Technical Resources

Resource	Department/Agency	Principal Activities Related to Hazard Mitigation
Emergency Management Coordinator(s)	Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management	• Maintains and updates the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan and Los Angeles County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. • Coordinates local response and recovery activities in the Emergency Operation Center and in the field. • Works closely with local, state, and federal partners to support planning, training, exercise, public information, and resource coordination.
Engineer(s), Building Inspector(s), Code Enforcement Officer(s), Fire Marshalls, and Other Technical Staff	Los Angeles County Public Works and Fire Department	• Oversees the effective, efficient, fair, and safe enforcement of County of Los Angeles Building and Fire Codes.
Engineer(s), Construction Project Managers, and Other Technical Staff	Los Angeles County Public Works	• Provides direct (or contract) civil, structural, and mechanical engineering services, including contract, project, and construction management.
Engineer(s), Project	Los Angeles County Public Works	• Maintains and operates a wide range of local equipment and facilities and assists members of the public by

Resource	Department/Agency	Principal Activities Related to Hazard Mitigation
Manager(s), Equipment Operators, Maintenance and Construction Staff, and Other Technical Staff		providing sufficient clean fresh water, reliable sewer services, street maintenance, storm drainage systems, street cleaning, streetlights, and traffic signals.
Floodplain Administrator	Los Angeles County Public Works	• Enforces the floodplain management ordinance ensuring that development proposals do not increase flood risk and that new developments are not located below the 100-year flood level. In addition, the floodplain administrator is responsible for planning and managing flood risk reduction projects throughout Los Angeles County.
Planner(s), Engineer(s), and Technical Staff	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning	• Develops and maintains the Los Angeles County General Plan, including the Safety Element. • Develops area plans based on the Los Angeles County General Plan to provide more specific guidance for the development of more specific areas. • Reviews proposed development, capital improvements, and other physical projects involving property for consistency and conformity with the Los Angeles County General Plan. • Anticipates and acts on the need for applicable new plans, policies, and code changes.

Resource	Department/Agency	Principal Activities Related to Hazard Mitigation
		• Applies the approved plans, policies, code provisions, and other regulations to proposed land uses.
Procurement Services Manager	Los Angeles County Internal Services Department	• Provides a full range of municipal financial services and administers several licensing measures.
Comptroller Personnel	Los Angeles County Auditor – Controller	• Provides financial and grant services.
County Counsel Personnel	Los Angeles County Counsel	• Provides legal services for the County.
Fire Department Personnel	Los Angeles County Fire Department	• Provides fire protection services including response, fire prevention, and mitigation activities for the County.
Sheriff's Department Personnel	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	• Provides law enforcement services in the County.

7.3.3 Financial Resources and Programs

There are many existing financial resources, grant programs, and other funding mechanisms that enable current and future hazard mitigation activities. Sources for these resources and programs vary widely from local funding out of the County's General Fund to state and federal programs that aim to help local jurisdictions accomplish their hazard mitigation goals. The amount of funding available is variable and project-specific for many of these programs. Similarly, grant awards are based on the specific projects that are identified as the basis for the grant application. Table 7-4 provides an overview of existing capabilities related to financial resources and programs.

Table 7-4 Financial Resources and Programs

Resource or Program	Administrator	Purpose
General Fund	Chief Executive Office	Program operations and specific projects.
General Obligation Bonds	Auditor - Controller	General obligation bonds are appropriately used for the construction and/or acquisition of improvements to real property broadly available to residents and visitors. Such facilities include but are not limited to: libraries, hospitals, parks, public safety facilities, and cultural and educational facilities.
Special Tax and Revenue Bonds	Controller	Revenue bonds are used to finance capital projects that: 1. Have an identified budgetary stream for repayment (e.g., specified fees, tax receipts); 2. Generate project revenue but rely on a broader pledge of general fund revenues to reduce borrowing costs; or 3. Finance the acquisition and installation of equipment for the local jurisdiction's general governmental purposes.
Vegetation Management Program	Cal FIRE	Cost-sharing program between Cal FIRE and private landowners, which focuses on the use of prescribed fire and/or mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands.
Wildfire Emergency and Mitigation Funds	Cal FIRE	Administers funding from FEMA, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service for

Resource or Program	Administrator	Purpose
		certain types of wildfire emergency and mitigation funding.
California Residential Mitigation Program	California Earthquake Authority	Created by the California Earthquake Authority and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, "Earthquake Brace + Bolt: Funds to Strengthen Your Foundation" is the first incentive program offered by the California Residential Mitigation Program.
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	Funds are intended to upgrade state and local public health jurisdictions' preparedness and response to bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious diseases, and other public health threats and emergencies.
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	FEMA	Administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), HMGP supports pre- and post-disaster mitigation plans and projects available to California communities after a presidentially declared disaster has occurred in California.
Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program	FEMA	Available annually as a nationally competitive Cal OES grant, the PDM Grant Program supports pre-disaster mitigation plans and projects.
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program	FEMA	Available annually as a nationally competitive Cal OES grant, the PDM Grant Program supports pre-disaster mitigation plans and projects.
Homeland Security	FEMA	Builds and sustains preparedness technical assistance activities in support of the four

Resource or Program	Administrator	Purpose
Preparedness Technical Assistance Program		homeland security mission areas (i.e., prevention, protection, response, recovery) and homeland security program management.
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration	Provides equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. Available to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services providers.
Land and Water Conservation Funds	U.S. Department of the Interior	Supports the protection of federal public lands and waters and voluntary conservation on private land.
Community Action for a Renewed Environment	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Offers means by which communities may organize/take action to reduce toxic pollution (e.g., in stormwater, etc.) through financial and technical assistance. Communities create partnerships that implement solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and that minimize toxic exposures.
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	EPA	A loan program that provides low-cost financing to eligible entities on state and tribal lands for water quality projects, including all types of non-point source, watershed protection or restoration, estuary management projects, and more traditional municipal wastewater treatment projects.

