



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

2 PORTUGUESE BEND ROAD
ROLLING HILLS, CA 90274
(310) 377-1521

AGENDA

Regular Planning Commission
Meeting

PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS

6:30 PM

Executive Order N-29-20

This meeting is held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020. All Planning Commissioners will participate by teleconference. Public Participation: City Hall will be closed to the public until further notice.

A live audio of the Planning Commission meeting will be available on the City's website (<https://www.rolling-hills.org/PC%20Meeting%20Zoom%20Link.pdf>).

The meeting agenda is also available on the City's website (<https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/agenda/index.php>).

Join Zoom Meeting via [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99343882035?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99343882035?pwd=MWZXaG9ISWdud3NpajYwY3dFblFZz09)
pwd=MWZXaG9ISWdud3NpajYwY3dFblFZz09
Meeting ID: 993 4388 2035 Passcode: 647943

Members of the public may submit comments in real time by emailing the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@cityofrh.net. Your comments will become a part of the official meeting record. You must provide your full name but do not provide any other personal information (i.e., phone numbers, addresses, etc) that you do not want to be published.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **APPROVE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

This is the appropriate time for the Chair or Commissioners to approve the agenda as is or reorder.

5. **BLUE FOLDER ITEMS (SUPPLEMENTAL)**

Blue folder (supplemental) items are additional back up materials to administrative reports, changes to the posted agenda packet, and/or public comments received after the printing and distribution of the agenda packet for receive and file.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This section is intended to provide members of the public with the opportunity to comment on any subject that does not

appear on this agenda for action. Each speaker will be permitted to speak only once. Written requests, if any, will be considered first under this section.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Business items, except those formally noticed for public hearing, or those pulled for discussion are assigned to the Consent Calendar. The Chair or any Commissioner may request that any Consent Calendar item(s) be removed, discussed, and acted upon separately. Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be taken up under the "Excluded Consent Calendar" section below. Those items remaining on the Consent Calendar will be approved in one motion. The Chair will call on anyone wishing to address the Commission on any Consent Calendar item on the agenda, which has not been pulled by Commission for discussion.

7.A. **CONTINUATION OF REMOTE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 361.**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.

7.B. **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2021, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.

[CL_MIN_220118_PC_FieldTrip_F.pdf](#)

[CL_MIN_220118_PC_F.pdf](#)

8. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

9. **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

10. **NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS**

10.A. **SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-02 recommending adoption of the Safety Element Update and Negative Declaration to the City Council.

[2022-02.PC RESOLUTION Safety Element-cl.pdf](#)

[Safety Element_Final_Draft.pdf](#)

[Rolling Hills IS_without_Appendices_A_B.pdf](#)

[21330 - Rolling Hills Final ND_021122.pdf](#)

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

13. **SCHEDULE FIELD TRIPS**

14. **ITEMS FROM STAFF**

14.A. **EXPANDED LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

15. **ITEMS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:30p.m. via teleconference.

Notice:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting due to your disability, please contact the City Clerk at (310) 377-1521 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility and accommodation for your review of this agenda and attendance at this meeting.

Documents pertaining to an agenda item received after the posting of the agenda are available for review in the City Clerk's office or at the meeting at which the item will be considered.

All of the above resolutions and zoning case items have been determined to be categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines unless otherwise stated.



City of Rolling Hills INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 7.A
Mtg. Date: 02/15/2022

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: CHRISTIAN HORVATH, CITY CLERK / EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CITY MANAGER

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF REMOTE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 361.

DATE: February 15, 2022

BACKGROUND:

With the Governor's approval of AB 361, public agencies have been granted the continuing ability to conduct virtual meetings during declared public health emergencies under specified circumstances until January 1, 2024. Based on the requirements of AB 361 (copy attached), in order for the City to hold virtual meetings, the Committee on Trees and Views needs to determine monthly that the following conditions exist:

- 1) There continues to be a health and safety risk due to COVID-19 as a proclaimed state of emergency with recommended measures to promote social distancing; and
- 2) Meeting in person during the proclaimed state of emergency would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

The other requirements associated with continued virtual meetings are outlined in the text of AB 361. The recommended action is for the Committee on Trees and Views to find that the following conditions exist and that they necessitate remote Committee meetings for the coming month:

- 1) There continues to be a health and safety risk due to COVID-19 as a proclaimed state of emergency with recommended measures to promote social distancing; and
- 2) Meeting in person during the proclaimed state of emergency would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees. These findings will need to be made by the City

Council each month that the City opts to continue with remote meetings.

DISCUSSION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 7.B
Mtg. Date: 02/15/2022

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: CHRISTIAN HORVATH, CITY CLERK / EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CITY MANAGER

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2021, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.

DATE: February 15, 2022

BACKGROUND:

None.

DISCUSSION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

[CL_MIN_220118_PC_FieldTrip_F.pdf](#)

[CL_MIN_220118_PC_F.pdf](#)



Minutes
Rolling Hills Planning Commission
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Field Trip Meeting 7:34 a.m.
4 Storm Hill Lane

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Planning Commission of the City of Rolling Hills met at 4 Storm Hill Lane on the above date at 7:34 a.m. Chair Brad Chelf presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Cardenas, Cooley, Douglass, Vice Chair Kirkpatrick, Chair Chelf
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: John Signo, Planning & Community Services Director

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA– NONE

4. FIELD TRIPS

Presentation by Planning & Community Services Director John Signo

Public Comment: Rory Sheehan, Claudia Grzywacz

5. ADJOURNMENT: 7:39 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 a.m. to a Regular meeting of the Planning Commission scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 beginning at 6:30 p.m. via tele-conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Horvath, City Clerk

Approved,

Brad Chelf, Chair



1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Planning Commission of the City of Rolling Hills met via teleconference on the above date at 6:30 p.m. Chair Brad Chelf presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Cardenas, Cooley, Douglass, Vice Chair Kirkpatrick, Chair Chelf
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: John Signo, Planning & Community Services Director
Jane Abzug, City Attorney

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Planning & Community Services Director John Signo led the Pledge.

4. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS (SUPPLEMENTAL) – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.A. CONTINUATION OF REMOTE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 361.

6.B. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2021, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.

Motion by Commissioner Cardenas seconded by Commissioner Douglass to approve. Motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Cardenas, Cooley, Douglass, Kirkpatrick, Chair Chelf
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

7. FIELD TRIPS – NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.A. SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE.

Presentation by Camilla Bobroff and Lexi Journey from Rincon Consultants.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

9.A. ZONING CASE NO. 21-13: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SITE PLAN REVIEW FOR A POOL, SPA, GRADING, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4 STORM HILL LANE (GRZYWACZ)

Presentation by Planning & Community Services Director John Signo.

Public comment: Deborah Richie-Gray

Motion by Commissioner Cardenas seconded by Commissioner Cooley to adopt supplemental revised Resolution No. 2022-01. Motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Cardenas, Cooley, Douglass, Kirkpatrick, Chair Chelf

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

10.A. INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE HOUSING AND SAFETY ELEMENTS

Presentation by Planning & Community Services Director John Signo

Motion by Commissioner Cardenas seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick to receive and file. Motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Cardenas, Cooley, Douglass, Kirkpatrick, Chair Chelf

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

11. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – NONE

12. ADJOURNMENT: 7:05 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. to a special meeting of the Planning Commission scheduled to be held on Friday, February 11, 2022 beginning at 7:30 a.m. via tele-conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Horvath, City Clerk

Approved,

Brad Chelf, Chair



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 10.A
Mtg. Date: 02/15/2022

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: JOHN SIGNO, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

DATE: February 15, 2022

BACKGROUND:

The City began its efforts to update the Safety Element in mid-2020 after being awarded funding from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). The City obtained the professional services of Rincon Consultants, Inc. to prepare the Safety Element. Once completed, the Safety Element was sent to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for review, but no recommendations or changes were made.

On January 18, 2022, a presentation on the Safety Element was made to the Planning Commission. The presentation provided an overview on new legislation, policies, and topics included in the Safety Element.

DISCUSSION:

The Safety Element provides the City of Rolling Hills' (City's) goals, policies, and actions to minimize the hazards to safety in and around Rolling Hills. It evaluates natural and human-caused safety hazards that affect existing and future development and provides guidelines for protecting the community from harm. It describes existing and potential future conditions and sets policies for improved public safety. The goal is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels. It is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones (Gov. Code, § 65302(g)(3)). It is required to include:

- Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies or a reference to where the data can be found.
- Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
- The general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire

hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs) and in state responsibility areas (SRAs), including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.

- The location and distribution of planned uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned lands or open space designations of homeowner associations.
- The local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services (Gov. Code, § 65302(g)(3)(A)).

Based on that information, the Safety Element shall include goals, policies, and objectives that protect the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire. (Gov. Code, § 65302(g)(3)(B)). To carry out those goals, policies, and objectives, feasible implementation measures shall be included in the Safety Element, which include but are not limited to:

- Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with new uses of land.
- Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in the SRA or VHFHSZ.
- Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ, including safe access for emergency response vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire suppression.
- Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection (Gov. Code, § 65302(g)(3)(C)).

The Safety Element shall also attach or reference any fire safety plans or other documents adopted by the City that fulfill the goals and objectives or contains the information required above (Gov. Code, § 65302(g)(3)(D)). This might include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or other plans.

Staff originally intended the Safety Element to be considered at the same time as the Housing Element. However, the City cannot adopt the Housing Element until it receives and considers comments from HCD. The City sent the Housing Element to HCD for review on January 11, 2022. HCD now has 90 days, or by April 11, 2022, to submit its comments to the City. Since the Housing Element is not ready for adoption, staff is moving forward with the Safety Element separately since it still must report to CalOES on the progress in order to receive funding reimbursement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City obtained a grant from CalOES for \$47,624 to update the Safety Element. Certification of the Element provides an indirect positive fiscal impact by reducing legal risks and qualifying the City for State planning grants.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2022-02 recommending adoption of the Safety Element Update and Negative Declaration to the City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [2022-02.PC RESOLUTION Safety Element-c1.pdf](#)
- [Safety Element_Final_Draft.pdf](#)
- [Rolling Hills IS_without_Appendices_A_B.pdf](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS RECOMMENDING THAT
THE ROLLING HILLS CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE
SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE AND A NEGATIVE
DECLARATION FOR THE SAFETY ELEMENT**

THE PLANNING COMMISSION DOES HEREBY FIND, RESOLVE, AND ORDER
AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals

A. On January 4, 1957, the City of Rolling Hills was established as a duly organized municipal corporation of the State of California.

B. The City of Rolling Hills adopted its current General Plan on June 25, 1990. The General Plan establishes goals, objectives, and strategies to achieve the community's vision for its future. A Safety Element was adopted as part of the General Plan.

C. Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code requires that the General Plan include a Safety Element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically-induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence and other geologic hazards; flooding, and wildland and urban fire.

D. Senate Bill 99, effective January 1, 2020, requires the City to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.

E. Cities and counties in California are required to have a Safety Element that is consistent with all other elements of the General Plan. The City's 5th Cycle Housing Element was certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on July 7, 2021, and the City is currently awaiting comments from HCD on the 6th Cycle Housing Element. The Safety Element has been prepared to be consistent with the Housing Element.

F. On January 18, 2022, the Planning Commission held a workshop to discuss the Safety Element update.

G. Pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq., the City prepared an initial study and determined that there was no substantial evidence that adoption of the update to the Safety Element may have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, a Negative Declaration was prepared and notice of that fact was given in the manner required by law.

H. On February 15, 2022, the Planning Commission held a public hearing in accordance with law to consider making a written recommendation on the amendment of the General Plan for purposes of the Safety Element update and on adoption of the related Negative Declaration.

Section 2. Findings. Based upon the facts contained in this Resolution, those contained in the staff report and other components of the legislative record, the Planning Commission finds that:

A. All environmental impacts of the amendment to the Safety Element are either less than significant or no impact as outlined in the Negative Declaration and the Initial Study. There is no substantial evidence in the record supporting a fair argument that the amendment to the Safety Element may result in any significant environmental impacts. The Negative Declaration contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the amendment to the Safety Element and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City.

B. The Safety Element is consistent with the other elements of the General Plan, including the Land Use Element, Circulation Element, and Open Space and Conservation Element as set forth below:

Land Use Element Goal 3: Accommodate development that is sensitive to the natural environment and accounts for environmental hazards.

The Safety Element is consistent with this goal in that it addresses the natural environmental and accounts for environmental hazards.

Circulation Element Goal 2: Provide a circulation system that contributes to residents' quality of life and minimizes impacts on the environment.

The Safety Element is consistent with this goal in that it plans for escape routes that utilize the existing circulation system in the event of an emergency.

Open Space and Conservation Element Goal 1: Conserve and enhance the City's natural resources, facilitating development in a manner which reflects the characteristics, sensitivities and constraints of these resources.

The Safety Element is consistent with this goal in that it considers safety factors and hazard constraints in facilitating development.

C. The safety goals, objectives, and policies stated in the Safety Element are appropriate for the City of Rolling Hills. The Safety Element will aid the City's efforts for the protection of the community and is in the public interest.

Section 3. The Planning Commission of the City of Rolling Hills hereby recommends that the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills adopt the Safety Element, provided as Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and adoption of the Negative Declaration, provided as Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022.

BRAD CHELF, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

CHRISTIAN HORVATH, CITY CLERK

ANY ACTION CHALLENGING THE FINAL DECISION OF THE CITY MADE AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION MUST BE FILED WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS SET FORTH IN SECTION 17.54.070 OF THE ROLLING HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE AND CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 1094.6.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS

I certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2022-02 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS RECOMMENDING THAT
THE ROLLING HILLS CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE
SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE AND A NEGATIVE
DECLARATION FOR THE SAFETY ELEMENT**

was approved and adopted at regular meeting of the Planning Commission on February 15, 2022,
by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

and in compliance with the laws of California was posted at the following:

Administrative Offices

CHRISTIAN HORVATH, CITY CLERK



ROLLING HILLS GENERAL PLAN

SAFETY ELEMENT

prepared by
City of Rolling Hills
Planning and Community Services
2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, California 90274

prepared with the assistance of
Rincon Consultants, Inc.
706 South Hill Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, California 90014
November 2021

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Appendices

Appendix A Existing Conditions Report

Introduction

The Safety Element provides the City of Rolling Hills' (City's) goals, policies, and actions to minimize the hazards to safety in and around Rolling Hills. The Element evaluates natural and human-caused safety hazards that affect existing and future development and provides guidelines for protecting the community from harm. The Element describes existing and potential future conditions and sets policies for improved public safety. The goal of the Safety Element is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels.

City Setting

Rolling Hills covers an area of approximately three square-miles on the Palos Verdes peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The topography of the city and peninsula area is unique in that it rises above the Los Angeles Basin with rolling hills, steep slopes, and canyons. The city itself is in the San Pedro Hills. Due to its location near the coast, the area is generally cooler and has fewer air quality concerns compared to the nearby Los Angeles Basin. Table 1 summarizes the climatology of the area.

Table 1 Rolling Hills Climate Summary

Climate Character	Estimate
Annual Average Observed Maximum Temperature from 1961 - 1990 (Fahrenheit)	71
Annual Average Observed Minimum Temperature from 1961 – 1990 (Fahrenheit)	50
Annual Average Observed Precipitation from 1961 – 1990 (inches)	19

Source: Cal-Adapt 2021

¹ An older adult is any adult over the age of 65 years old.



Rolling Hills City Hall

Rolling Hills is a residential community that consists of large parcels and ranch-style homes and has a sizable older adult¹ population of about 513 (28% of the city's total population). Important community demographic data for Rolling Hills is included in Table 2. The city is also an equestrian community, as many of residents are horse owners or have horses on their property.

Regulatory Setting

Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code requires that the General Plans include a Safety Element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami,

Table 2 Rolling Hills Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Characteristics	Estimate
General	
Total Population	1,739
Population under 10 years	7 percent
Population over 65 years	28 percent ¹
Race	77 percent White, 18 percent Asian, 5 percent Hispanic/Latino
Disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory)	12 percent
Housing	
Total Households	645 ¹
Average Household Size	2.76
Owner-occupied Households	96 percent
Population over 65 years living alone	15 percent of those over 65 years
Employment	
Unemployment Rate	6 percent
Poverty Rate	2 percent
Median Income	\$ 239,000
Insurance Coverage	97 percent

Source: U.S. Census 2018

seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence and other geologic hazards; flooding, and wildland and urban fire. In addition, Safety Elements are required to address non-hazard specific issues such as peak load water supply, evacuation routes, and military installations.

Senate Bill 379, adopted on October 8, 2015, requires cities to include climate change adaptation and resilience into the general plan process. To comply with SB 379, this Safety Element includes a vulnerability assessment; adaptation and resilience goals, polices, and objectives; and feasible implementation measures.

Senate Bill 99, adopted August 30, 2020, requires the cities to “identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in

the safety element that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.” SB 99 does not define neighborhood and cities are expected to define neighborhoods based on their community.

Relationship to Other Documents

The Rolling Hills Safety Element is one of several plans that address safety in the City. The Safety Element must be consistent with these other plans to ensure the City has a unified strategy to address safety issues. The Safety Element includes information and policies from the following documents to ensure consistency.