Resource or Program	Administrator	Purpose
Community Block Grant Program Entitlement Communities Grants	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Acquisition of real property, relocation and demolition, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, construction of public facilities and improvements (e.g., water/sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, etc.), and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes.
High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program	FEMA	Provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants for the rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.
State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program	FEMA	Provides funding to eligible entities to address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems owned or operated by, or on behalf of, state, local, or tribal governments.

7.3.4 Education and Outreach Resources

Engagement with the communities of Los Angeles County is an important component of mitigation efforts. The County of Los Angeles has multiple methods, formats, and venues to conduct outreach with community members and provide education on the hazard landscape in Los Angeles County. These activities ensure mitigation efforts align with community goals and include community input. Table 7-5 shows a list of existing resources for education and outreach.

Table 7-5 Education and Outreach Resources

Resource or Program	Agencies Potentially Involved	Purpose
Preparedness Fairs	Office of Emergency Management, Fire	Engage with community members to provide education

Resource or Program	Agencies Potentially Involved	Purpose
	Department, Sheriff's Department, Public Works, Board of Supervisors	on hazards found in Los Angeles County and emergency preparedness for homes and businesses.
Personal Disaster Impact Surveys	Office of Emergency Management	Receive input and feedback on the hazard landscape from community members in Los Angeles County to inform the 2025 AHMP.
AHMP Draft Review Surveys	Office of Emergency Management	Receive input and feedback on sections of the AHMP from community members in Los Angeles County.
Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST)	Sheriff's Department, Homelessness Services Organizations	Conduct outreach to People Experiencing Homelessness in areas prone to wildfires or flooding based on weather conditions.
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	Fire Department	Educate community members about disaster preparedness and response in their communities.
Explorer Programs	Fire Department, Sheriff's Department	Educate youth about disaster preparedness and response in their communities.
Youth Climate Commission	Chief Sustainability Office	Educate and obtain input from youth on climate change impacts and mitigation efforts.

7.3.5 National Flood Insurance Program Participation

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is administered by FEMA and provides affordable flood insurance to participating communities through a network of insurance providers. NFIP regulations must be enforced in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). Flood insurance is required for structures in SFHAs with federally backed loans (e.g., most mortgages, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans) and FEMA grants along with any structures with SBA loans, regardless of flood zone. Flood insurance is required to be maintained for the life of the federally backed loan and in perpetuity, regardless of change in ownership, in the case of FEMA grants.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the County Floodway Ordinance (Los Angeles County Code Title 11, Chapter 11.60) in March 1980. This ordinance included the first County Floodway Maps and paved the way for the County to begin participation in NFIP on behalf of unincorporated residents. The County's participation means that residents (owners and renters) in the unincorporated communities within Los Angeles County are eligible for NFIP flood insurance and Federal flood disaster assistance. The first FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) became effective on December 2, 1980. Since 1980, the County has continued robust participation in NFIP. The FEMA FIRMs were digitized in September 2008 and have been revised over the years by numerous Letters of Map Change and by large-scale Physical Map Revisions for the Ballona Creek watershed and several watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains (Triunfo Creek, Topanga Canyon and others) in December 2018, the Los Angeles County coastline in April 2021, and the Santa Clara River watershed in June 2021. These maps are available to the public on the Los Angeles County Public Works (PW) website at dpw.lacounty.gov/floodzone.

Los Angeles County also participates in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) program. The CRS program is a voluntary program for communities that engage in community floodplain management activities, which exceed the minimum NFIP standards. CRS communities benefit from a discount on flood insurance rates and improved floodplain management programs. CRS uses a class rating system between 1 and 9 to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. As of April 1, 2022, Los Angeles County is a Class 6 CRS community; therefore homeowners and

renters who live in a SFHA can receive up to a 20% discount on their flood insurance policies.

The County's implementation and enforcement of local floodplain management regulations for development in SFHAs are covered in Los Angeles County Building Codes with the most recent update completed in 2023. Title 26, Chapter 1, includes requirements for development within flood hazard areas. Other relevant ordinances include other chapters in Title 26 (Building Code) along with Titles 27 (Electrical Code), Title 28 (Plumbing Code), Title 29 (Mechanical Code), Title 30 (Residential Code), and Title 33 (Existing Building Code). Implementation and enforcement are also covered in the Los Angeles County Subdivision Code (Title 21) and Planning and Zoning Code (Title 22). The NFIP for unincorporated communities is administered by the Department of Public Works (LACPW) Stormwater Engineering Division, which serves as the County's floodplain manager, coordinates with LACPW's Building and Safety and Land Development Divisions and with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning in their enforcement of the County's floodplain management regulations, and participates in FEMA's Community Assisted Visits, which typically occur on a 5-year cycle.

LACPW continues to enforce NFIP regulations for building permit applications determined by Building and Safety officials to be substantial improvement or repair of substantial damage. Los Angeles County also requires all residential buildings undertaking substantial improvement to have their lowest floor elevated 1 foot above the 100-year flood elevation. Additionally, Los Angeles County conducted a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis in 2020, which serves as a specific plan for reducing damage from flooding in repetitive loss areas.

After an event, Public Works staff assess the unincorporated area buildings within the extent of the event. The assessment will identify the buildings that appear to have damages affecting 50 percent or greater of the building. If such a building is in flood-prone areas identified by FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps, County maps (Floodway Maps or Assessor's Maps), or identified by Public Works to be in a Repetitive Loss Area, will undergo further evaluation by Public Works staff on whether the building meets FEMA's definition of substantial improvement/substantial damage (SI/SD). A building that meets FEMA's SI/SD definition will be required to have the entire building upgraded to meet National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards (Title 44, Code

of Federal Regulations, Section 60.3). Los Angeles County Code Title 26, Section 110.1 requires the County to enforce as a minimum the current Federal Flood Plain Management Regulations defined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 60.3, for buildings, structures, and grading located in whole or in part in flood hazard areas. (Ord. 2013-0048 § 2, 2013; Ord. 2010-0053 § 2, 2010; Ord. 95-0065 § 3 (part), 1995.)