Other General Plan Elements

The Safety Element is one section of the Rolling Hills General Plan. Other elements include Land Use, Transportation, Housing,

Conservation, Open Space and Recreation and Noise. Policies in these other elements may be related to safety issues. Information and policies in the Safety Element should not conflict with those in other elements.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City's Hazard Mitigation Plan includes resources and information to assist the City of Rolling Hills, its residents, and public and private sector organizations in planning for hazard events. The Plan provides a list of activities that may assist the City in reducing risk and preventing loss from future hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities specifically for reducing risk and preventing losses relating to earthquake, land movement, wildfire, and drought.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), adopted in July 2020, seeks to reduce wildfire risk in Rolling Hills. The Plan was developed collaboratively among stakeholders including the community, the City of Rolling Hills, the Rolling Hills Community Association, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The Plan includes fire mitigation and evacuation strategies for the community.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Critical facilities are places that provide emergency services or serve people who would be impacted by an emergency. Examples include hospitals, fire stations, police stations, emergency services facilities, utility facilities, and communication facilities. Critical facilities can also include the transportation system and schools. Due to the size and composition of Rolling Hills, many of the critical facilities that serve the city are located outside of city limits. No areas

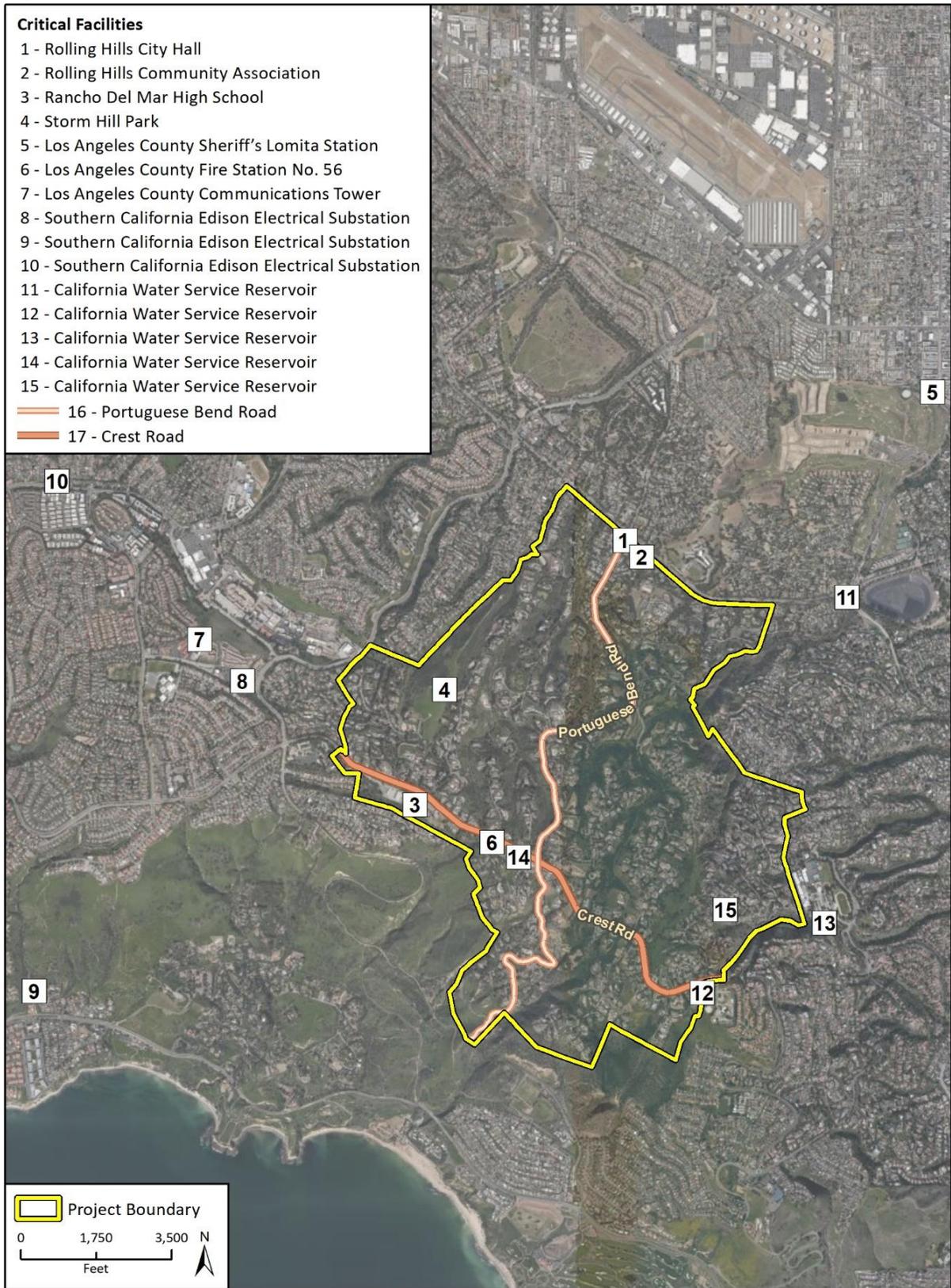
in Rolling Hills have been identified as lacking emergency service. Critical facilities that serve the city are shown in Figure 1 and include:

1. Rolling Hills City Hall: 2 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
2. Rolling Hills Community Association: 1 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
3. Rancho Del Mar High School: 38 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
4. Storm Hill Park: Agua Magna Canyon, Rolling Hills, CA
5. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Lomita Station: 26123 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita, CA
6. Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 56: 12 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
7. Los Angeles County Communications Tower: 5741 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
8. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
9. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Tarragon Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
10. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: 27873 Hawthorn Boulevard, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
11. California Water Service Reservoir: Palos Verdes Drive North/Palos Verdes Drive East (SW corner), Rolling Hills Estates, CA
12. California Water Service Reservoir: 3960 East Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
13. California Water Service Reservoir: Via Canada, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
14. California Water Service Reservoir: 1 Spur Lane, Rolling Hills, CA
15. California Water Service Reservoir: 60 Eastfield Drive, Rolling Hills, CA
16. Portuguese Bend Road
17. Crest Road



Rolling Hills Community Association

Figure 1 Critical Facilities Map



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.

Hazards of Concern

Geologic Hazards

Geologic processes that pose a threat to life, health, property, or infrastructure are considered geologic hazards. Natural geologic hazards that have the potential to affect Rolling Hills include seismic hazards, landslides, liquefaction, expansive soils, and weathering. In most cases, these natural processes cannot be prevented; however, the magnitude of destruction resulting from natural geologic hazards can be reduced through planning policies and measures.

Landslide Hazards

Landslide activity refers to a wide range of gravity driven downslope earth movement, including rockslides, rotational slips, mudslides, and shallow debris flows.

Geological and geomorphological conditions such as soil type, soil strength, slope angle, and slope height predispose slopes for failure. Other factors affecting the susceptibility to slope failure include the amount of precipitation, vegetation on the slope, groundwater seepage, and human modifications to the slope. Landslides often result in damage to property and roadways and can cause them to become unsafe due to displacement of the subsurface.

Much of the existing development in Rolling Hills is located on hilly terrain and have a greater potential to experience landslide hazards. Many of the canyons in Rolling Hills exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage, leaving them susceptible to slope failure. Figure 2 shows the landslide zones in the City of Rolling Hills, as mapped by the California Geological Survey (CGS). Landslide activity has been well documented in the region. Relicts of landslides and rockslides are present throughout the City of Rolling Hills.

² “Beginning in” is defined as the first noted event of major rock movement

The following major landslides have occurred in and adjacent to the city. All are in the landslide hazards areas identified in Figure 2:

- Portuguese Bend Landslide: Beginning in² 1956 over approximately 270 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Abalone Cove Landslide: Beginning in 1974 over 80 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Klondike Canyon Landslide: Beginning in 1979 over to the south near the coastline
- Flying Triangle Landslide: Beginning in 1970s or 1980s over approximately 70 acres in the southeast area of the city

The Flying Triangle Landslide, shown in Figure 2, continues to impact the southeast portion of the city through impacts to private roads and above-ground utility lines. This area is relatively unsuitable for development due to the ongoing changes in topography.

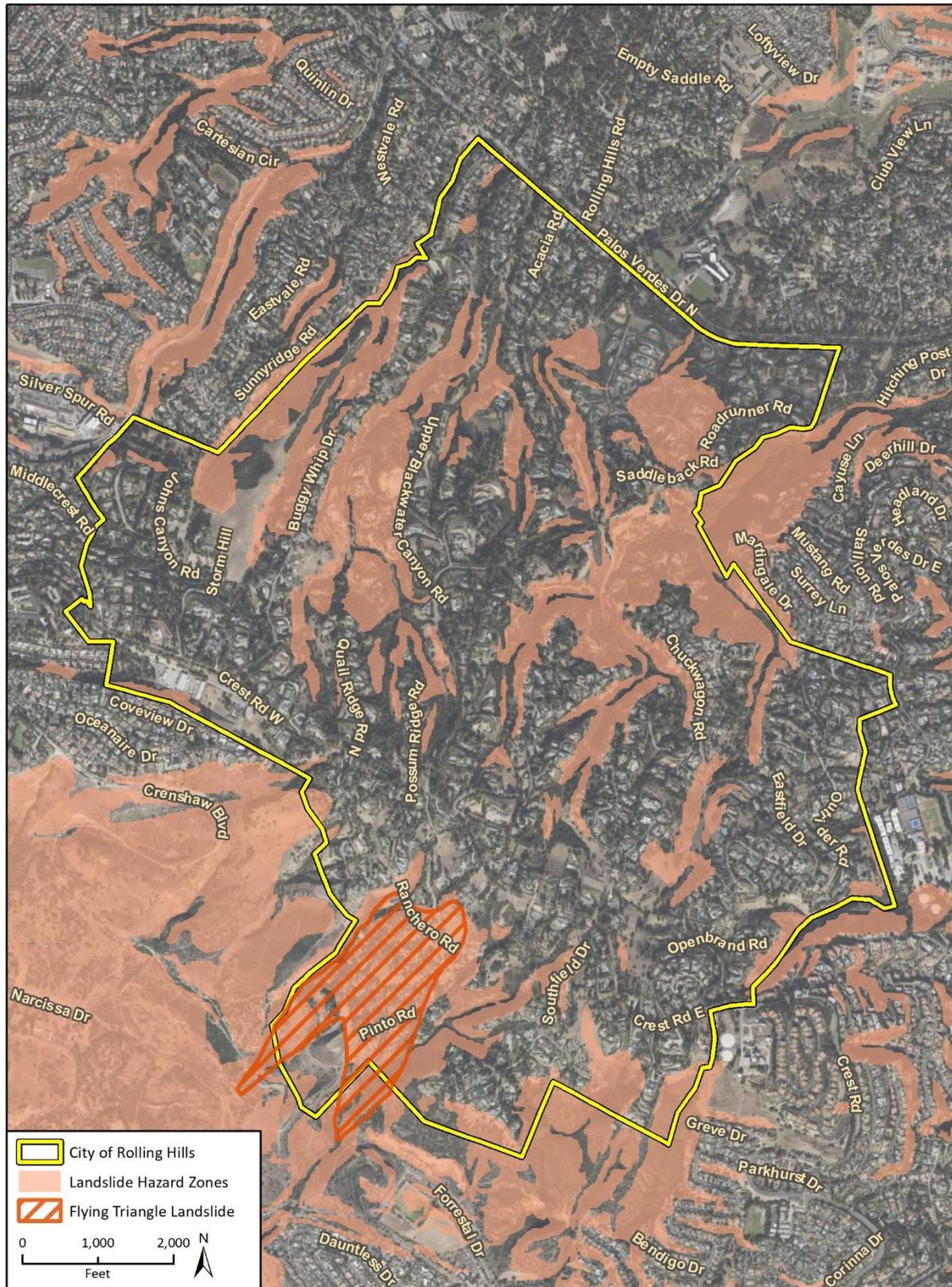
Seismic Hazards

Rolling Hills is in a seismically active region of southern California. The last major earthquake in the Los Angeles area was the 5.1 magnitude La Habra earthquake in 2014. Rolling Hills is within 50 miles of the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault. Analysis of seismic data from the region indicates that the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults may generate a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and 7.4, respectively (SCEC 2013). Figure 3 shows the faults in the vicinity of Rolling Hills.

Typically, seismic shaking and fault rupture are primary hazards as they occur as a direct result of the interaction between the seismic wave energy and the earth’s surface.

Secondary hazards, such as liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides, occur as a result of the primary earthquake hazards.

Figure 2 Landslide Hazard Zones

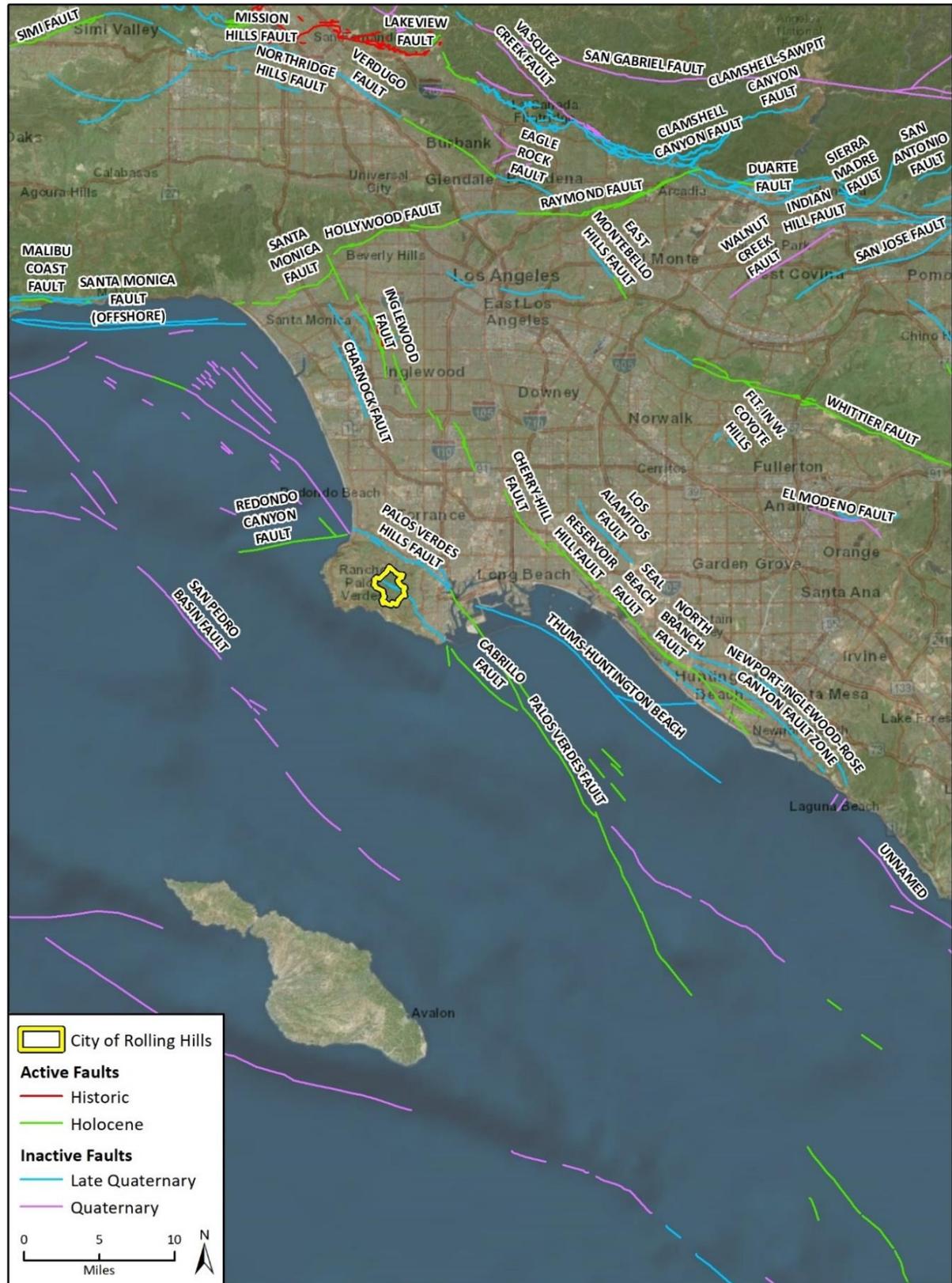


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Additional data provided by California Geologic Survey, 2015. The Flying Triangle Landslide polygon is from USGS, 2021, and is subject to data inaccuracies.

Fig. 2 Landslide Hazard Zones

Figure 3 Faults in the Vicinity of Rolling Hills



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Fig. 3 Active Faults in Vicinity

Often, earthquake activity can result in other effects such as building damage/collapse, infrastructure failure, pipeline breakage, and damage to transportation and communication facilities. The size of the earthquake and distance from the fault rupture zone typically determine the severity of these events.

Seismic Shaking

Seismic shaking, or ground shaking, refers to the movement of the earth’s surface resulting from the energy release by an earthquake. Seismic shaking is typically the primary cause of property damage resulting from earthquake activity. Seismic shaking can destroy buildings, roadways, powerlines, and pipelines. Energy transmitted through the ground can travel hundreds of miles and may cause damage in many locations simultaneously. Closer proximity to the fault rupture area results in stronger shaking in that location.

The amount of ground shaking that occurs in a location depends on the magnitude of the earthquake, the distance from the epicenter, and local soil conditions. The intensity of ground shaking is related to the peak ground velocity during an earthquake. As shown in Figure 4, the earthquake shaking potential for Rolling Hills is low to moderate. The intensity of seismic shaking is measured using the Modified Mercalli scale.

According to the CGS, an active fault is one that has experienced surface movement in the past 11,000 years. The city is located near a number of active faults, including the Cabrillo Fault in city limits. Table 3 includes a list of nearby faults, their respective distance from the city, the maximum credible earthquake generated from each fault, and the likelihood of earthquake occurrence in each case.

The San Andreas fault is located approximately 80 miles to the east of Rolling Hills. Although the San Andreas fault is located at a greater distance from the city, seismic shaking originating from earthquakes occurring along the San Andreas fault poses a threat to the city. Figure 3 identifies the active and inactive faults located in the city and vicinity.

Fault Rupture

Fault Rupture occurs when seismic movement on a fault break through the earth’s surface. Hazards related to fault rupture arise when structures are built near or on top of an active fault. While there are a number of seismically active faults in the city and region, there are no active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and delineated by CGS. Figure 3 shows the designated Alquist-Priolo study zones, the closest of which is the Newport-Inglewood Fault approximately nine miles northeast of the city.

Table 3 Active Faults Located less than 50 Miles from Rolling Hills

Fault Name*	Approximate Distance from Rolling Hills
Whittier	25 miles east
Newport-Inglewood	9 miles east
Palos Verdes	<1 mile north
Malibu Coast	20 miles northwest
Cabrillo	Located in the City boundaries
Santa Monica	20 miles north-northwest

*All faults listed are active. An active fault is one that has experienced surface movement in the past 11,000 years.

Liquefaction and Settlement

Liquefaction is a ground failure phenomenon that occurs as a result of a seismic event. Liquefaction increases water content in surface soils until the soil reaches a semi-liquid state, contributing to a reduction in support, and ultimately resulting in shifting or subsidence of buildings and utilities. Ground failure typically occurs when the following conditions exist:

- Loose, unconsolidated granular soils
- Shallow groundwater
- Strong seismic ground shaking

While Rolling Hills has moderate to high seismic shaking potential, the subsurface soils generally lack saturated alluvial deposits and thick, granular soils. Figure 5 shows the liquefaction hazard areas, which are in the low-lying areas to the east and north, generally surrounding the Los Angeles Harbor and Harbor Lake. Liquefaction potential for Rolling Hills is low, as shown in Figure 5.

Earthquake Induced Landslides

Ground failure or destabilization of slopes resulting from an earthquake can also occur following seismic activity in the form of Earthquake-Induced Landslides. Earthquake-induced landslides typically occur in areas with steep slopes or unstable soil conditions. As discussed above under Landslide Hazards, the risk of landslide activity in Rolling Hills is high. Much of the city overlies areas that have been identified as landslide zones by the CGS. Risk of landslide activity increases following rainfall events that result in saturated soils. Both shallow and deep seeded landslides have historically occurred in the city.

Flooding

Rolling Hills participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. According

to the FEMA flood maps, the city is not located in a flood hazard area and currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2008). Overall, the city is not in any immediate risk from flooding caused by overflowing water bodies or heavy rains. However, runoff and minor flooding pose a risk if drainage systems fail along canyon bottoms, where natural drainage leads.

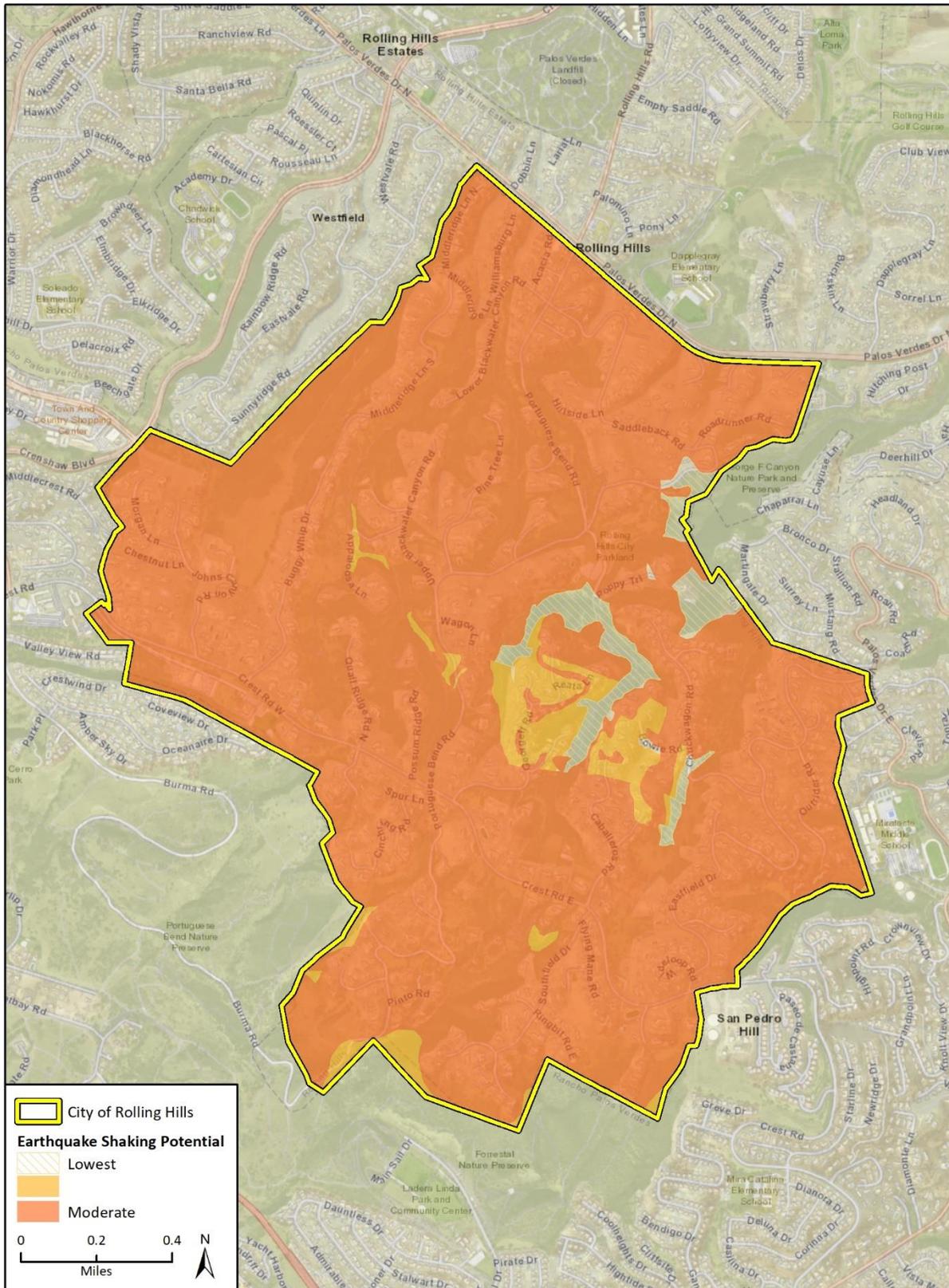
Dam Inundation

No water storage facilities that the State of California identifies as dams are located in Rolling Hills. Just outside city limits are three water storage facilities identified as dams, which include:

- **Palos Verdes Reservoir.** Owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and located at the southeast corner of Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive North. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the reservoir can hold approximately 1,100 gallons of water and has an extremely high downstream hazard.
- **10 MG Walteria and 18 MG Walteria.** Two reinforced concrete tanks which are owned by the City of Torrance and located at Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road. The tanks can hold 31 and 58 acre-feet (AF) of water, respectively.

Senate Bill 92, adopted in 2017, is a new dam safety requirement that requires dam owners to map the downstream inundation areas for dams governed by the Department of Water Resources. Figure 6 shows the inundation areas for the nearby water storage facilities. Due to their locations and the topography of the area, the inundation areas do not enter or affect any portion of the city.

Figure 4 Rolling Hills Earthquake Shaking Potential



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 Earthquake Shaking Potential data provided by California Geological Survey (CGS), last updated 2019.

Fig X Earthquake Shaking Potential

Figure 5 Rolling Hills Liquefaction Hazard Areas



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.
Additional data provided by California Geologic Survey, 2015.

Fig. X Liquefaction Zones

Figure 6 Dam Inundation Areas



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.
Additional data provided by California Department of Water Resources, 2020.

Fig. 6 Dam Inundation

Wildland and Urban Fires

The entire City of Rolling Hills is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), as shown in Figure 7. Rolling Hills terrain is comprised of several large and steep canyons that limit and challenge vegetation management and present conditions where a fire can quickly travel up and downslope to nearby homes. Due to the rural nature and large residential lots, many homes are surrounded by more substantial vegetation and dense brush than in more suburban settings. The bridle trails for hikers and equestrian access also contain dense vegetation and management difficulties, which contributes to the fire risk of the city. Electrical power lines pose a hazard to starting fires in the city if lines are not automatically de-energized when

knocked down by extreme weather or if the surrounding vegetation is not adequately managed.

There is a history of fires in the city and the surrounding Palos Verdes Peninsula. Three major fires have been documented on the Peninsula and in the city in:

- 1923: an estimated 4,000 acres burned in Palos Verdes Hills
- 1945: 3,000 acres burned
- 1973: approximately 900-925 acres burned, 12 homes destroyed, and 10 homes damaged
- 2005: 212 acres burned near Del Cero Park
- 2009: 230 acres burned, 6 homes damaged, and forced 1,200 residents on the Peninsula to evacuate
- 2015: 3 acres burned



Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 56

Figure 7 Fire Hazard Zones



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.
 Additional data provided by CalFire, 2020.

Fig X Critical Facilities and Fire Hazard Zones

For many of the developed residences in the city that are vulnerable to fires, their risk may increase with construction techniques that may not meet current wildfire standards. Rolling Hills Building Code and Los Angeles County Fire Department, under the VHFHSZ standards, require new development to include more stringent design and material standards for roofing, eaves, and rafter tails as well as exterior finishes and fire buffer zones. While compliance with these standards reduces the vulnerability to new structures, existing structures that have not complied with these standards may be susceptible to undue fire risk.

Existing Fire Risk Reduction Strategies

- Rolling Hills Municipal Code (RHMC) Chapter 8.24 Abatement of Nuisances, Chapter 8.30: Fire Fuel Abatement, and Chapter 15.20 Fire Code
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Fuel Modification Plans
- Los Angeles County Fire Code Section 4908
- Rolling Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan vegetation management standard recommendations
- Rolling Hills Community Association fire fuel management strategies



Portuguese Bend Road, south of Crest Road

Hazardous Materials

According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), there are no hazardous waste sites or facilities in Rolling Hills (DTSC 2020). The city and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster.

The city is not located near any major transit routes involving transport of a substantial quantity of hazardous material through the city. However, the nearby oil refineries (located along Sepulveda Boulevard approximately six miles northeast) and Port operations (located approximately three miles to the east) could create air quality impacts if wind patterns and release events occur. Air quality impacts are discussed in the *Open Space and Conservation Element* of the Rolling Hills General Plan.

Community Communication

Emergency Response and Evacuation

Police Response and Crime

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is contracted with the city to provide police services and protection to the city. The Lomita Station of the Sheriff's Department located at 26123 Narbonne Avenue serves the city.

According to the Lomita Station crimes report from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, Rolling Hills had 7 reported crimes (LACSD 2020). The crimes were related to theft, burglary, and arson. Outside the city limits and in the Lomita District, 401 crimes were reported during this same period, 79 of

which were violent crimes (LACSD 2021). The difference in crimes in the city and the surrounding area is attributed to the private nature of the city. There are three entrances to the city, all of which are gated and staffed 24 hours a day. Visitors are required to be on a resident's guest list to enter city limits, reducing crime in the city and demand on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Fire Response

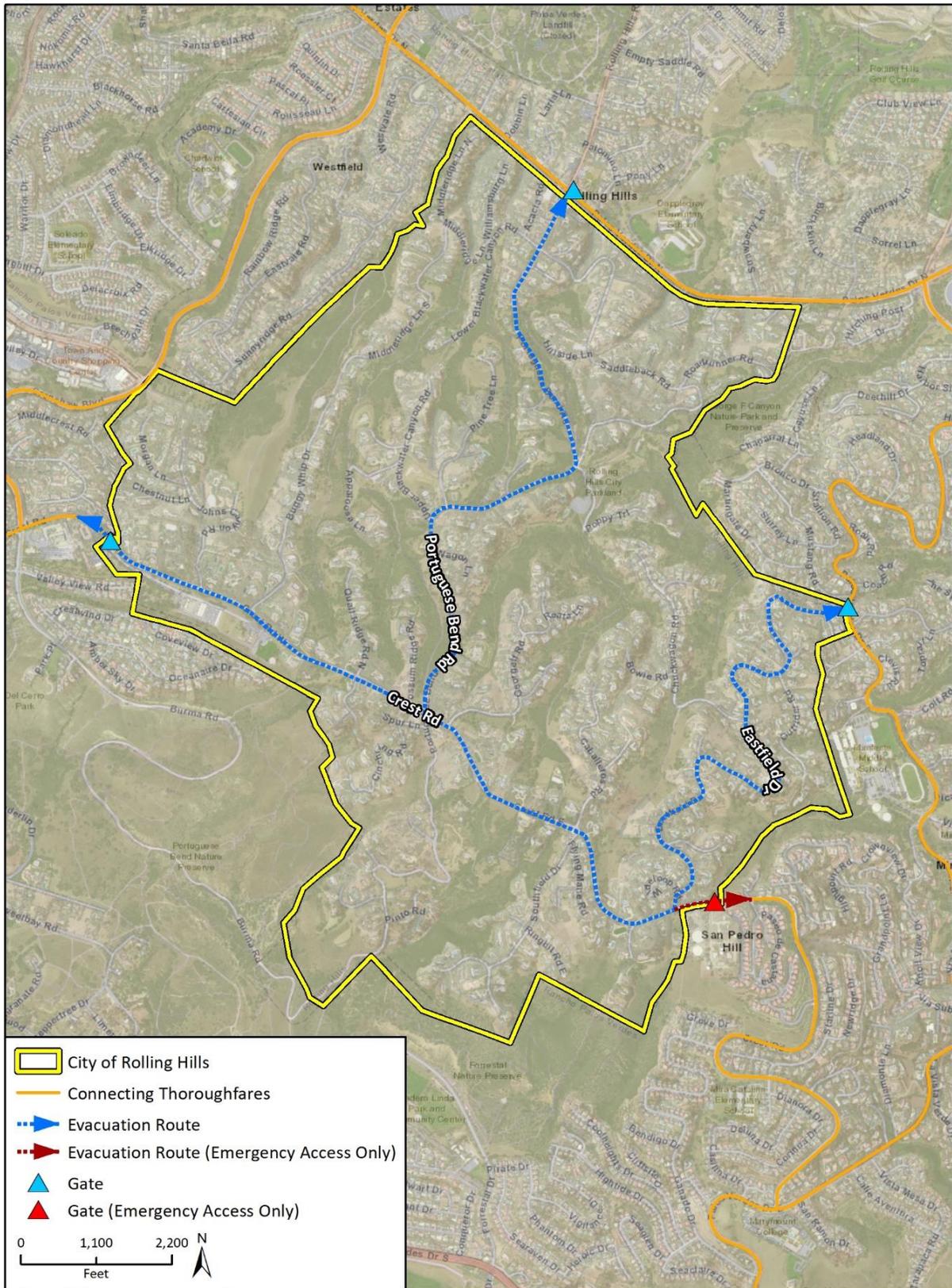
The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides emergency operations support to the City and participates in the California mutual aid system. Mutual aid is emergency assistance that is dispatched upon request across jurisdictional boundaries. Fire Station 56, located at 12 Crest Road West, serves the city under Battalion 14, which also serves the remaining Palos Verdes Peninsula, Lomita, and Avalon Canyon. Fire response constraints in the city include ability to access certain homes or areas due to inadequate road widths for fire maneuvering. One of the major topics of concern related to fire response in the city relates to vegetation clearing along roadways. Ten-foot clearance on each side of the roadway, especially the limited access roads, is important for fire response and evacuation during a fire, according to Scott Hale, Assistant Fire Chief.

Evacuation Strategies and Routes

Because a variety of hazards could affect city residents, it is vital to identify critical routes for evacuation in the event of a major event.

Senate Bill 99, adopted August 30, 2020, requires cities to "identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes." Due to the size of Rolling Hills and that it has four evacuation routes, no neighborhoods have been identified as not having two evacuation routes. As shown on the Figure 8, the evacuation routes also connect to major

Figure 8 Existing Evacuation Routes



roadways in the area that are multi-directional such as Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Drive North and Palos Verdes Drive East.

Figure 8 identifies the existing evacuation routes in the city, which are:

- Main Gate at Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North
- Crest Gate at Crest Road near Crenshaw Blvd
- Eastfield Gate at Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive East
- Crest Road East Gate at the end of Crest Road East

Crest Road East Gate has been updated with a motor and has no guards. This gate is available as an emergency exit to the city during emergencies. The City’s recently adopted CWPP establishes evacuation strategies and methodologies, including:

- Using the City’s Block Captains³ as important coordinators for residents
- Communication goals between the City, emergency responders, Rolling Hills Community Association, and residents
- Details for residents regarding how people get notified during an evacuation
- Responsibilities and operations of the Emergency Operations Center

Disease Prevention

As evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, unforeseen infectious diseases can be disastrous for communities, especially vulnerable groups such as older adults, and people with compromised immune systems. The City worked diligently during the pandemic to minimize risk to community members. The Block Captains regularly checked in on old adults in the community,



Fire Station Trail

³ The Rolling Hills Block Captain Program is a city-sponsored, resident-based community program of volunteers. Their role is to get to know neighbors, help them to prepare for an

emergency, and be a liaison between first responders and City of Rolling Hills during an emergency.

finding out what residents needed, helping run errands, and providing hand sanitizer. Additionally, the City disseminated information regularly including where to buy groceries at the beginning of the pandemic, testing information, and more. Policies regarding infectious disease can help expedite recovery and prepare the community for future risks.

Climate Change

Climate change is expected to affect future occurrences of natural hazards in and around Rolling Hills. Some hazards are projected to become more frequent and intense in the coming decades, and in some cases, climate impacts have already begun.