7.4 Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Strategies

Potential mitigation actions were identified for each hazard identified in Section 6 in an effort to ensure as comprehensive a mitigation strategy as possible. Multiple mitigation options were then analyzed against the goals and objectives delineated in this section with a focus on new and existing buildings. A combination of new and ongoing mitigation actions aimed at reducing the effects of the identified hazards were compiled into the list of mitigation actions in the following subsection. This list includes a wide range of potential types of mitigation actions, including:

- Local Plans and Regulations.
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects.
- Natural Systems Protection.
- Education and Awareness Programs.

A notable update to the 2025 AHMP was the integration of human-caused threats and corresponding potential mitigation actions. The AHMP Planning Team also reviewed FEMA's Mitigation Ideas document to incorporate national best practices in the list of potential mitigation actions.

7.4.1 Mitigation Strategies

01	*Title:* **Support and Expand Countywide Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention Efforts**	
Source: Los Angeles County Fire Department		
Type: Natural Systems Protection		
Description: Conduct passive protection measures such as creating defensible space buffers around residential and non-residential structures through the removal of flammable vegetation, managing and/or reducing hazardous fuels, creating firebreaks, fire-resistive landscaping and construction, and clearing dead vegetation, among others. Engage indigenous communities to inform vegetation management and fire prevention practices aligned with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).		*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* ***Severe Wind/Tornado***

02	*Title:* **Enhance Community Engagement in Wildfire Protection and Prevention**	
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning		
Type: Education and Awareness Programs		
Description: Engage residents and businesses in high fire risk communities to educate them on community-focused mitigation and risk reduction strategies, emergency preparedness and evacuation readiness, and opportunities to get involved in fire safety-related community initiatives. Engage indigenous communities to inform protection and prevention practices aligned with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).		*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* ***Severe Wind/Tornado***

03	*Title:* **Perform Post-Fire Flooding, Debris Flow, and Mud Flow Risk Assessments and Mitigation Activities**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
Description: Following a wildfire, assess burn scar for significant mud and debris flow risks to produce mud and debris flow phase maps for first responding agencies to prepare for potential evacuations. Recommend mitigation strategies to prevent mud and debris flow impacts.	*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* ***Flooding***

04	*Title:* **Strengthen Operational Continuity Capabilities for Critical Facilities**
Source: Los Angeles County Department Public Health, among others.	
Type: Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
Description: Conduct robust continuity planning to ensure the continued performance of essential functions in the event critical facilities are impacted by various hazards. Build capabilities that support operational continuity such as alternate or uninterrupted power supply, workforce development and cross-training, emergency communications, and data backup or failover hardware.	*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* ***Extreme Heat*** *Hazard:* ***Severe Wind/Tornado*** *Hazard:* **Cyber Incidents**

05	*Title:* **Incorporate Hazards in Local Planning, Land Use, and Development Codes**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and Regional Planning	
Type: Local Planning and Regulations	
Description: Develop, maintain, and leverage opportunities to strengthen relevant ordinances that govern land use, building codes, and development in high-risk hazard areas. Incorporate mitigation actions in community planning such as Community Wildfire Plans, Flood Management Plans, and the County General Plan, among many others.	*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* **Earthquake** *Hazard:* ***Land Movement*** *Hazard:* ***Severe Wind/Tornado*** *Hazard:* ***Flooding***

06	*Title:* **Increase Public Awareness of Climate Change Effects on Local Hazards**
Source: Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	
Type: Education and Awareness Programs	
Description: Engage with communities on ways climate change impacts various natural hazards along with mitigation actions and available resources for climate adaptation and resilience. Efforts should focus on how communities can take action or support existing County programs including funding available to the public. Public engagement efforts should be accessible, ensure people with Access and Functional Needs are included in outreach, and use materials with multiple language options.	*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* **Extreme Heat** *Hazard:* **Drought** *Hazard:* **Land Movement** *Hazard:* **Severe Wind/Tornado** *Hazard:* **Flooding**

07	*Title:* **Expand Stormwater Management, Drainage, and Outlet Planning**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Local Planning and Regulations	
Description: Continue robust stormwater management programs. Conduct studies to inform measures to improve outlet and drainage planning and prevent flood damage to communities in high-risk areas. These efforts should also prevent flood damage to County-maintained roadways, including evacuation egress and emergency services ingress, while supporting potential groundwater recharge.	*Hazard:* **Flooding** *Hazard:* **Drought** *Hazard:* **Transportation Incident**

08	*Title:* **Construct and Maintain Localized Flood Control Improvements**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Structural and Infrastructure Projects	
Description: Maintain existing flood control mechanisms by drainage system maintenance, sediment and debris clearance, and other actions. Leverage opportunities to construct flood control improvements.	*Hazard:* **Flooding**

09	*Title:* **Preserve Floodplains as Public Use Open Spaces**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, among others.	
Type: Natural Systems Protections	
Description: Preserve and expand public use open spaces that capture stormwater with the aim of reducing localized flooding while also providing green space and recreational opportunities to communities. Prioritize floodplains and watersheds in County-owned public use open spaces near flood risk areas. Use stormwater best management practices in projects involving open spaces to support natural water collection and conservation. Incorporate floodplain preservation into future park improvements.	*Hazard:* **Flooding**