In developing the Safety Element, the City completed a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment consistent with Government Code Section 65302(g), which assesses how the populations and assets in Rolling Hills are vulnerable to different climate hazards. The full Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment can be found in Appendix A: Existing Conditions Report. According to the Vulnerability Assessment, the city is most vulnerable to wildfire impacts, extreme heat, and landslide impacts from climate change.

According to the Vulnerability Assessment and the California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, Rolling Hills can expect the following changes to natural hazard events:

- Projected annual average maximum temperature is expected to increase in Rolling Hills between 1.8- and 6.6-degrees Fahrenheit (°F) compared to 1990, depending on the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenario.⁴

⁴ The Vulnerability Assessment uses two GHG emissions scenarios: Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5. RCP 4.5 describes a scenario in which GHG

- Extreme heat events are also expected to increase in Rolling Hills. The annual number of average extreme heat days is projected to increase from a baseline of 4 between 1950 and 2005 to 8 or 14 between 2030 and 2099, depending on the GHG emissions scenario.
- Although only small changes in average precipitation are projected, the Los Angeles Region, which includes Rolling Hills, is expected to experience dry and wet precipitation extremes and higher frequency and severity of storms. Increasing storm intensity may exacerbate landslide hazards in the city. Warmer and drier conditions state-wide could increase the prevalence of drought conditions that could impact Rolling Hills.
- Wildfire is projected to increase over all of southern California.

Vulnerable Populations and Assets

As climate change occurs, communities will be affected to varying degrees and impacts depending on the hazard as well as how sensitive the communities are to impacts. Virtually all people and assets in a community will be affected by climate change in some way, but some communities may be more sensitive. The Vulnerability Assessment identified the following sensitivities:

Populations

- **Children.** Approximately 6.6 percent of the total population in Rolling Hills are ten years old or younger.
- **Persons in Poverty.** This is identified for people living in households with an income below the poverty limit, which is \$26,200 for a household of four people. There are approximately 26 people in

emissions peak around 2050 and then decline. RCP 8.5 is the scenario in which GHG emissions continue to rise through 2050 before leveling off around 2100.

Rolling Hills who live in poverty, or approximately 1.6 percent of the total population for whom poverty status can be determined.

- **Persons with Chronic Health Conditions.** These are people who have a long-term or permanent health condition that can create regular challenges in their day-to-day lives. These health problems include obesity, cancer, heart disease, and arthritis. In addition, those with any kind of disability, including mobility challenges, hearing, or vision impairments, behavioral disabilities, and challenges living independently or taking care of themselves. Approximately 11.5 percent of the population have identified having a disability.
- **Renters.** These are people who live in homes that they (or the head of their household) do not own. Approximately 24 housing units, or 4 percent of the housing units in Rolling Hills, are renter-occupied.
- **Older Adults.** These are persons 65 years or older are more at risk for climate change impacts, especially those living alone. 28 percent of the population of Rolling Hills are over 65 years, and 15 percent of those over 65 years live alone.
- **Limited English Proficiency.** Approximately three percent of households have identified being limited English-speaking. Of those, a majority spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages and Spanish.

Infrastructure

- **Access Roads.** These roadways are one of a few, or the only, ways in and out of some communities or neighborhoods. The single or limited number of entry and exit points does not make the road itself more vulnerable than other roads, but loss of these roadways can effectively cut off large numbers of people from other areas in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and

the rest of Los Angeles County. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are the primary access roads into and out of the city.

- **Bridle Trails.** Throughout the community are over 25 miles of trails available to residents and non-city residents who obtain permits. The trails are maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association and located primarily in canyon areas.
- **Electrical Substations.** Electrical substations are facilities that convert electricity from one voltage to another, making it suitable for long-distance transmission or for use by homes, businesses, and other electrical customers. There are no electrical substations located in city limits, but three are located near the city in Rancho Palos Verdes and owned/operated by Southern California Edison.
- **Electrical Utility Lines.** These lines transmit and deliver electricity from Southern California Edison to the city. The city has both underground and overhead electric utility lines.
- **Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines.** Natural gas pipelines carry large volumes of natural gas between communities. There are no transmission lines in the city. One transmission line ends at the intersection of Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North, adjacent to city limits.
- **Water Reservoirs and System.** The system that stores and supplies drinking water for residents. Palos Verdes Water District of the California Water Service supplies water to Rolling Hills. There are two California Water Service water reservoirs in the city limits.

Services

- **Public Safety Response.** Public safety services are provided by law enforcement

and fire agencies. These agencies include the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments.

- **Water Services.** These services involve treating and transporting water to be used by customers and transporting and treating wastewater so it can be safely released into the environment. California Water Service provides drinking water to the city.
- **Energy Delivery.** Energy services in Rolling Hills include electricity and natural gas delivered through utility lines from Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company.

Vulnerability Assessment Results

The Vulnerability Assessment indicates that the city's populations, infrastructure, and services are most vulnerable to wildfire, extreme heat, and extreme precipitation events.

Populations

Vulnerable populations such as older adults, residents with chronic health conditions, and those with financial trouble are most at risk to extreme heat and wildfire impacts.

28 percent of the city's population is over 65 years. Older adults do not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature and are more likely to have medical conditions that can worsen with extreme heat (CDC 2017a). Older adults who are living alone are even more at risk as the actions necessary to mitigate extreme heat are more difficult alone. Getting water, changing clothes, showering, or turning on the air conditioner may be more difficult for older adults with physical disabilities and do not have a partner to assist them. Extreme heat can be highly dangerous to persons with chronic health conditions, because very high temperatures can exacerbate diabetes,

cardiovascular conditions, respiratory ailments, and other diseases. Some of these people have weakened immune systems which can make them more likely to contract illnesses and vulnerable to human health hazards. In addition, they may be taking medications that make the effects of extreme heat worse (CDC 2017b). While there are not many households in poverty in the city, those who have limited financial resources to upgrade their homes to have air conditioning to better resist extreme heat.

Older adults, residents with chronic health conditions, and those with financial trouble are the populations most at risk to wildfire impacts. Older adults are almost three times more likely to die in a fire than the overall population (USFA 2017), and typically have increased mobility or mental health issues. Therefore, older adults, especially those in the city living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when there is a need. Those in Rolling Hills with limited financial resources are more unlikely to retrofit their homes to better resist climate-related hazards such as wildfires. In addition to direct impacts, indirect impacts such as poor air quality also creates public health hazards to the city. Recent California wildfires in August and September 2020 had areas of California recording the worst air quality in the world and highlighted the hazards of secondary impacts from wildfires, which could impact the city from fires throughout the State. Older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions are likely to be impacted most by these secondary impacts. Also, those with limited finances or without air conditioning would be impacted by secondary smoke impacts that occur during local and regional wildfires.

Infrastructure

Access roads, residential structures, and community facilities and government buildings are the most vulnerable

infrastructure to wildfire and extreme precipitation impacts from climate change.

All city infrastructure is located in a VHFHSZ. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from many areas of the city. Wildfires may not significantly damage the infrastructure, but they could result in closure or the inability to travel on them during wildfire events, which can isolate areas of the city and create severe health and safety risks. Wildfires are unlikely to substantially damage trails directly, but they can force widespread trail closures which are an important asset to the community.

The greatest potential impact of life and well-being would be to residential structures, which are the primary structures in the city. In addition, impacts to Rolling Hills Community Association and City Hall structures would impact community functions and government services.

Critical infrastructure most at risk in Rolling Hills to minor flooding impacts and landslides from increased storms would be access roads, bridle trails, electrical utility lines, and water systems. Because Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from the city, any damage or

closure can effectively isolate areas of the city, potentially creating severe health and safety risks. Bridle trails are predominantly located in canyon areas, which would be more susceptible to flooding and landslides. Landslides could impact utilities, as seen in the existing Flying Triangle Landslide area, which has moved utility lines above ground in certain areas due to the continuous movement of the earth in this area. Due to the limited accessibility of the city, there is a medium potential for impacts to access roads and bridle trails and a low potential impact for the remaining vulnerable infrastructure.

Services

Energy delivery, specifically electricity delivery, could be impacted from increased wildfires. Direct impacts to Southern California Edison electricity transmission infrastructure could impact power in the city. In addition, utility companies have begun shutting off power to areas to avoid wildfires during times when weather creates high wildfire risk. Public safety services could be strained during wildfire events, which are expected to increase.

Overall, climate change impacts from wildfire are projected to have the greatest potential impact to the city.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation

Hazard Mitigation

Goal 1 **Minimization of Loss of Life, Injury, and Property Damage Resulting from Geologic Hazards**

Policy 1.1 Ensure that existing structures throughout the City meet seismic safety standards and that new facilities are developed to updated standards.

Implementation Measure 1.1.1: The City will work with Los Angeles County Building and Safety Department and other agencies to ensuring that all proposed structures in the city meet current seismic safety code requirements.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

Funding: General Fund and permit fees

Policy 1.2 Support earthquake strengthening and provision of alternative or backup services, such as water, sewer, electricity, and natural gas pipelines and connections, especially in areas of high seismic or geologic high hazard or where weak segments are identified by existing or future studies.

Implementation Measure 1.2.1: Require future development in active fault areas to provide geotechnical studies indicating the location of the fault trace relative to proposed improvements and identify appropriate mitigation. The City will evaluate the seismic risk to existing infrastructure in these areas and where appropriate, examine the feasibility of mitigating the risk over time.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Policy 1.3 Enforce seismic design provisions from the California Building Code into all development and ensure adequate review and inspection.

Implementation Measure 1.3.1: The City will work with Los Angeles County Building and Safety Department and other agencies to ensuring that all proposed structures in the city meet current seismic safety code requirements.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Implementation Measure 1.3.2: Require fault investigations along traces of the Palos Verdes and Cabrillo faults to comply with guidelines implemented by the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Act. Buildings for human occupancy should be set back a minimum of 50 feet from those faults that are shown to be active or from fault traces where the risk cannot be determined.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Policy 1.4 Require review by a structural engineer when a critical building or facility undergoes substantial improvements.

Implementation Measure 1.4.1: City staff will review existing ordinances to ensure that the appropriate review requirements are included in them. In addition, the Seismic Safety Ordinance will require a structural engineer to review development proposals in designated Special Studies Zones.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Policy 1.5 Ensure that water supplies are not interrupted by seismic events such as surface rupture, ground shaking or ground failure.

Implementation Measure 1.5.1: The City may conduct a seismic vulnerability assessment of current water supply systems to address peak load water supply requirements. If the vulnerability assessment indicates a potential interruption of water supply due to damage from a seismic event, designate emergency sources of water.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 1.6 Discourage development adjacent to earthquake faults and other geological hazards.

Implementation Measure 1.6.1: All development will comply with the Seismic Hazards Overlay Zone.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Policy 1.7 Continue to require preliminary investigations of tract sites by State-registered geotechnical engineers and certified engineering geologists (Chapter 70 County Building Code) and ensure regular inspection of grading operations.

Implementation Measure 1.7.1: The City will continue to enforce the Building Code and Safety regulations.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department

Funding: General Fund

Goal 2 Minimization of Loss of Life, Injury, and Property Damage Due to Flood Hazards

Policy 2.1 Maintain storm drains to prevent local flooding and debris flows, and encourage residents to assist in maintaining those drains that are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Implementation Measure 2.1.1: The City will cooperate with the Los Angeles County Public Works Department to maintain storm drains in the City.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 2.1.2: The City will encourage homeowner maintenance of storm drains by developing educational materials to be added to the City website and included in the City’s newsletter.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 2.2 Avoid construction in canyon bottoms and participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Require new development or expansion of existing development adjacent to canyons to assess potential environmental impacts from increased run-off and erosion and evaluate appropriate mitigation. Mitigation measures should address projected impacts from climate change.

Implementation Measure 2.2.1: The City will evaluate the flood hazard potential and address climate change impacts in future environmental review. The City will ensure that development in areas designated as a Flood Hazard Overlay Zone mitigates potential flood impacts.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Implementation Measure 2.2.2: The City will require the submission of soil engineering reports for land development permits when soil erosion problems are suspected.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund and private developers

Goal 3 Minimization of Loss of Life, Injury, and Property Damage Resulting from Fire Hazards

Policy 3.1 Develop stringent initial site design and on-going maintenance standards incorporating adequate mitigation measures into individual developments to achieve an acceptable level of risk, considering the increased risk associated with increased wildland fire hazards due to climate change.

Implementation Measure 3.1.1: The City will work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and Rolling Hills Community Association to review current standards for wildfire prevention and improve standards and/or regulations where required.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 3.1.2: The City will implement recommended fire mitigation strategies from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan including infrastructure hardening and vegetation management for and around existing and new development.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department/Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 3.2 Reduce potential fire ignition sources.

Implementation Measure 3.2.1: The City will continue to implement the utility undergrounding projects described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 3.2.2: Designate and publicize emergency access routes with the city and sub region. Prioritize undergrounding of utilities to enhance reliability of emergency access routes and minimize conflagration hazards from fallen power lines.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 3.3 Develop and implement a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing structures.

Implementation Measure 3.3.1: The City will develop and implement a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing structures and lifeline utilities in very high fire risk areas to increase public safety and reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 3.3.2: Enforce existing ordinances and regulations that apply to roofing materials. The City will enforce a Class A Roofing Ordinance for all structure, as described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The City will require old roofs to be removed prior to reroofing to increase the fire-resistance of the structure.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department/Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 3.4

Ensure that all new residential development has at least two emergency evacuations.

Implementation Measure 3.4.1: The City will review and update emergency response and evacuation plans and procedures annually to reflect current conditions and community needs.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 3.4.2: Create secondary access in communities with single access.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 3.4.3: Identify special populations and large animals, especially horses, that may need assistance to evacuate.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 3.5

Whenever feasible, locate the following outside flood and fire hazard zones: health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities.

Implementation Measure 3.5.1: The City will require review of new essential facilities and, as necessary, development of measures to avoid flood and fire hazard impacts.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund and private developers

- Policy 3.6** Educate residents on fire hazard reduction strategies to employ on their properties, focusing on the most vulnerable populations such as older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions.
- Implementation Measure 3.6.1:** The City will promote vegetation management strategies outlined in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (i.e., fuel management in canyons and fire fuel management standards for individual properties) in the City's quarterly newsletter, through the website, brochures, videos, and block captain meetings.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** Planning Department and City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 3.7** Work with the County to ensure that all fire equipment remains operable and adequate to respond to a major disaster.
- Implementation Measure 3.7.1:** City staff will monitor the City's fire protection rating and cooperate with the Fire Department in the correction of deficiencies.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 3.8** Require new development to meet or exceed hardening requirements in the most current version of the California Building Codes and California Fire Code.
- Policy 3.9** Evaluate evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios as part of the next update to the Rolling Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan, in accordance with AB 747.
- Policy 3.10** Update the City's development standards to be in conformance with title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).
- Policy 3.11** Minimize risks to existing development by identifying existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard, and requiring all development to meet or exceed CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 requirements (SRA Fire Safe Regulations).
- Policy 3.12** Require fire protection plans for all new development.
- Policy 3.13** Require all properties in the city to enforce precautionary measures to create defensible space including, but not limited to, maintaining a fire break by removing brush and flammable vegetation located within 30 feet of the property, maintaining any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood, and maintaining roofs free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetation growth, as described in the Rolling Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Policy 3.14** Evaluate the City’s capacity to adequately suppress wildfire, taking into account water supply availability, as part of the next Rolling Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
- Policy 3.15** Coordinate with Palos Verdes Water District to support the provision of adequate water availability throughout the City and provision of adequate water storage to meet future peak fire demand during times of peak domestic demands.
- Policy 3.16** Maintain emergency roadways and improve them as necessary and appropriate to ensure ongoing serviceability.
- Policy 3.17** Establish and maintain community fire breaks and fuel modification/reduction zones, including public and private road clearance.
- Policy 3.18** Require that all homes have visible street addressing and signage.

Goal 4 **Minimization of Impacts to Life and Property Associated with the Use, Storage, or Transport of Hazardous Materials**

- Policy 4.1** Restrict the travel of vehicles carrying hazardous material through the city.
Implementation Measure 4.1.1: The City will ensure the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department enforce licensing and current laws regarding the transport of hazardous materials through the city.
Timing: Immediate and ongoing
Agency: City Manager
Funding: General Fund
- Policy 4.2** Work to promote the safe use and disposal of household hazardous wastes.
Implementation Measure 4.2.1: The City will work with agencies responsible for the disposal of household hazardous wastes.
Timing: Immediate and ongoing
Agency: City Manager
Funding: General Fund

Community Communication

Goal 5 Protection of the Community from Disasters and Emergencies

Policy 5.1 Designate and develop specific critical facilities as emergency centers to serve the entire City and work with other cities to maintain existing trauma care facilities that serve the region.

Implementation Measure 5.1.1: The City will meet with other communities in the region to discuss the loss of trauma care centers in the region. The City will examine the feasibility of establishing the development of a critical/trauma care unit at one of the local clinics or hospitals in the region.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.2 Cooperate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to ensure that law enforcement services are ready and available to serve the city in the event of a major disaster.

Implementation Measure 5.2.1: City staff will monitor the City's contract and budget with the Sheriff's Department to ensure that adequate service levels are maintained.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.3 Develop and coordinate medical assistance procedures in the event of a major disaster.

Implementation Measure 5.3.1: City staff will develop and update the Emergency Operations Plan, which will be distributed to the community. The update of the Emergency Operations Plan will include an assessment of current emergency service and projected emergency service needs, and goals or standards for emergency services training for City staff and volunteers.

Timing: Ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.4 Inventory and, where necessary, acquire supplemental disaster communication equipment and other equipment, tools, and supplies used by Block Captains during an emergency.

Implementation Measure 5.4.1: City staff will complete an inventory of infrastructure needed to support emergency communications and equipment needed for use by Block Captains and the City to communicate during emergencies, as described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.4.2: A survey will be done by the City periodically to establish an inventory of equipment which could be used in the event of a major disaster.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.5 Ensure that adequate provisions are made to supply drinking water for extended periods of time in the event of a major disaster.

Implementation Measure 5.5.1: City staff will inventory sources of potable water that could be used in the event of an emergency and the means to distribute that water to residents and others in the Planning Area.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.6 Develop procedures to follow in the event of wildfire, flooding, erosion, and possible reservoir failure and investigate ways of reducing the likelihood of their occurrence.

Implementation Measure 5.6.1: The City will update the Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years to reduce the risk from hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction, while helping to guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout the city.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.6.2: City staff will develop and maintain an Emergency Operations Plan, which will set forth an operating strategy for managing potential emergencies (as described in the Hazard Mitigation Plan)

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.7 Ensure that City Hall maintains a current emergency supply of water, food, blankets, and first aid to provide for all employees for a 3-day period.

Implementation Measure 5.7.1: A City staff person will be assigned the task of compiling a list of supplies and maintaining an adequate stockpile.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.8 Encourage private businesses to develop disaster preparedness plans for their employees.

Implementation Measure 5.8.1: The City will prepare and distribute a brochure outlining recommendations for stockpiling supplies for employees.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.9 Encourage residents to attend periodic training programs on wildfire mitigation and disaster planning, and to develop disaster preparedness and evacuation plans.

Implementation Measure 5.9.1: The City will work with the RHCA and Block Captains to launch a communication and education program that will include a workshop on How to Develop an Evacuation Plan for your Family, as described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.9.2: The City will work with the RHCA and Block Captains to promote training programs on wildfire mitigation and disaster planning through the newsletter and the City website.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.10 Support the development and further implementation of a peninsula-wide disaster plan.

Implementation Measure 5.10.1: The City will coordinate its disaster planning efforts with neighboring jurisdictions in the region as part of Hazard Mitigation Plan updates

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.11 Increase public awareness of City emergency response plans, evacuation routes and shelters, and in ways to reduce risks at the home and office, focusing on the most vulnerable populations such as older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions.

Implementation Measure 5.11.1: The City will prepare communication materials outlining procedures to follow in the event of a major disaster. These materials will be distributed to every household and business in the city.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.11.2: The City will maintain the City-wide Neighborhood Watch program.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.11.3: The City will define refuge areas in the event of a wildfire event to include in the Emergency Operations Plan. This effort will be led by the Fire Department and the Sherriff's Department.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.11.4: The City will distribute educational materials for large animal evacuation, consistent with Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations. This will include adding the information to the City website and including it in the City's newsletter during the fire season.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.11.5: The City will work with Block Captains to provide emergency education and information through the City's newsletter and website and by providing workshops and seminars described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.12 Maintain a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Implementation Measure 5.12.1: The City will coordinate with the American Red Cross and Los Angeles County Fire, Sheriff, and Public Social Services to develop specific plans for responding to emergencies as part of Hazard Mitigation Plan updates. The City will submit copies of its Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments for review. The City will review similar plans prepared by neighboring cities.

Timing: Every five years

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

- Policy 5.13** Ensure maximum accessibility throughout the city in the event of a disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.13.1:** The City will ensure that multipurpose trails are maintained in order to be serviceable by emergency vehicles in the event of a disaster.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.14** Ensure the reliability of essential facilities such as communications towers, electrical substations, water services, and first-response buildings in the event of an emergency through promoting grid resilience and energy independence. Work to implement on-site power generation through solar photovoltaic systems and battery storage.
- Implementation Measure 5.14.1:** The City will work with telecommunication providers to identify opportunities to improve reliability of cell service throughout the city.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.14.2:** The City will work with electricity and natural gas providers to identify opportunities to promote grid resilience.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.14.3:** The City will seek funding to enhance telecommunication service.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.14.4:** The City will provide educational materials to residents (i.e., newsletter, webpage, brochure) to promote solar panels and battery storage installation on existing development.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.15** Minimize the risk of spread of infectious diseases and associated economic disruption.
- Implementation Measure 5.15.1:** The City will coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department to provide testing and contact tracing resources to the Rolling Hills community.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.15.2: The City will maintain up-to-date public health services on the City's website.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measure 5.15.3: The City will explore the need for additional marketing campaigns to promote public safety protocol among City departments.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measures 5.15.4: The City will partner with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide additional support and services in the city.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Implementation Measures 5.15.5: The City will partner with community groups and neighborhood organizations to advertise what resources are available to residents.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

- Policy 5.16** Increase access to essential resources and facilitate effective communication in the community to accelerate recovery following such a disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.16.1:** The City will connect the newly unemployed with talent-seeking industries, such as through a job portal.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.16.2:** The City will supplement federal relief efforts, such as creating a resilience fund for residents to assist those in need.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.17** Provide City officials with a basis for disaster preparedness decision making and establish a public education program for disaster preparedness.
- Implementation Measure 5.17.1:** The Emergency Services Coordinator will conduct annual meetings with City personnel to ensure they are familiar with procedures outlined in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.18** Establish a line of command to ensure that the decision-making process will function satisfactorily in the event of a major disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.18.1:** The City will implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.19** Coordinate with citizen groups, such as Block Captains, and organizations to establish a viable body to provide emergency assistance in the event of a natural disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.19.1:** The City Emergency Services Coordinator will work with local equestrian groups and other organizations to establish a Rolling Hills Search and Rescue Team.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager and LA County Building & Safety Department
- Funding:** General Fund

Policy 5.20 Encourage cooperation among adjacent communities to provide back-up law enforcement assistance in emergency situations.

Implementation Measure 5.20.1: The City will submit copies of its Hazard Mitigation Plan updates to the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff’s Departments for review. The City will review similar plans prepared by neighboring cities.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 5.21 Incorporate health threats into early warning systems.

Implementation Measures 5.21.1: Partner with the Los Angeles County Vector Control District and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop and enhance disaster and emergency early warning systems to incorporate objective data and information for potential health threats such as heat-illness, illnesses complicated by low air quality, precipitation events, and vector borne diseases due to climate change hazards.

Goal 6 Maintenance of Public Safety for All Residents

Policy 6.1 Work with, and support the Sheriff’s Department in crime prevention and law enforcement efforts, to make sure there are adequate resources to meet the needs of the community.

Implementation Measure 6.1.1: The City will conduct an annual review of its contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department to ensure current service standards are maintained. Alternatives will be considered if service levels are considered inadequate.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 6.2 Cooperate with neighboring cities, Los Angeles County, California State and U.S. Federal agencies in crime prevention and law enforcement.

Implementation Measure 6.2.1: The City will continue to regularly coordinate with all law enforcement agencies in combating crime.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Policy 6.3 Evaluate the incidence of crime and develop measures needed to deter crime or apprehend the criminals.

Implementation Measure 6.3.1: The City will monitor crime statistics for the peninsula and the city. The City will meet with Los Angeles County on a regular basis to discuss programs, ordinances, and other measures that will be effective in combating crime.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: City Manager

Funding: General Fund

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Goal 7 Protection of the Community from the Effects of Climate Change

Policy 7.1 The City will continue to enforce updated State-mandated water conservation regulations.

Implementation Measure 7.1.1: The City will continue to update the City’s zoning ordinance as necessary to enforce and implement State-mandated water conservation regulations.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 7.2 Prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change by considering climate change vulnerability in planning decisions, including those involving new public facilities and private development.

Implementation Measure 7.2.1: The City will:

- a. Re-evaluate the City’s Climate Change Vulnerability analysis over time, as new data becomes available
- b. Update mitigation strategies and the City’s vulnerability and adaptive capacity, as appropriate
- c. Identify opportunities for new goals and policies related to climate change using the best available data.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 7.3 Amend the local building code to account for climate change stressors.

Implementation Measure 7.3.1: The City will amend the local building code to take into account additional stressors on buildings including, increased storm events and intensity, flood proofing for intermittent inundation, slope/soils, subsidence risk and erosion potential in securing foundations, building materials to reduce the impacts of high heat days, and fireproofing in preparation for increasing fire risk.

Timing: Immediate

Agency: Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

Funding: General Fund

Policy 7.4 The City will engage surrounding jurisdictions in climate adaptation planning.

Implementation Measure 7.4.1: Ensure the community’s engagement strategy for climate adaptation planning includes surrounding jurisdictions to identify synergies and harmonization of policies.

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Agency: Planning Department

Funding: General Fund

- Policy 7.5** Partner with the South Bay Cities Council of Government to implement climate adaptation strategies at the sub-regional level.
- Implementation Measure 7.5.1:** Collaborate with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Senior Services Working Group to ensure that service providers in and around Rolling Hills are educated on the climate risks of the area and steps they can take to better serve and protect vulnerable groups in Rolling Hills.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
Agency: Planning Department
Funding: General Fund
- Implementation Measure 7.5.2:** Implement climate adaptation strategies that can address issues at a local and sub-regional level and issues in which coordination and pooling of resources (i.e., emergency centers, transit agency support in an emergency, and large animal evacuation centers) is a benefit to all participating communities.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
Agency: Planning Department
Funding: General Fund
- Policy 7.6** Update emergency/disaster response measures to account for increased heat days.
- Implementation Measure 7.6.1:** As part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan, update response measures to account for an increased number of heat days and their impacts on current and future response mechanisms such as warning systems, emergency response and medical service coordination, and shelters.
- Timing:** Every five years
Agency: Planning Department
Funding: General Fund
- Policy 7.7** Provide education on heat related illness.
- Implementation Measure 7.7.1:** Incorporate links and references on the City website and incorporate interpretive signage at multi-use path trailheads providing education on heat related illness and personal care steps.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
Agency: Planning Department
Funding: General Fund
- Policy 7.8** Require air conditioning alternatives.
- Implementation Measure 7.8.1:** Require alternatives to air conditioning such as ceiling fans, air exchangers, increased insulation and low-solar-gain exterior materials to reduce peak electrical demands during high heat events to ensure reliability of the electrical grid.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
Agency: Planning Department
Funding: General Fund

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Appendix A

Existing Conditions Report



Rolling Hills General Plan Safety Element

Existing Conditions Report

prepared by

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Summary

Key Findings

- The city is most at risks to impacts from wildfire, extreme heat, and landslide events, which are all anticipated to increase as a result of climate change impacts. Vulnerable populations such as older adults and residents with chronic health conditions are most at risk to extreme heat and wildfire impacts. Access roads and residential structures are also the most vulnerable to wildfire and landslide impacts from climate change.
- The city has a moderate risk for shaking potential from earthquakes.
- Flood risks in the city are minimal and limited to natural drainage areas in the canyons.
- Vegetation clearing along roadways is a concern and major goal for improving fire response and evacuation in the city.
- Evacuation strategies and education are important to reduce risk from hazards due to the lack of evacuation routes in the city and the remote development on private roads. The need to further analyze evacuation routes and access is one of the most recent changes in Safety Element requirements. A key opportunity for the Safety Element update is to address specific evacuation needs.
- The City has recently adopted a number of planning documents such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which seek to reduce the risk of hazards in the city. An opportunity for the Safety Element update would be to utilize existing recommendations from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan as implementation tools for the Safety Element.

Introduction

Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code requires that the General Plan include a Safety Element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence and other geologic hazards; flooding, wildland and urban fire, and climate change adaptation and resilience. In addition, Safety Elements are required to address non-hazard specific issues such as peak load water supply, evacuation routes, and military installations.

This Existing Conditions Report is a comprehensive assessment of natural and man-made hazards for the City of Rolling Hills. The report serves as the foundation for the Safety Element and includes detailed Geographic Information System (GIS) hazard mapping and analyses. The following City plans were also utilized for this report along with existing local data from governmental agencies and scientific research: Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the existing Safety Element.

Setting

Rolling Hills covers an area of approximately three square-miles on the Palos Verdes peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The topography of the city and peninsula area is unique in that it rises above the Los Angeles Basin with rolling hills, steep slopes, and canyons. The city itself is located in the San Pedro Hills. Due to its location near the coast, the area is cooler and has fewer air quality concerns compared to the nearby Los Angeles Basin. Table 1 summarizes the climatology of the area.

Table 1 Rolling Hills Climate Summary

Climate Character	Estimate
Annual Average Observed Maximum Temperature from 1961 - 1990 (Fahrenheit)	71
Annual Average Observed Minimum Temperature from 1961 – 1990 (Fahrenheit)	50
Annual Average Observed Precipitation from 1961 – 1990 (inches)	19

Source: Cal-Adapt 2021

Rolling Hills is a residential community that consists of large parcels and ranch-style homes and has a sizable older adult¹ population of about 513 (28% of the city’s total population). The city is also an equestrian community, as many of residents are horse owners or have horses on their property. Important community demographic data for Rolling Hills is included in Table 2.

¹ An older adult is any adult over the age of 65 years old.

Table 2 Rolling Hills Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Characteristics	Estimate
General	
Total Population	1,860 ¹
Population under 10 years	7 percent
Population over 65 years	28 percent ¹
Race	77 percent White, 18 percent Asian, 5 percent Hispanic/Latino
Disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory)	12 percent
Housing	
Total Households	645 ¹
Average Household Size	2.76
Owner-occupied Households	96 percent
Population over 65 years living alone	15 percent of those over 65 years
Employment	
Unemployment Rate	6 percent
Poverty Rate	2 percent
Median Income	\$ 239,000
Insurance Coverage	97 percent

Source: U.S. Census 2018

¹Information obtained from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which includes more recent data than the U.S. Census

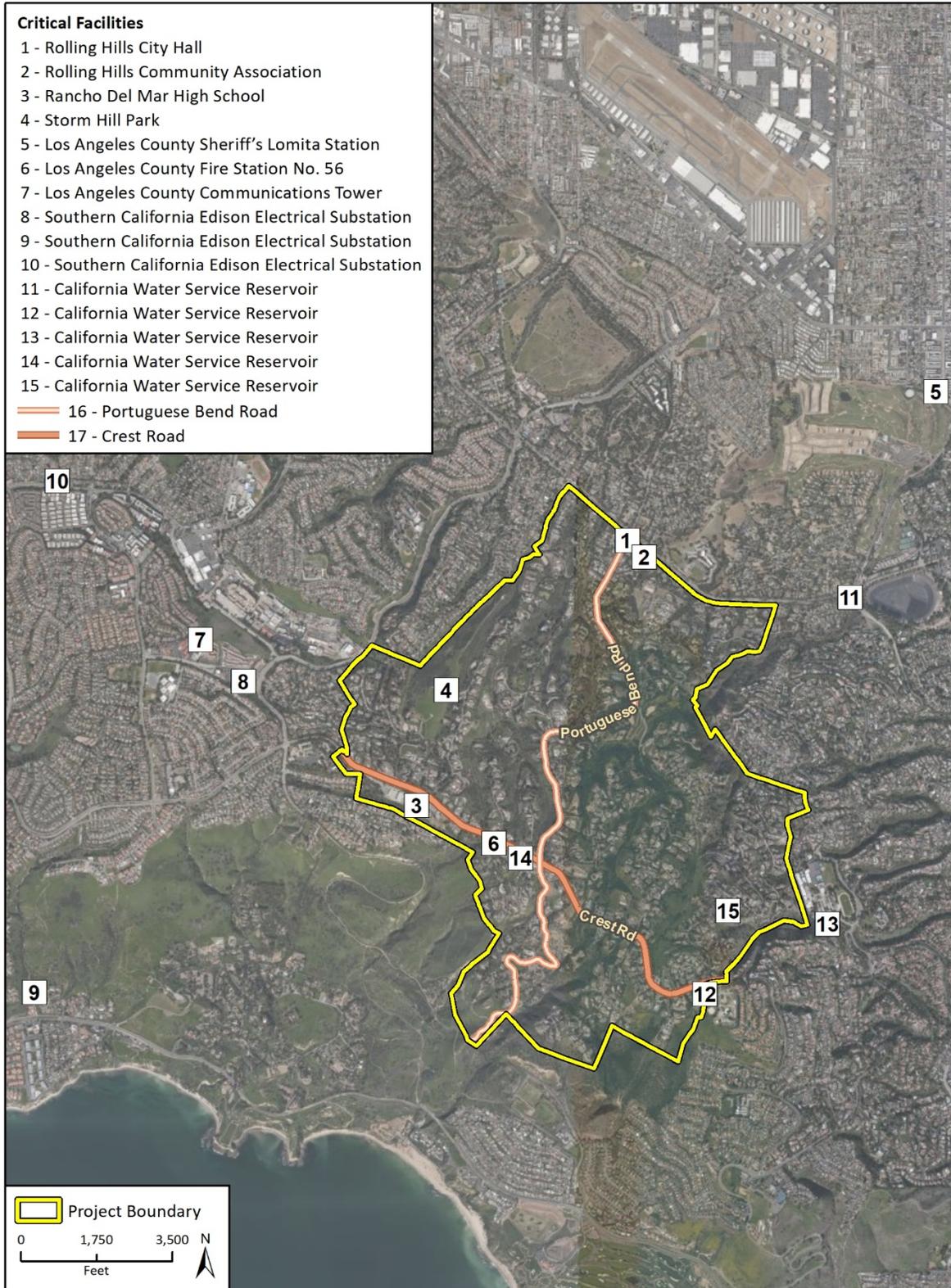
Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Critical facilities are places that provide emergency services or serve people who would be impacted by an emergency. Examples include hospitals, fire stations, police stations, emergency services facilities, utility facilities, and communication facilities. Critical facilities can also include the transportation system and schools. Due to the size and composition of Rolling Hills, most of the critical facilities that serve the city are located outside of City limits. Critical facilities that serve the city are shown in Figure 1 and include:

1. Rolling Hills City Hall: 2 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
2. Rolling Hills Community Association: 1 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
3. Rancho Del Mar High School: 38 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
4. Storm Hill Park: Agua Magna Canyon, Rolling Hills
5. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Lomita Station: 26123 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita, CA
6. Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 56: 12 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
7. Los Angeles County Communications Tower: 5741 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
8. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
9. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Tarragon Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

10. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: 27873 Hawthorn Boulevard, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
11. California Water Service Reservoir: Palos Verdes Drive North/Palos Verdes Drive East (SW corner), Rolling Hills Estates, CA
12. California Water Service Reservoir: 3960 East Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
13. California Water Service Reservoir: Via Canada, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
14. California Water Service Reservoir: 1 Spur Lane, Rolling Hills, CA
15. California Water Service Reservoir: 60 Eastfield Drive, Rolling Hills, CA
16. Portuguese Bend Road
17. Crest Road

Figure 1 Critical Facilities Map



Hazards of Concern

Geologic Hazards

Geologic processes that pose a threat to life, health, property, or infrastructure are considered geologic hazards. Natural geologic hazards that have the potential to affect Rolling Hills include seismic hazards, landslides, liquefaction, expansive soils, and weathering. In most cases, these natural processes cannot be prevented; however, the magnitude of destruction resulting from natural geologic hazards can be reduced through planning policies and measures.