10	*Title:* **Harden Critical Facilities and Infrastructure from Seismic Damage**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
Description: Conduct seismic assessments to prioritize retrofitting and other seismic mitigation actions such as bracing or seismic shutoff valves. Efforts should focus on critical facilities for community lifelines such as hospitals, public safety facilities, utility sites, high-hazard potential dams, and transportation assets (i.e., bridges, roadways, airports, and others).	*Hazard:* **Earthquake** *Hazard:* ***Land Movement*** *Hazard:* **Dam Failure**

11	*Title:* **Prevent Impacts to the Transportation System**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
Description: Hazard impacts to the transportation system in Los Angeles County have far-reaching potential for cascading effects across multiple lifelines. Mitigation activities for multiple hazards should focus on preventing or lessening impacts to transportation. Activities may include stabilization efforts along County-maintained roads, reinforcing transportation assets, or other seismic mitigation actions.	*Hazard:* **Earthquake** *Hazard:* ***Land Movement*** *Hazard:* **Transportation Incident**

12	*Title:* **Continue Efforts to Enhance Dam Safety and Reduce Long-Term Vulnerabilities with High Hazard Potential Dams**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
Description: Upgrade infrastructure to ensure the long-term integrity and safe operation of County-owned dam facilities. Potential actions could include strengthening of dams, sediment management activities, regular inspections, continuous maintenance, integrating advanced technologies, and emergency preparedness efforts.	*Hazard:* **Earthquake** *Hazard:* **Dam Failure**

13	*Title:* **Assess Water Resilience in Los Angeles County**
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	
Type: Local Planning and Regulations	
Description: Conduct assessments and studies to monitor the water supply and develop recommendations for other water systems. Identify potential secondary water sources or other contingency measures for ensuring water system resilience during drought conditions.	*Hazard:* **Drought**

14	*Title:* **Expand Drought-Tolerant Landscaping and Design**
Source: Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office and Department of Regional Planning	
Type: Natural Systems Protection	
Description: Integrate drought mitigation into landscaping and design measures undertaken by the County. Prioritize native and drought-tolerant plants when selecting landscaping designs. Use permeable materials for pavers, driveways, walkways, and roadways to reduce runoff and promote groundwater recharge that incorporate indigenous- informed practices aligned with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).	*Hazard:* **Drought**

15	*Title:* **Address Urban Heat Islands by Investing in Green Infrastructure and Cooling Strategies**
Source: Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office, Department of Regional Planning, Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Public Health, and Department of Public Works, among others.	
Type: Local Planning and Regulations	
Description: Increase shade cover provided by vegetation such as planting native and drought-tolerant trees along with smaller plants such as shrubs, grasses, and groundcover. Increase the tree canopy in County parks and open concrete or asphalt spaces in the public right of way or County-owned parking lots. Conduct assessments to identify communities considered urban heat islands that are at highest need for an increase in tree canopy or other heat mitigation activities. Advance cooling strategies such as constructing shade structures, installing splash pads, operating cooling centers, modernizing air conditioning systems, and expanding the availability of cool roofing infrastructure that reflects heat away from buildings. Ensure mitigation actions address heat impacts faced by people with Access and Functional Needs. Many of these actions have a secondary benefit mitigating the effects of climate change by promoting carbon sequestration, the capture and storage of CO2 from the atmosphere. Additionally, increasing green space and shade cover in urban areas can advance environmental justice.	*Hazard:* ***Extreme* Heat**

16	*Title:* **Increase Coastal Resilience, Prevent Erosion, and Protect Shorelines**
Source: Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office and Department of Beaches and Harbors	
Type: Natural Systems Protection	
Description: Conduct activities to replace sediment lost due to erosion or coastal storms. Assess the need for other sediment protection measures such as planting certain types of vegetation. Consider activities that prevent wind from blowing sand off beaches and impacts from storm surge in high-risk areas. These actions help protect coastal roadways and other infrastructure along with ensuring recreation opportunities remain for residents and visitors.	*Hazard:* **Flooding** *Hazard:* **Tsunami**

17	*Title:* **Conduct Multi-Discipline Training and Exercise Programs**
Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management	
Type: Education and Awareness Programs	
Description: Identify opportunities for joint training and exercises for mass violence and cyber incident response across disciplines of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, medical examiner, private sector, and others. Each training and exercise should include mass violence rescue and evacuation techniques for AFN populations.	*Hazard:* **Mass Violence** *Hazard:* **Cyber Incidents**

18	*Title:* **Strengthen Partnerships and Coordination Among Local Agencies**
Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management	
Type: Education and Awareness Programs	
Description: Expand collaborative agreements with other agencies to share resources during large-scale emergencies. Strengthen partnerships with local agencies for resource sharing. Enhance response capabilities during major incidents.	*Hazard:* **Mass Violence** *Hazard:* **Cyber Incidents**

19	*Title:* **Incorporate Mass Violence Prevention and Mitigation Efforts into Special Event Planning**
Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management	
Type: Education and Awareness Programs	
Description: Use physical security measures such as bollards, water-filled barricades, vehicle barriers, and others. Identify mitigation measures for upcoming special events such as the World Cup, Super Bowl, and Olympics. Conduct special event training on topics such as crowd management, sporting event safety, and stadium evacuation. Incorporate Family Assistance Center readiness into special event planning.	*Hazard:* **Mass Violence**

20	*Title:* **Extreme Heat Risk Education and Safety Outreach for Residents and Vulnerable Workers**	
Source: Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office, Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Public Health, and Department of Public Works		
Type: Education and Awareness Programs		
Description: Implement outreach and education to workers in low-wage and high hazard industries in LA County that are disproportionately impacted by extreme heat. Partner with organizations providing services to people with Access and Functional Needs on heat response strategies. Expand awareness of cooling centers and other heat respite options for unhoused populations. Increase workforce development opportunities to expand the availability of green infrastructure.		*Hazard:* ***Extreme* Heat**