Landslide Hazards

Landslide activity refers to a wide range of gravity driven downslope earth movement, including rockslides, rotational slips, mudslides, and shallow debris flows. Geological and geomorphological conditions such as soil type, soil strength, slope angle, and slope height predispose slopes to failure. Other factors affecting the susceptibility to slope failure include the amount of precipitation, vegetation on the slope, groundwater seepage, and human modifications to the slope. Landslides often result in damage to property and roadways and can cause them to become unsafe due to displacement of the subsurface.

A majority of the existing development in Rolling Hills is located on hilly terrain and have a greater potential to experience landslide hazards. Many of the canyons in Rolling Hills exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage, leaving them susceptible to slope failure. Figure 2 shows the landslide zones within the City of Rolling Hills, as mapped by the California Geological Survey. Landslide activity has been well documented in the region. Relicts of landslides and rockslides are present throughout the City of Rolling Hills. The following major landslides have occurred within and adjacent to the city. All are within the landslide hazards areas identified in Figure 2:

- Portuguese Bend Landslide: Beginning in² 1956 over approximately 270 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Abalone Cove Landslide: Beginning in 1974 over 80 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Klondike Canyon Landslide: Beginning in 1979 over to the south near the coastline
- Flying Triangle Landslide: Beginning in 1970s or 1980s over approximately 70 acres in the south area of the city

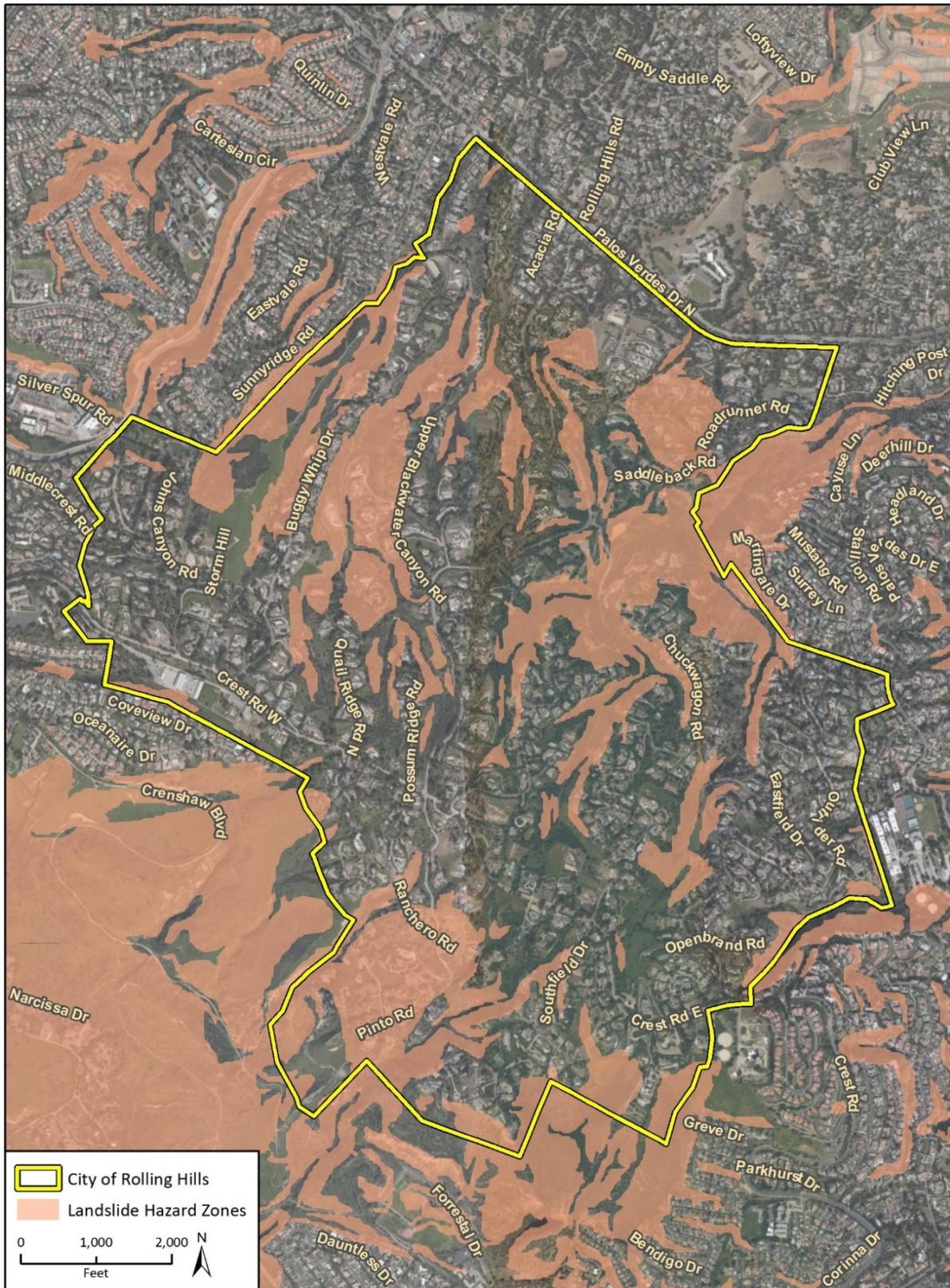
The Flying Triangle Landslide continues to impact the southeast portion of the city through impacts to private roads and requiring above-ground utility lines. This area is relatively unsuitable for development due to the ongoing changes in topography.

Seismic Hazards

Rolling Hills is located in a seismically active region of southern California. The last major earthquake in the Los Angeles area was the 5.1 magnitude La Habra earthquake in 2014. Rolling Hills is located within 50 miles of the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast

² "Beginning in" is defined as the first noted event of major rock movement

Figure 2 Landslide Hazard Zones



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Additional data provided by California Geologic Survey, 2015.

Fig. 2 Landslide Hazard Zones

fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault. Analysis of seismic data from the region indicates that the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults may generate a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and 7.4, respectively (Southern California Earthquake Center 2013). Figure 3 shows the faults in the vicinity of Rolling Hills.

Typically, seismic shaking and fault rupture are primary hazards as they occur as a direct result of the interaction between the seismic wave energy and the earth’s surface. Secondary hazards, such as liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides, occur as a result of the primary earthquake hazards. Often, earthquake activity can result in other effects such as building damage/collapse, infrastructure failure, pipeline breakage, and damage to transportation and communication facilities. The size of the earthquake and distance from the fault rupture zone typically determine the severity of these events.

Seismic Shaking

Seismic shaking, or ground shaking, refers to the movement of the earth’s surface resulting from the energy release by an earthquake. Seismic shaking is typically the primary cause of property damage resulting from earthquake activity. Seismic shaking has the ability to destroy buildings, roadways, powerlines, and pipelines. Energy transmitted through the ground has the potential to travel hundreds of miles and may cause damage in many locations simultaneously. Closer proximity to the fault rupture area results in stronger shaking in that location.

The amount of ground shaking that occurs in a location is dependent on the magnitude of the earthquake, the distance from the epicenter, and local soil conditions. The intensity of ground shaking is related to the peak ground velocity during an earthquake. According to the CGS Map Sheet 48, the earthquake shaking potential for Rolling Hills is moderate. The intensity of seismic shaking is measured using the Modified Mercalli scale.

According to the California Geologic Survey, an active fault is one that has experienced surface movement in the past 11,000 years. The city is located near a number of active faults, including the Cabrillo Fault within city limits. Table 3 includes a list of nearby faults, their respective distance from the city, the maximum credible earthquake generated from each fault, and the likelihood of earthquake occurrence in each case.

Table 3 Faults Located within 50 Miles of Rolling Hills

Fault Name	Approximate Distance from Rolling Hills
Whittier	25 miles east
Newport-Inglewood	9 miles east
Palos Verdes	<1 mile north
Malibu Coast	20 miles northwest
Cabrillo	Located within the City boundaries in the southwest
Santa Monica	20 miles north-northwest

The San Andreas fault is located approximately 80 miles to the east of Rolling Hills. Although the San Andreas fault is located at a greater distance from the city, seismic shaking originating from earthquakes occurring along the San Andreas fault poses a threat to the city. Figure 3 identifies the active and inactive faults located within the city and vicinity.

Fault Rupture

Fault Rupture occurs when seismic movement on a fault breaks through the earth's surface. Hazards related to fault rupture arise when structures are built near or on top of an active fault. While there are a number of seismically active faults in the city and region, there are no active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and delineated by CGS. Figure 3 shows the designated Alquist-Priolo study zones, the closest of which is the Newport-Inglewood Fault approximately nine miles northeast of the city.

Liquefaction and Settlement

Liquefaction is a ground failure phenomenon that occurs as a result of a seismic event. Liquefaction increases water content in surface soils until the soil reaches a semi-liquid state, contributing to a reduction in support, and ultimately resulting in shifting or subsidence of buildings and utilities. Ground failure typically occurs when the following conditions exist:

- Loose, unconsolidated granular soils
- Shallow groundwater
- Strong seismic ground shaking

While the Rolling Hills has moderate to high seismic shaking potential, the subsurface soils generally lack saturated alluvial deposits and thick, granular soils. Figure 4 shows the liquefaction hazard areas, which are located in the low-lying areas to the east and north, generally surrounding the Los Angeles Harbor and Harbor Lake. Liquefaction potential for Rolling Hills is low, as shown in Figure 4.

Earthquake Induced Landslides

Ground failure or destabilization of slopes resulting from an earthquake can also occur following seismic activity in the form of Earthquake-Induced Landslides. Earthquake-induced landslides typically occur in areas with steep slopes or unstable soil conditions. As discussed above under Landslide Hazards, the risk of landslide activity in Rolling Hills is high. Much of the city overlies areas that have been identified as landslide zones by the California Geological Survey. Risk of landslide activity increases following rainfall events that result in saturated soils. Both shallow and deep seeded landslides have historically occurred in the city.

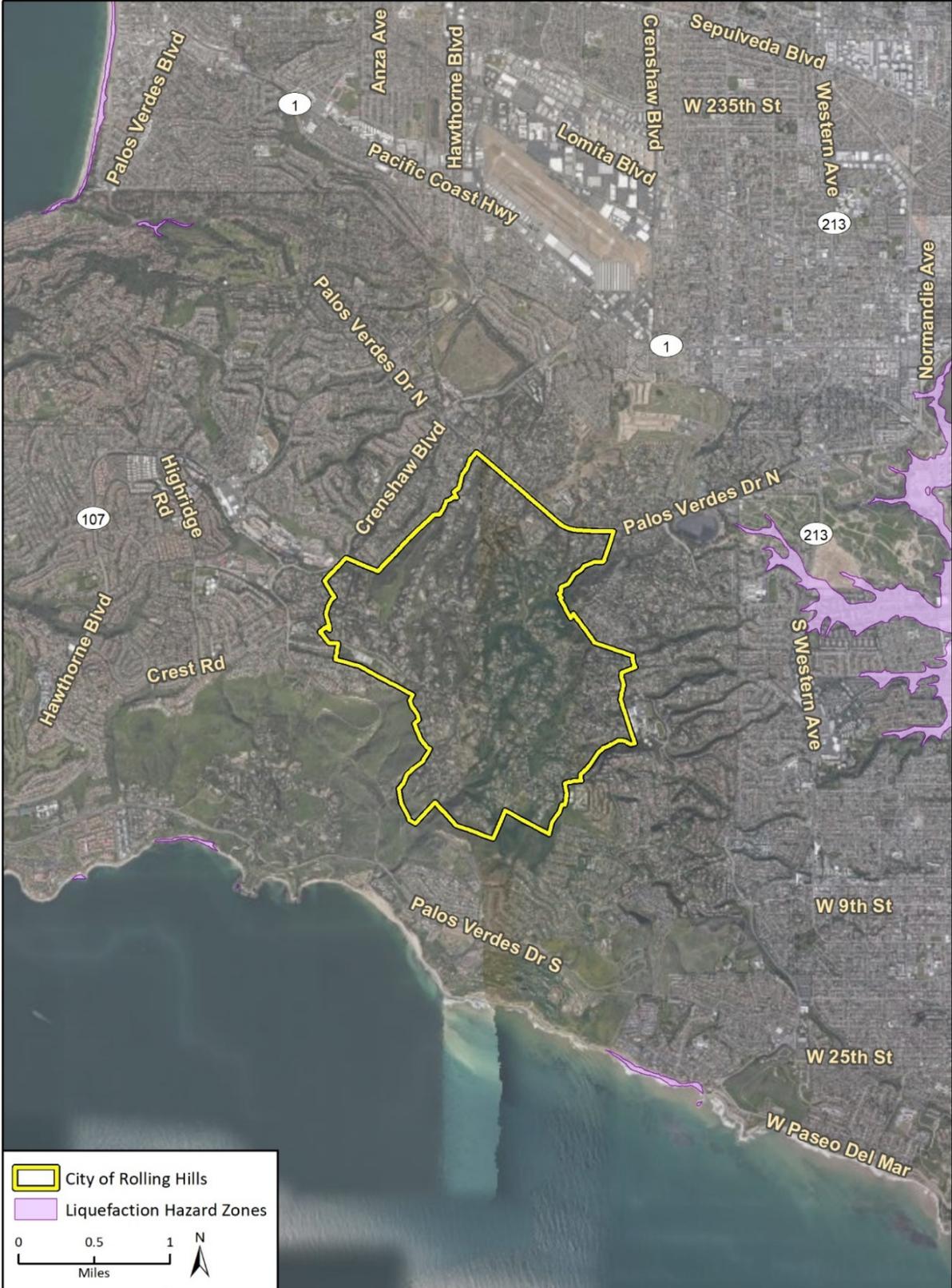
Flooding

Rolling Hills participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. According to the FEMA flood maps, the city is not located in a flood hazard area and currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2008). Overall, the city is not in any immediate risk from flooding caused by overflowing water bodies or heavy rains. However, runoff and minor flooding pose a risk if drainage systems fail along canyon bottoms, where natural drainage leads to.

Figure 3 Faults in the Vicinity of Rolling Hills



Figure 4 Rolling Hills Liquefaction Hazard Areas



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Fig. X Liquefaction Zones

Dam Inundation

No water storage facilities that the State of California identifies as dams are located in Rolling Hills. Just outside city limits are three water storage facilities identified as dams, which include:

- **Palos Verdes Reservoir:** Owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and located at the southeast corner of Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive North. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the reservoir can hold approximately 1,100 gallons of water and has an extremely high downstream hazard.
- **10 MG Walteria and 18 MG Walteria:** Two reinforced concrete tanks which are owned by the City of Torrance and located at Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road. The tanks can hold 31 and 58 acre-feet (AF) of water respectively.

Senate Bill 92, adopted in 2017, is a new dam safety requirement that requires dam owners to map the downstream inundation areas for dams governed by the Department of Water Resources. Figure 5 shows the inundation areas for the nearby water storage facilities. Due to their locations and the topography of the area, the inundation areas do not enter or affect any portion of the city.

Wildland and Urban Fires

The entire City of Rolling Hills is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), as shown in Figure 6. Rolling Hills terrain is comprised of several large and steep canyons that limit and challenge vegetation management and present conditions where a fire can quickly travels up and downslope to nearby homes. Due to the rural nature and large residential lots, many homes are surrounded by substantial vegetation and dense brush than in more suburban settings. The bridge trails for hikers and equestrian access also contain dense vegetation and management difficulties, which contributes to the fire risk of the city. Electrical power lines pose a hazard to starting fires in the city if lines are not automatically de-energized when knocked down by extreme weather or if the surrounding vegetation is not adequately managed.

There is a history of fires in the city and the surrounding Palos Verdes Peninsula. Three major fires have been documented on the Peninsula and in the city in:

- 1973: almost 1,000 acres burned, and 13 homes destroyed
- 2005: 212 acres burned near Del Cero Park
- 2009: 230 acres burned and forced 1,200 residents on the Peninsula to evacuate

For many of the developed residences in the city that are vulnerable to fires, their risk may increase with the presence of construction techniques that may not meet current wildfire standards. Rolling Hills Building Code and Los Angeles County Fire Department, under the VHFHSZ standards, require new development to include more stringent design and material standards for roofing, eaves, and rafter tails as well as exterior finishes and fire buffer zones. While compliance with these standards reduces the vulnerability to new structures, existing structures that have not complied with these standards may be susceptible to undue fire risk.

Existing Fire Risk Reduction Strategies

- Rolling Hills Municipal Code (RHMC) Chapter 8.30: Fire Fuel Abatement
- VHRHSZ building requirements

- Los Angeles County Fire Department property line and structure vegetation buffer requirements
- Rolling Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan vegetation management standard recommendations
- Rolling Hills Community Association

Figure 5 Dam Inundation Areas



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Additional data provided by California Department of Water Resources, 2020.

Fig. 5 Dam Inundation

Figure 6 Fire Hazard Zones



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Additional data provided by CalFire, 2020.

Fig. 6 Fire Hazard Zone

Hazardous Materials

According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), there are no hazardous waste sites or facilities in Rolling Hills (DTSC 2020). The city and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster.

The city is not located near any major transit routes involving transport of a substantial quantity of hazardous material through the city. However, the nearby oil refineries (located along Sepulveda Boulevard approximately six miles northeast) and Port operations (located approximately three miles to the east) could create air quality impacts if wind patterns and release events occur. Air quality impacts are discussed in the *Open Space and Conservation Element* of the Rolling Hills General Plan.

Emergency Response and Evacuation

Police Response and Crime

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is contracted with the city to provide police services and protection to the city. The Lomita Station of the Sheriff's Department located at 26123 Narbonne Avenue, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Portuguese Bend Road entrance, serves the city.

According to the Lomita Station crimes report from January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020, Rolling Hills had three reported crimes (LACSD 2020). The crimes were related to theft, assault, and burglary. Outside the city limits and in the Lomita District, 433 crimes were reported during this same period, 71 of which were violent crimes (LACSD 2020). The difference in crimes in the city and the surrounding area is attributed to the private nature of the City. There are three entrances to the city, all of which are gated and staffed 24 hours a day. Visitors are required to be on a resident's guest list in order to enter city limits. This reduces crime within the city and demand on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Fire Response

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides emergency operations support to the City. Fire Station 56, located at 12 Crest Road West, serves the city under Battalion 14, which also serves the remaining Palos Verdes Peninsula, Lomita, and Catalina Island. Fire response constraints in the city include ability to access certain homes or areas due to inadequate road widths for fire maneuvering. One of the major topics of concern related to fire response in the city relates to vegetation clearing along roadways. Ten-foot clearance on each side of the roadway, especially the limited access roads, is important for fire response and evacuation during a fire, according to Scott Hale, Assistant Fire Chief.

Evacuation Strategies and Routes

Because a variety of hazards could affect city residents, it is vital to identify critical routes for evacuation in the event of a major event. Figure 7 identifies the existing evacuation routes in the city, which are limited to:

- Main Gate at Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North

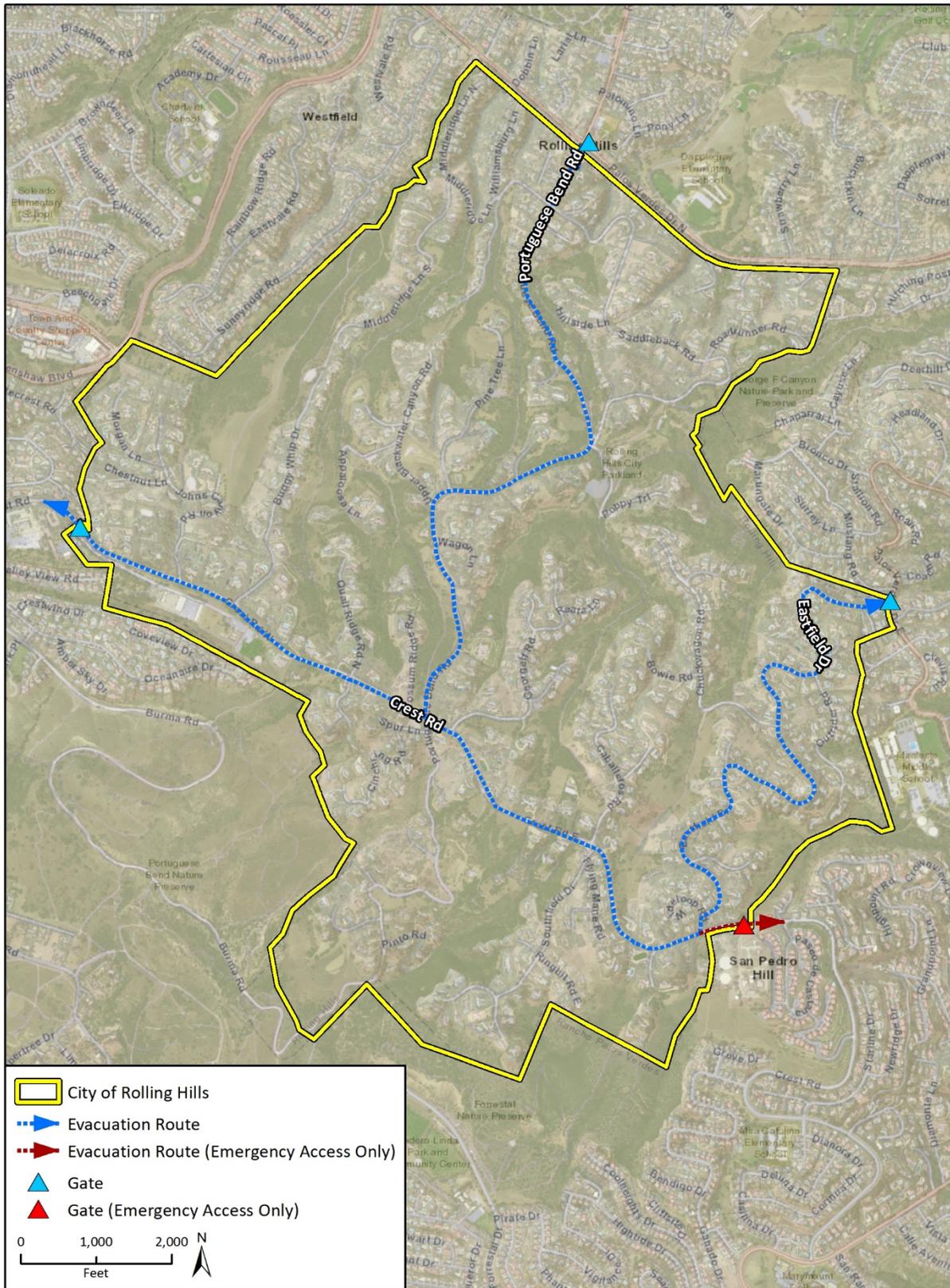
- Crest Gate at Crest Road near Crenshaw Blvd
- Eastfield Gate at Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive East
- Crest Road East Gate at the end of Crest Road East

Crest Road East Gate at the end of Crest Road East gate has recently been updated with a motor and has no guards. This gate is available as an emergency exit to the city during emergencies. The recently adopted Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the city establishes evacuation strategies and methodologies for the city, which include:

- Using the City's Block Captains as important coordinators and managers of residents in the 24 City zones³
- Communication goals between the City, emergency responders, Rolling Hills Community Association, and residents
- Details for residents regarding how people get notified during an actual evacuation and the responsibilities and operations of the Emergency Operations Center
- Traffic control responsibilities and levels
- Identification of special need residents who may need specific attention and/or assistance

³ The city is divided into 24 zones and each zone has 2-3 block captains to represent the residents within the zone.

Figure 7 Existing Evacuation Routes



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Fig. 7 Evacuation Routes

Climate Change Vulnerability

In accordance with Senate Bill 379, this section provides a climate change vulnerability assessment for Rolling Hills, which evaluates the potential impacts of climate change on community assets and populations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report defines vulnerability as “the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected.” It adds that vulnerability “encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt” (IPCC, 2013). Understanding the vulnerabilities that the city may face due to climate change provides a foundation to define future adaptation strategies for the Safety Element update and other planning efforts in Rolling Hills and the region.

Consistent with the California Adaptation Planning Guide (Cal OES 2020) the assessment is comprised of the following five elements:

- **Exposure** – the nature and degree to which the community experiences a stress or hazard;
- **Sensitivity** – the aspects of the community (i.e., people, structures, and functions) most affected by the identified exposures;
- **Potential Impacts** – the nature and degree to which the community is affected by a given stressor, change, or disturbance;
- **Adaptive Capacity** – the ability to cope with extreme events, to make changes, or to transform to a greater extent, including the ability to moderate potential damages and to take advantage of opportunities; and
- **Vulnerability Scoring** – systematic scoring based on potential impacts and adaptive capacity, to inform major climate vulnerabilities to address adaptation framework strategies.

In addition to City data, Cal-Adapt was used to complete the assessment. Cal-Adapt is an interactive, online platform developed by the University of California and Berkeley to synthesize climate change projections and climate impact research for California’s scientists and planners. This assessment uses Cal-Adapt to study potential future changes in average and extreme temperatures, precipitation, wildfire, and storms. Cal-Adapt is consistent with State guidance to use the “best available science” for evaluating climate change vulnerability.

This assessment uses two greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenarios included in Cal-Adapt’s analysis: Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5. RCP 4.5 describes a scenario in which GHG emissions peak around 2050, decline over the next 30 years and then stabilize by 2100 while RCP 8.5 is the scenario in which GHG emissions continue to rise through the middle of the century before leveling off around 2100. The climate projections used in this report are from four models selected by California’s Climate Action Team Research Working Group and the California Department of Water Resources. These models include:

- A *warm/dry* simulation (HadGEM2-ES)
- A *cooler/wetter* simulation (CNRM-CM5)
- An *average* simulation (CanESM2)

- The model that presents a simulation most unlike these three and incorporates 10 other models, for full representation of possible forecasts (MIROC5)⁴

The average of the model projections is used in this analysis.

Exposure

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has the potential to adversely affect local health, natural resources, infrastructure, emergency response, and many other facets of society. Projected changes to climate are dependent on location. According to Cal-Adapt, climate change could lead to increasing temperatures, temperature extremes, and changes in precipitation patterns in Rolling Hills. These conditions could lead to exposure associated with extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and extreme storms in the region. The climate hazards of concern for Rolling Hills addressed in this analysis are:

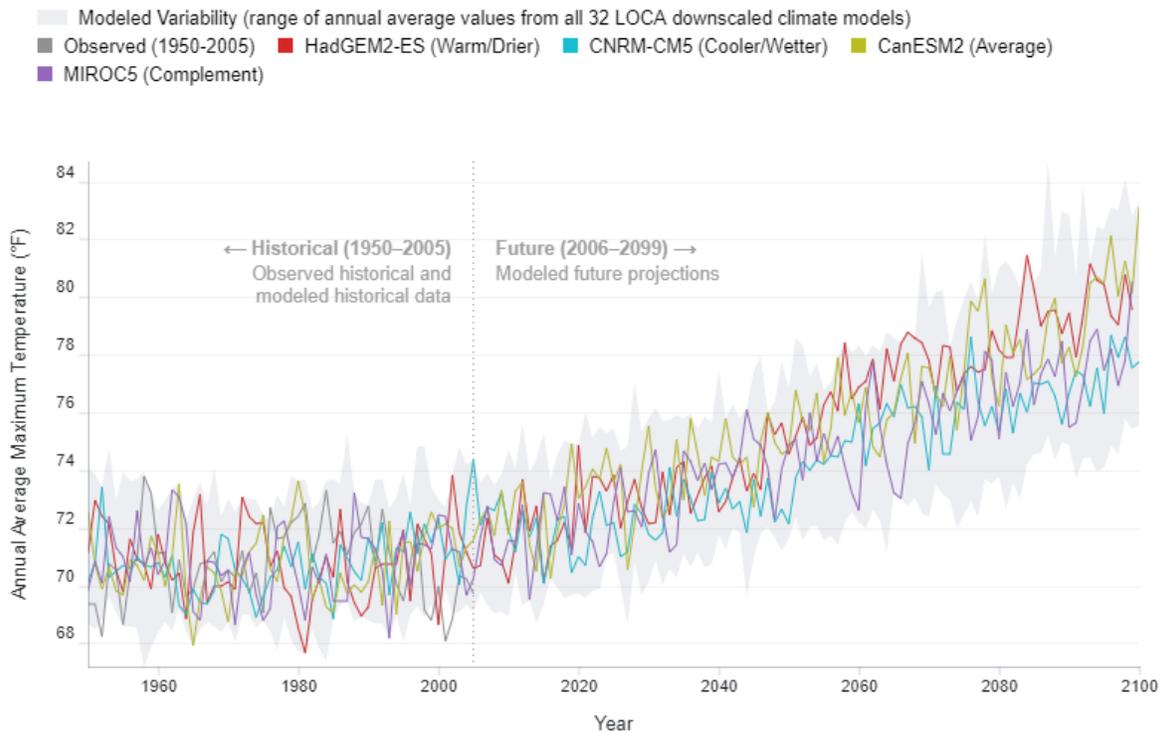
- Extreme Heat
- Storms and Extreme Weather
- Drought
- Wildfire

Extreme Heat

Figure 8 below shows observed and projected annual average maximum temperature in Rolling Hills. As shown in Figure 8, average temperatures in the city and region have increased, which is a trend at both the local scale and the global scale. Compared to 1990, annual average maximum temperatures in Rolling Hills are expected to rise between 1.8°F and 6.6°F by the end of the century, depending on the GHG emissions scenario (CEC 2020).

⁴ There were 10 California GCM models that were ranked from 1-10 by California's Climate Action Team Research Working Group and the California Department of Water Resources for different temperature and precipitation factors. The models ranged from the "warm/dry" model which had all metrics closest to 1 to the "cool/wet" model which had all metrics closest to 10. The MIROC5 displays a pattern of ranking that is most unlike the other 3 models and therefore, is included to represent the full spread of all 10 model simulations.

Figure 8 Historical and Projected Annual Average Maximum Temperature in Rolling Hills⁵



Extreme heat is a period when temperatures are abnormally high relative to the normal temperature range. There are generally three types of extreme heat events:

- **Extreme Heat Days:** a day during which the maximum temperature surpasses 98 percent of all historic high temperatures for the area, using the time between April and October from 1950 to 2005 as the baseline
- **Warm Nights:** a day between April to October when the minimum temperature exceeds 98 percent of all historic minimum daytime temperatures observed between 1950 to 2005
- **Extreme Heat Waves:** a successive series of extreme heat days and warm nights where extreme temperatures do not abate. While no universally accepted minimum length of time for a heatwave event exists, Cal-Adapt considers four, successive extreme heat days and warm nights to be the minimum threshold for an extreme heatwave

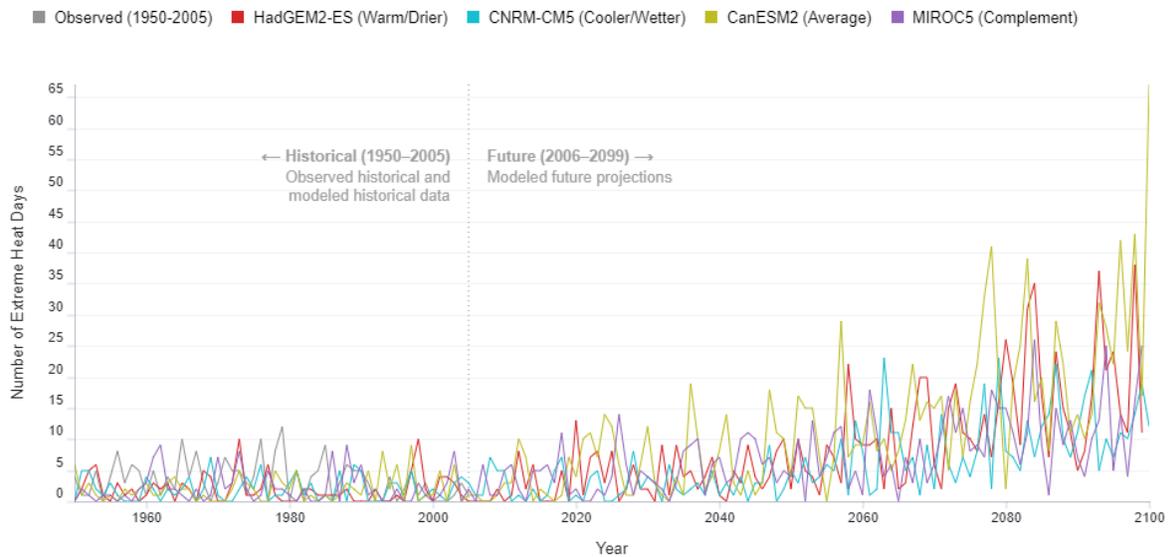
Extreme heat events will feel different from region to region since different areas have different historic high temperatures. For example, an extreme heat day on the coast will feel different than an extreme heat day in the desert. According to Cal-Adapt, an extreme heat day in Rolling Hills involves a temperature that exceeds 91.7° F (CEC 2020).

Historically (between 1950 and 2005), Rolling Hills experienced an average four extreme heat days per year, typically occurring between April and October. As a result of rising average temperatures and climate change as discussed above, the city is projected to experience between 8 and 14 extreme heat days annually from 2030 to 2099 under medium and high emissions projections (CEC

⁵ Chart shows annual average maximum temperature for Rolling Hills (Grid Cell 33.78125, -118.34375) under RCP 8.5 (emissions continue to rise strongly through 2050 and plateau around 2100)

2020). As shown in Figure 9, the number of extreme heat days each year is variable, but overall they are increasing from historic averages and would continue to increase through the century.

Figure 9 Number of Extreme Heat Days by Year in Rolling Hills⁶



Extreme heat waves are defined as four or more consecutive extreme heat days. These events have been historically infrequent in Rolling Hills, with the historical average being 0.3 heat waves annually. The city is expected to experience a minor increase in heat wave frequency as the climate changes. Between 2030 and 2099, the city is projected to experience between 0.4 and 1.1 heat waves per year (CEC 2020).