21	*Title:* **Increase Field Response and Coordination Capabilities**	
Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management		
Type: Education and Awareness Programs		
Description: Enhance field coordination capabilities at large-scale planned events and no-notice incidents such as wildfires, mass violence, and others. Potential actions could include investments in new redundant communications systems, response vehicles, alert and warning capabilities, and other field operations equipment.		*Hazard:* **Wildfire** *Hazard:* **Mass Violence**

22	*Title:* **Strengthen Public Health Prevention and Preparedness Measures**
Source: Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and Fire Department	
Type: Education and Awareness Programs	
Description: Continue and expand mass vaccination and immunization efforts. Coordinate healthcare surge preparedness and response efforts. Conduct disease surveillance, monitor early warning systems, and coordinate outbreak response. Educate communities and businesses about health implications related to wildfire recovery and hazardous materials. Liaise with health system partners to understand hospital surge capacity within the County. Maintain and deploy emergency stockpiles. Incorporate potential climate change-related infectious disease implications into public health preparedness planning.	*Hazard:* **Public Health Emergencies**

7.5 Status of Previous Mitigation Efforts

Table 7-6 below shows the status of mitigation strategies described in the 2020 AHMP. Departments have made significant progress on some of these mitigation strategies, partially but not fully completing some of these efforts. As such, each strategy from the 2020 AHMP have been rolled into the mitigation strategies described in this section.

Table 7-6 Status of Mitigation Efforts

2020 AHMP Strategy	Status	2025 AHMP Strategy
Red Flag Warning Public Outreach	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Enhance Community Engagement in Wildfire Protection and Prevention

2020 AHMP Strategy	Status	2025 AHMP Strategy
Vegetation Management Program	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Support and Expand Countywide Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention Efforts
Fireproof Coating of Critical Facilities	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Enhance Community Engagement in Wildfire Protection and Prevention
Auxiliary Power for Critical Facilities	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Strengthen Operational Continuity Capabilities for Critical Facilities
Earthquake-Resistant Ductile Iron Pipes Replacement	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Harden Critical Facilities and Infrastructure from Seismic Damage
Watershed Ecosystem Restoration	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Preserve Floodplains as Public Use Open Spaces
Green Streets / Living Streets	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Expand Drought-Tolerant Landscaping and Design
Coordinated Data Collection and Database Systems	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Strengthen Partnerships and Resource Coordination Among Local Agencies
Brush Clearance Program	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Support and Expand Countywide Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention Efforts
Wildland Urban-Interface Ordinance	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Incorporate Hazards in Local Planning, Land Use, and Development Codes
Urban Forest Management Plan	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Address Urban Heat Islands by Investing in Green Infrastructure and Cooling Strategies

2020 AHMP Strategy	Status	2025 AHMP Strategy
Community Wildfire Protection Plans	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Incorporate Hazards in Local Planning, Land Use, and Development Codes
Pre-Disaster Professional Support	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Strengthen Operational Continuity Capabilities for Critical Facilities
Fuel Trailer Project	Not Completed/ Ongoing	Strengthen Operational Continuity Capabilities for Critical Facilities

7.6 Prioritization and Implementation of Mitigation Actions

Potential mitigation actions were prioritized using the FEMA National Risk Index (NRI) score and information from the 2024 Los Angeles Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), which both address hazards by frequency, severity, and impact. Both the NRI and THIRA follow established processes and use a standardized risk assessment methodology. The NRI incorporates multiple variables including physical impacts posed by hazards in addition to social vulnerability data that communicates risks specific to a certain community. Table 7-7 provides an overview of the NRI results for Los Angeles County across 18 hazards. Hazards rated as Relatively Low, Not Applicable, or No Rating were not included in this AHMP as they are uncommon in frequency in Los Angeles County; all other hazards are covered in this plan.

Table 7-7 FEMA National Risk Index Hazards

Hazard	NRI Score (out of 100.0)	Score Description	Covered in Plan?
Earthquake	100.0	Very High	Yes | Section 6.3
Wildfire	99.9	Very High	Yes | Section 6.2
Extreme Heat	98.4	Relatively High	Yes | Section 6.4
Tornado	97.6	Relatively High	Yes | Section 6.10

Hazard	NRI Score (out of 100.0)	Score Description	Covered in Plan?
Landslide	96.3	Relatively High	Yes | Section 6.8
Lightning	95.0	Relatively High	Yes | Section 6.2/ 6.6
Riverine Flooding	90.8	Relatively Moderate	Yes | Section 6.6
Drought	73.8	Relatively Moderate	Yes | Section 6.5
Strong Wind	73.5	Relatively Moderate	Yes | Section 6.10
Tsunami	63.5	Relatively Moderate	Yes | Section 6.10
Winter Weather	48.6	Relatively Low	Not Prioritized
Hail	48.1	Relatively Low	Not Prioritized
Coastal Flooding	43.3	Very Low	Not Prioritized
Avalanche	33.7	Very Low	Not Prioritized
Cold Wave	0.0	No Rating	Not Prioritized
Hurricane	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Prioritized
Ice Storm	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Prioritized
Volcanic Activity	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Prioritized

The THIRA is a process that communities undertake to assess risk and set capability targets to focus their preparedness efforts and strengthen response and recovery capabilities. There are three primary focuses of the THIRA: threat and hazard identification, impacts analyses that include the specific demographics of the community, and a description of existing response and recovery capabilities. The 2024 Los Angeles/Long Beach THIRA was reviewed as part of this hazard mitigation planning effort and all threats and hazards identified were included as part of this AHMP. Additionally, the THIRA's identification of several human-caused threats with potential to impact Los Angeles County influenced the decision to include such threats in this AHMP. Table 7-8 shows a crosswalk of the hazards and threats identified in the THIRA and their corresponding sections in this AHMP.

Table 7-8 2024 THIRA and 2025 AHMP Crosswalk

2024 THIRA Hazard/Threat Name	2025 AHMP Hazard/Threat Name	Covered in Plan?
Biological Attack	Public Health Emergencies	Yes | Section 6.14
Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack	Mass Violence	Yes | Section 6.11
Cyber Attack	Cyber Incident	Yes | Section 6.12
Earthquake	Earthquake	Yes | Section 6.3
Flood	Flooding	Yes | Section 6.6
Pandemic – Human	Public Health Emergencies	Yes | Section 6.14
Radiological Attack	Public Health Emergencies	Yes | Section 6.14
Transportation Accident	Transportation Incident	Yes | Section 6.13
Wildfire	Wildfire	Yes | Section 6.2

Additional criteria used to prioritize potential mitigation actions also included the following components:

- Actions that prioritize equity and integrate vulnerable populations, including people with AFN.
- Potential benefits of the action to prevent a major hazard.
- Actions that have social support to build a culture and practice of resilience.
- Cost of the action versus the potential benefit to prevent a major hazard.
- Availability of funding and actions that support grant requirements.
- Political support to remedy or prevent a major health or safety hazard.
- Actions that are technically, legally, environmentally, and economically feasible.
- Actions that the County has the administrative capabilities to implement.
- Actions that are related to mitigating long-term vulnerabilities to County-owned High Hazard Potential Dams will automatically be given a HIGH priority.

7.6.1 Priority Levels

- **High-Priority Mitigation Actions:** are essential and require immediate attention to address critical risks and safeguard life, property, or essential systems.

- **Medium-Priority Mitigation Actions:** are important but less urgent, supporting overall risk reduction and resilience goals while allowing for planned implementation.
- **Low-Priority Mitigation Actions:** address lower-risk concerns or long-term objectives and can be deferred without immediate impact to safety or core functions.

7.6.2 Changes in Criteria

The 2014 Los Angeles County AHMP's Mitigation Action Matrix was prioritized using the Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Environmental, and Economic (STAPLEE) method, which FEMA had recommended as a prioritization procedure in the early to mid-2000s. The 2020 AHMP replaced the use of STAPLEE with a more streamlined prioritization process that included the following:

- To remedy or prevent a major health/safety hazard, a mitigation project must have political support.
- To build a culture and practice of disaster resilience, a mitigation project must have social support.
- To meet FEMA HMA grant criteria, a mitigation project must be technically, legally, environmentally, and economically feasible and the jurisdiction must have the administrative capabilities to implement it.

This prioritization method used in the 2020 AHMP has been adapted and incorporated into the prioritization criteria described previously in Section 7.6.

7.7 Integration with Other Plans

The County of Los Angeles ensures that mitigation is a countywide effort with multiple departments contributing to critical activities that reduce hazard risks. These actions are captured in other discipline-specific plans in addition to the AHMP, including those listed in Table 7-9.

Table 7-9 AHMP Integration with Other Plans

Plan	Authored By	Hazard(s)	Covered in Plan?
Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	Flood	Yes
Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Report	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	Flood	Yes
Climate Action Plan	Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning	Wildfire Extreme Heat Flooding Drought	Yes
Sustainability Plan	Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office	Wildfire Extreme Heat Flooding Drought	Yes
County Fire Plan	Los Angeles County Fire Department	Wildfire	Yes

7.8 Mitigation Action Plan

Table 7-10 represents a Mitigation Action Plan to reduce risks of the hazards identified in this AHMP. Notably, many County departments include discipline-specific mitigation actions within other related plans mentioned in the above section. Some actions that mitigate risk of natural hazards that are covered elsewhere may not be explicitly listed or may be referred to in general terms while specific details are available in other related plans.

Table 7-10 Mitigation Action Plan

Action No.	Priority	Hazard	Action Name	Potential Funding Source	Expected Time Frame	Lead Agencies
01	HIGH	**Wildfire** ***Severe Wind/Tornado***	Support and Expand Countywide Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention Efforts	HMGP	Annual	LACoFD, PW
02	HIGH	**Wildfire** ***Severe Wind/Tornado***	Enhance Community Engagement in Wildfire Protection and Prevention	HMGP	Quarterly	LACoFD, DRP, OEM, LASD
03	HIGH	**Wildfire** ***Flooding***	Perform Post-Fire Flooding, Debris Flow, and Mud Flow Risk Assessments and Mitigation Activities	HMGP, FMA	Annual	PW, LACoFD, OEM
04	HIGH	**Wildfire** ***Extreme Heat***		UASI, SHSP	Annual	OEM, PW, DPH,

Action No.	Priority	Hazard	Action Name	Potential Funding Source	Expected Time Frame	Lead Agencies
		Severe Wind/Tornado **Cyber Incidents**	Strengthen Operational Continuity Capabilities for Critical Facilities			LACoFD, LASD, ISD
05	HIGH	**Wildfire** **Earthquake** ***Land Movement*** ***Severe Wind/Tornado*** ***Flooding***	Incorporate Hazards in Local Planning, Land Use, and Development Codes	HMGP, FMA	1-3 Years	DRP, PW
06	MEDIUM	**Wildfire** ***Extreme Heat*** **Drought** ***Land Movement*** ***Severe Wind/Tornado*** ***Flooding***	Increase Public Awareness of Climate Change Effects on Local Hazards	FMA, Prop 4	Annual	DRP, CSO, CEO

Action No.	Priority	Hazard	Action Name	Potential Funding Source	Expected Time Frame	Lead Agencies
07	HIGH	**Flooding** **Drought** **Transportation Incident**	Expand Stormwater Management, Drainage, and Outlet Planning	FMA	1-5 Years	PW
08	HIGH	***Flooding***	Construct and Maintain Localized Flood Control Improvements	FMA	1-5 Years	PW
09	MEDIUM	***Flooding***	Preserve Floodplains as Public Use Open Spaces	FMA, Prop 4	1-5 Years	PW, DRP, DPR
10	HIGH	**Earthquake** ***Land Movement*** **Dam Failure**	Harden Critical Facilities and Infrastructure from Seismic Damage	HMGP	1-5 Years	PW, ISD
11	MEDIUM	**Earthquake** ***Land Movement*** **Transportation Incident**	Prevent Impacts to the Transportation System	HMGP	1-5 Years	PW, LASD

Action No.	Priority	Hazard	Action Name	Potential Funding Source	Expected Time Frame	Lead Agencies
12	HIGH	**Earthquake** **Dam Failure**	Conduct Seismic Strengthening at County-Owned Dams	FMA, HHPD	1-5 Years	PW
13	MEDIUM	**Drought**	Assess Water Resilience in Los Angeles County	Prop 4	1-5 Years	PW, DRP
14	MEDIUM	**Drought**	Expand Drought-Tolerant Landscaping and Design	Prop 4	1-5 Years	DPR, DRP, PW, CSO
15	HIGH	**Extreme Heat**	Address Urban Heat Islands by Investing in Green Infrastructure and Cooling Strategies	Prop 4	1-5 Years	CSO, DRP, DEO, DPH, PW, DPR
16	HIGH	**Flooding** **Tsunami**	Increase Coastal Resilience, Prevent Erosion, and Protect Shorelines	FMA, Prop 4	1-5 Years	CSO, DBH, PW
17	HIGH	**Mass Violence** **Cyber Incidents**	Conduct Multi-Discipline Training and Exercise Programs	UASI, SHSP	1-5 Years	LASD, OEM, LACoFD
18	MEDIUM	**Mass Violence** **Cyber Incidents**	Strengthen Partnerships and Resource Coordination Among Local Agencies	UASI, SHSP	1-5 Years	LASD, OEM, LACoFD

Action No.	Priority	Hazard	Action Name	Potential Funding Source	Expected Time Frame	Lead Agencies
19	MEDIUM	**Mass Violence**	Incorporate Mass Violence Prevention and Mitigation Efforts into Special Event Planning	UASI, SHSP	1-5 Years	LASD, OEM, LACoFD
20	HIGH	**Extreme Heat**	Extreme Heat Risk Education and Safety Outreach for Residents and Vulnerable Workers	Prop 4	1-5 Years	CSO, DEO, DPH, PW, DAD
21	HIGH	**Public Health Emergencies**	Strengthen Robust Public Health Prevention and Preparedness Measures	UASI, SHSP, PHEP, HPP	1-5 Years	DPH, OEM, DHS, LACoFD
22	MEDIUM	**Wildfire** **Mass Violence**	Increase Field Response and Coordination Capabilities	UASI, SHSP	1-5 Years	LASD, OEM, LACoFD

Agency Key:
CEO = Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
CSO = Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office
DAD=Los Angeles Department of Aging and Disabilities
DBH = Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors
DEO = Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity
DHS = Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
DPH = Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
DPR = Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
PW = Los Angeles County Public Works
DRP = Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
ISD = Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
LACoFD = Los Angeles County Fire Department.
LASD = Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
OEM = Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office - Office of Emergency Management

Grant Program Key:
FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance
HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HPP = Hospital Preparedness Program
PHEP = Public Health Emergency Preparedness
SHSP = State Homeland Security Program
UASI = Urban Area Security Initiative

8 Plan Maintenance

8.1 Community Participation in Plan Maintenance

The Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed regularly, acknowledging the dynamic nature of hazard landscapes and the evolving understanding of risks. Stakeholders' engagement will be prioritized throughout the development and monitoring process, fostering transparency and accountability.

To maintain transparency and community involvement, the County has outlined several measures for continued public participation:

- **Public Access to Hazard Mitigation Documents:** A copy of the 2025 AHMP will be maintained on the Los Angeles County Hazard Mitigation Program website along with contact information. Los Angeles County OEM will notify the public of any changes or updates, including mitigation projects identified in the plan as they are implemented, via social media, and traditional local media channels.
- **Annual Public Engagement Opportunities:** Los Angeles County OEM will endeavor to hold multiple in-person public engagement opportunities for hazard mitigation to keep the public informed of progress on hazard mitigation projects, obtain ongoing public feedback, and educate the public about the County's hazard mitigation efforts.
- **Online Portal:** A Los Angeles County Hazard Mitigation Program website will be established to provide the public with more information on hazard mitigation and project updates. This portal will serve as a mechanism to obtain continuous public feedback as projects are implemented and offers access to mitigation resources.
- **Standing Advisory Committee:** The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will be expanded to a standing status and will meet at least once per year or more often as determined necessary to support hazard mitigation projects. The standing Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives from diverse community groups to provide ongoing input and oversight of hazard mitigation efforts. The standing Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will also serve as an important forum for future updates of the AHMP.

These activities ensure that the community remains informed and actively engaged in the plan's implementation and maintenance.

8.2 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Maintenance

To ensure the continued effectiveness of this All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP), effective monitoring and evaluation will be conducted throughout the plan implementation period. Regular assessments will monitor progress and evaluate the achievements of the intended outcomes. Performance metrics will be developed to quantify the impact of each mitigation action, allowing for data driven adjustments and refinements.

The plan will be reviewed annually to assess progress on mitigation actions. Annual review will include the following elements:

- **Annual Review Worksheets:** Every year, LA County OEM will email each member of the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee an Annual Review Worksheet to complete. As shown in Appendix E, the Annual Review Worksheet reflects the FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Tool and includes the following sections: planning process, hazard profile, risk assessment, and mitigation strategy. Each member of the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will email completed worksheets back to LA County OEM to review. LA County OEM will summarize these findings and email them out to the committee. Additionally, the findings from the review worksheets will be presented to the full Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee at its next regular meeting.
- **Mitigation Progress Project Reports:** Mitigation actions will be monitored and updated using the Mitigation Project Progress Report. During each annual review, each department or agency currently administering a mitigation project will submit a progress report to LA County OEM. For projects that are being funded by a FEMA mitigation grant, FEMA quarterly reports may be used as the preferred reporting tool. As shown in Appendix E, the progress report will discuss the current status of the mitigation project, including any changes made to the project, identify implementation problems, and describe appropriate strategies to overcome them.
- **Post-Incident Mitigation Review:** Following a major disaster event impacting Los Angeles County, a post-disaster review will be initiated by LA County OEM to evaluate the need to update the AHMP based on the circumstances of the disaster and incorporate any specific mitigation actions required due to the

incident. If LA County OEM finds that an update to the AHMP is needed, the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will be convened to begin drafting the update.

8.3 Criteria for Updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan

The All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) is required to be updated every five years in compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and FEMA guidance (44 CFR § 201.6). The update process is not merely an administrative requirement but a critical mechanism to evaluate the plan's effectiveness in reducing risk and guiding mitigation strategies.

1. Review of Past Actions and Effectiveness

The update process begins with a thorough review of the mitigation actions outlined in the previous plan. This includes:

- Evaluating the implementation status of each action (completed, in progress, not started).
- Assessing the impact and effectiveness of completed actions in reducing hazard risk.
- Determining if the objectives are still relevant or require modification based on new data or circumstances.

2. Integration of New Data and Changing Conditions

- Hazard profiles and risk assessments are updated with new hazard event data, climate science, and changes in development or land use.
- Demographic shifts and infrastructure changes are reviewed to reassess vulnerability.
- Technological advancements or improved modeling tools (e.g., Hazus, National Risk Index) are incorporated to refine risk analysis.

3. Community and Stakeholder Input

The update process must actively include community participation to maintain transparency and ensure the plan reflects local priorities. This includes:

- Public workshops and surveys.
- Targeted outreach to vulnerable populations including those with Access and Functional Needs (AFN).
- Feedback from County departments, cities, NGOs, and regional partners.

4. Performance Evaluation and Metrics

To ensure effectiveness, the plan maintenance strategy includes:

- Annual progress reports that monitor implementation progress and identify barriers.
- Metrics to evaluate the reduction of risk or exposure over time.
- Documentation of lessons learned from real events and exercises to inform changes.

5. Revision of Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Based on the evaluation findings, the plan's goals and mitigation actions are revised to improve alignment with current capabilities, risk levels, and funding opportunities. Each updated action includes:

- Clear responsibilities.
- Realistic timelines.
- Evaluation metrics to measure future success.

8.4 Plan Update

The 2025 LHMP includes an updated methodology for future revisions, ensuring compliance with federal and state guidelines. A full plan update will occur every five years.

- **2030 AHMP Update Kickoff:** LA County OEM will convene the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee for a meeting to review the worksheet findings and endeavor to begin the process of updating the AHMP in approximately November 2028. The planning process should begin a minimum of 18 months prior to the plan's expiration. LA County OEM, in consultation with the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee, will develop a work plan for the update, conduct

research and review relevant documentation, determine hazards to be included in the 2030 AHMP, and begin the process to draft an updated AHMP.

- **Plan Submission and Adoption:** Once updated, the plan is submitted to Cal OES and FEMA for review. Upon conditional approval, it must be adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and participating jurisdictions to maintain eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants.

8.5 Integration with Other Plans

Los Angeles County is committed to ensuring that hazard mitigation planning is not a standalone effort, but a fully integrated component of broader County planning initiatives. By strategically weaving the goals, objectives, and actions of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) into a variety of local and regional plans such as the General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, Climate Action and Adaptation Plans, and departmental strategic plans; the County promotes a more cohesive and effective approach to building long-term resilience. This integration is achieved through ongoing collaboration with County departments, cities, and regional agencies to align land use, infrastructure development, and emergency preparedness efforts with identified hazard risks. Embedding hazard mitigation principles into existing policies and planning mechanisms ensures that they become an inherent part of decision-making processes, project funding prioritization, and long-term investment strategies ultimately reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing the resilience of communities across Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles County AHMP will be shared across all jurisdictions within the operational area. Those jurisdictions will have the opportunity to incorporate the 2025 AHMP into their established planning process. The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will assess the plan at a yearly basis, acknowledging the dynamic nature of hazard landscapes and the evolving understanding of risks. The OEM Hazard Mitigation Program will make the AHMP available for all county departments to incorporate into departmental planning efforts, and other relevant documents produced by Los Angeles County departments.

9 Plan Adoption

9.1 Plan Adoption Overview

Plan Adoption addressed Element F of the Local Mitigation Plan Regulation Checklist under single jurisdiction plan requirement.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors officially adopted the 2025 All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) through a formal resolution on September 9, 2025. A scanned copy of the resolution is included in Appendix F. The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will retain the resolution for its records, while copies will be submitted to both Cal OES and FEMA.

This Plan adoption completes the mitigation planning process and department agencies, stakeholders, and community's commitment to the goals and actions. It also recognizes the current planning process and acknowledges changes from the past five years and validates the priorities for hazard mitigation actions. It makes the community eligible for certain FEMA assistance that can fund some mitigation actions.

After being adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the 2025 AHMP transitions into the implementation phase. The success of the plan hinges on the integrating its mitigation strategies and actions into the local plans and policies. The mitigation action items collectively establish a robust framework to guide the County's hazard mitigation strategies over the next five years. To ensure these strategies are effective, actionable and well aligned with the county's long term resilience goals, the Planning Advisory Committee has set clear objectives. Their prioritized approach focuses on seamlessly blending mitigation actions with current policies, plans, and emphasizing collaboration and coherence throughout.

Appendices