Drought

Droughts are somewhat frequent in California, and currently approximately 42 percent of California’s population are in a drought, or in an abnormally dry area (NIDIS 2020). Changes in weather patterns resulting in increases in global average temperatures are already causing decreases in snowpack, which provides as much as a third of California’s water supply (DWR 2019). According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Los Angeles County and Rolling Hills are not currently experiencing drought conditions based on this mapping (National Drought Mitigation Center 2020). Southern California is not currently considered to be in a drought condition, while other parts of the State (northern California and the Sierra Nevada mountain range) are experiencing moderate drought conditions due to lower than average precipitation.

The projected changes in annual precipitation for Rolling Hills are shown in Table 4. Under both the medium and high GHG emissions scenarios, Rolling Hills is not expected to experience substantial changes in average precipitation. However, the city would experience increased variability in precipitation. The city’s minimum annual precipitation would decrease while the maximum annual precipitation would increase under both emissions scenarios.

⁶ Chart shows the number of days in a year when daily maximum temperature is above the extreme heat threshold of 91.7°F for Rolling Hills (Grid Cell 33.78125, -118.34375) under RCP 8.5

Table 4 Changes in Annual Average Precipitation

Scenario	Annual Precipitation		
	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
Historical Average (1950-2005)	6.7	19.2	37.0
Medium Emissions Scenario (2030-2099)	6.0	21.3	48.2
High Emissions Scenario (2030-2099)	4.8	22.2	57.0

Source: CEC 2020

While overall precipitation levels are expected to change substantially in the city, a drought may occur when conditions in areas where water sources are located experience drought conditions, even though the local region does not. Rolling Hills obtains its water from the Palos Verdes District of the California Water Service. Water supply from the District to this area is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which imports its water from the Colorado River and State Water Project from northern California.

Recent research suggests that extended drought occurrence could become more pervasive in future decades (CEC 2020). An extended drought scenario is predicted for all of California from 2051 to 2070 under a climate model using business as usual conditions. The extended drought scenario is based on the average annual precipitation over 20 years. This average value equates to 78 percent of the historic median annual precipitation averaged for the North Coast and Sierra California Climate Tracker regions. Overall precipitation levels in the city are not expected to be significantly impacted. However, variability in precipitation and drought conditions in other areas of the state could impact water supply.

Wildfire

Wildfire hazards to the city are widespread and discussed above under Hazards of Concern. Wildfires in the city are influenced by a range of factors including droughts, severe winds, wildfire fuel (i.e. dry vegetation), and previous wildfire suppression activity. Climate change is expected to exacerbate wildfire risk by creating hotter and drier landscapes, as discussed above under Extreme Heat, which are more susceptible to burning.

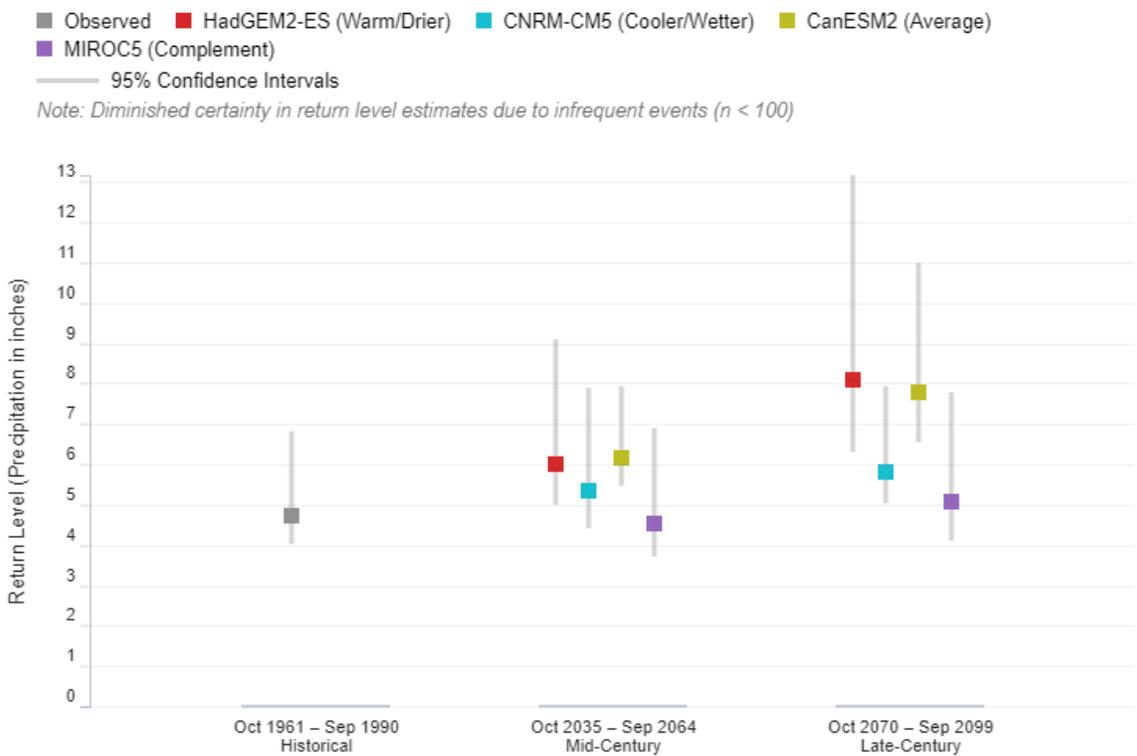
Cal-Adapt provides projections for annual mean hectares burned. This projection only accounts for areas that could experience wildfire events. Los Angeles County wildfire occurrence is anticipated to increase under all emissions and population scenarios from historic averages (CEC 2020). In 2020 alone, California has experienced six of the 20 largest fires in modern history and as of the date of this report, over three million acres of land have burned. These fires arose during extreme fire weather conditions and record-breaking heat waves across California. The observed frequency of autumn days with extreme fire weather, which are associated with extreme autumn wildfires, has more than doubled in California since the early 1980s (Goss et al. 2020). Due to the increases in factors that contribute to wildfires (variability in precipitation, hotter and dryer landscapes) and because the city is in a VHFZSZ, it is expected to see an increase in wildfire hazards due to climate change.

Storms and Extreme Weather

A warming climate is likely to influence the frequency and intensity of storms. Both increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns can lead to altered seasons and intense rainstorms in Rolling Hills. As depicted in Figure 10, there is a high degree of variability in these extreme

precipitation event projections, with some models projecting little to no change while others project increased intensity (CEC 2020) These projections further vary depending on the return period⁷ selected. Increasing intensity of rainstorms could result in more flooding, which could adversely affect human safety in Rolling Hills. During years of intense levels of precipitation and storms, the city could also see an increase in the number of landslides or make landslides greater than usual. Due to the number of landslide hazard zones in the city, as shown in 2, Rolling Hills may see an increase in landslides due to changes in precipitation from climate change.

Figure 10 Changes in Intensity of Extreme Precipitation Events in Rolling Hills⁸



Note: Diminished certainty in return level estimates due to infrequent events (n < 100)

Community Sensitivity

As climate change occurs, communities will be affected to varying degrees depending on the exposure levels as well as how sensitive the communities are to impacts. Virtually all people and assets in a community will be affected by climate change in some way. However, it is not usually feasible to assess the vulnerability of every population group or every asset in the community. The sensitivity of a community depends on the aspects of the community (i.e., specific populations and assets) most affected by the identified exposures, and how prevalent they are in the community.

As described in the Exposure section above, the most likely primary impacts of climate change that Rolling Hills may experience include extreme heat, increases in wildfire risk and prevalence, and drought conditions affecting water supply. This section of the Vulnerability Analysis identifies the

⁷ Average time between extreme events (e.g., “1 in 100-year event”)

⁸ Chart shows estimated intensity (*Return Level*) of Extreme Precipitation events which are exceeded on average once every 20 years (*Return Period*) for Rolling Hills (Grid Cell 33.78125, -118.34375) under RCP 8.5 emissions scenario. Extreme precipitation events are described as days during a water year (Oct-Sept) with 2-day rainfall totals above an extreme threshold of 1.02 inches.

sensitive areas of the Rolling Hills community from the demographic and community facility information in the Introduction section above and is based on the following categories:

- Populations
- Infrastructure
- Buildings and Facilities
- Services

Populations

The vulnerability assessment considers the following population groups that may be disproportionately harmed by the impacts of climate change in Rolling Hills.

Children: Approximately 6.6 percent of the total population in Rolling Hills are ten years old or younger.

Persons in poverty: This is identified for people living in households with an income below the poverty limit, which is \$26,200 for a household of four people. There are approximately 26 people in Rolling Hills who live in poverty, or approximately 1.6 percent of the total population for whom poverty status can be determined.

Persons with chronic health conditions: These are people who have a long-term or permanent health condition that can create regular challenges in their day-to-day lives. These health problems include obesity, cancer, heart disease, and arthritis. In addition, those with any kind of disability, including mobility challenges, hearing, or vision impairments, behavioral disabilities, and challenges living independently or taking care of themselves. Approximately 11.5 percent of the population have identified having a disability.

Renters: These are people who live in homes that they (or the head of their household) do not own. Approximately 24 housing units, or 4 percent of the housing units in Rolling Hills, are renter-occupied.

Older adults: These are persons 65 years or older are more at risk for climate change impacts, especially those living alone. 28 percent of the population of Rolling Hills are over 65 years, and 15 percent of those over 65 years live alone.

Limited English proficiency: Approximately three percent of households have identified being limited English-speaking. Of those, a majority spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages and Spanish.

Infrastructure

The vulnerability assessment considers the following infrastructure in the city that was identified as bring sensitive to climate change impacts.

Access Roads: These roadways are one of a few, or the only, ways in and out of some communities or neighborhoods. The single or limited number of entry and exit points does not make the road itself more vulnerable than other roads, but loss of these roadways can effectively cut off large numbers of people from other areas in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the rest of Los Angeles County. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are the primary access roads into and out of the city.

Bridle Trails: Throughout the community are over 25 miles of trails available to city residents and non-city residents who obtain permits. The trails are maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association and located primarily in canyon areas.

Electrical Substations: Electrical substations are facilities that convert electricity from one voltage to another, making it suitable for long-distance transmission or for use by homes, businesses, and other electrical customers. There are no electrical substations located within city limits, but three are located near the city in Rancho Palos Verdes and owned/operated by Southern California Edison.

Electrical Utility Lines: These lines transmit and deliver electricity from Southern California Edison to the city. The city has both underground and overhead electric utility lines.

Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines: Natural gas pipelines carry large volumes of natural gas between communities. There are no transmission lines in the city. One transmission line ends at the intersection of Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive, adjacent to city limits.

Water Reservoirs and System: The system that stores and supplies drinking water for residents. Palos Verdes Water District of the California Water Service supplies water to Rolling Hills. There are two California Water Service water reservoirs within the city limits.

Building and Facilities

Residential Structures: Residential structures in Rolling Hills consist of single-family dwellings and are the main type of building in the city.

Community Facilities and Government Buildings: Community and government facilities are public properties and are important to the residents as well as the operation of the city. Rolling Hills is a private community. Therefore, community and government facilities are available only to its residents, which are the Rolling Hills Community Association and City Hall.

Community Parks: Storm Hill is an open space area owned by the City which is utilized for equestrian purposes. The City also has two equestrian rings and tennis courts.

Schools: Rancho Del Mar High School is the only school in the city

Public Safety Facilities: Public safety facilities include sheriff and fire buildings. Los Angeles County Fire Station 56 is located within the city. The Lomita Station of the Los Angeles County Sheriff serves the city but is not located within the city limits.

Services

Public Safety Response: Public safety services are provided by law enforcement and fire agencies. These agencies include the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments.

Water Services: These services involve treating and transporting water to be used by customers and transporting and treating wastewater so it can be safely released into the environment. California Water Service provides drinking water to the city.

Energy delivery: Energy services in Rolling Hills include electricity and natural gas delivered through utility lines from Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company.

Potential Impacts

Impact vulnerability is the nature and degree to which the community is affected by a given stressor, change, or disturbance. As climate change continues to progress, increased stress to vulnerable community populations, infrastructure, building and facilities, and services are expected. As described in the Exposure section above, the most likely primary impacts of climate change

Rolling Hills may experience include extreme heat, wildfire, and drought conditions impacting water supply. The vulnerability of Rolling Hills to the primary exposures of climate change is discussed below. The vulnerability scores discussed in the Vulnerability Scoring section are based on the potential impact analysis below. Each of the vulnerable areas in the city were given a low, medium, or high vulnerability to the potential impacts, based off the descriptions in the Vulnerability Scoring section.

Temperature and Extreme Heat

As describe in the Exposure section above, Rolling Hills may experience a variety of impacts from climate change, which include an increase of average annual maximum temperature between 1.8°F and 6.6°F by the end of the century (CEC 2020) This increase in temperature may result in changes in seasonal patterns, an increase in heat waves, drought, and potentially increased storm frequency and intensity. Rolling Hills is expected to experience between 8 and 14 extreme heat days annually. Overall quality of life in the city would be impacted during extreme heat events as outdoor activities would be limited and overall comfort reduced.

The potential direct and indirect impacts to community populations, infrastructure, building and facilities, and services are described below.

Populations

The vulnerable populations discussed above that are most at risk to extreme heat impacts from climate change are older adults, individuals with chronic conditions such as heart and lung disease, diabetes, and mental illnesses, children, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

The primary vulnerable population to temperature increases and extreme heat in Rolling Hills is older adults, as 28 percent of the city's population is over 65 years. Older adults do not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature and are more likely to have medical conditions that can worsen with extreme heat (CDC 2017a). Older adults who are living alone are even more at risk as the actions necessary to mitigation extreme heat are more difficult alone. Getting water, changing clothes, showering, or turning on the air conditioner may be more difficult for older adults with physical disabilities and do not have a living partner to assist them. Children are also at risk to extreme heat impacts, especially those under the age of four, due to their less-developed physiology, immune system, and dependence on others (CDC 2019).

Extreme heat can be highly dangerous to persons with chronic health conditions, because very high temperatures can exacerbate diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, respiratory ailments, and other diseases. Some of these people have weakened immune systems which can make them more likely to contract illnesses and vulnerable to human health hazards. In addition, they may be taking medications that make the effects of extreme heat worse (CDC 2017b).

While there are not many households in poverty in the city, those who are have limited financial resources to upgrade their homes and use air conditioning to better resist extreme heat.

Each of the vulnerable populations has a high potential impact from extreme heat.

Infrastructure

Extreme heat and temperature increase due to climate change would not directly impact infrastructure in Rolling Hills. Indirect impacts on electrical substations and utility lines could occur from increased use of the system from running air conditioners, leading to power outages in the

city. In addition, indirect impacts to the water system through increased evaporation or water use could occur. These infrastructure facilities would have a medium potential impact from extreme heat.

Building and Facilities

Extreme heat and temperature increase due to climate change

would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Rolling Hills. Extreme heat and temperature increases could impact the ability for residents to enjoy community park facilities. In addition, extreme heat could create wildfire conditions which could indirectly impact all buildings and facilities within the city. Overall, there is a low potential impact from extreme heat to City buildings and facilities.

Services

The important services discussed above that are most at risk to extreme heat impacts from climate change are water services and energy delivery.

High temperatures would contribute to a reduced water supply. For instance, higher temperatures will melt the Sierra snowpack earlier and drive the snowline higher. In addition to a reduction in precipitation falling as snow, higher temperatures would result in less snowpack to supply water to California users (CNRA 2009). Increased temperatures could therefore result in decreased potable water supply for the city which relies on imported water from the State Water Project and Colorado River water (Cal Water 2016). Therefore, there is a medium potential impact for high temperatures and drought on the city.

Long periods of intense heat may result in increased use of electricity for home cooling purposes that could tax the overall electrical system and result in electricity restrictions or blackouts. During extreme heat events in August 2020, California had its first rolling blackouts since 2001. Therefore, the city will experience greater potential for power outages due to climate change and has a medium potential impact.

Storms/Extreme Weather and Drought

As mentioned in the Exposure section above, the storm and extreme weather projections for Rolling Hills show variability, with some models projecting little to no change while others project increased intensity. This could result in impacts to community populations, infrastructure, building and facilities, and services, particularly related to temporary flooding and landslides which can be triggered from intense rainfall events. The city currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2008). Increases in intense precipitation could result in slope failures in landslide prone areas shown in Figure 2, including the existing Flying Triangle Landslide area.

As discussed in the Exposure section above, Rolling Hills is not expected to experience substantial changes in average precipitation. However, the city receives its water from the Colorado River and State Water Project from northern California, and extended drought scenario is predicted for these areas, which equates to 78 percent of the historic median annual precipitation. Therefore, areas that supply water to Rolling Hills and other jurisdictions are expected to see a 22 percent reduction of their water supply, which could reduce the amount of potable water available for delivery to the city.

Populations

The city's older adults and those with chronic health conditions are the populations in Rolling Hills that are more at risk of injury and or death resulting from minor floods or fallen trees created by more intense storms induced by climate change. Indirect impacts to these populations from impacts to the transportation system could include reduced access to emergency response and health centers for those who need consistent medical care. There is a medium potential for impacts to these vulnerable populations.

Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure most at risk in Rolling Hills to minor flooding impacts and landslides from increased storms would be access roads, bridle trails, electrical utility lines, and water systems. Because Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from the city, any damage or closure can effectively isolate areas of the city, potentially creating severe health and safety risks. Bridle trails are predominantly located in canyon areas, which would be more susceptible to flooding and landslides. Landslides could impact utilities, as seen in the existing Flying Triangle Landslide area, which has moved utility lines above ground in certain areas due to the continuous movement of the earth in this area. Due to the limited accessibility of the city, there is a medium potential impact for access roads and bridle trails and a low potential impact for the remaining vulnerable infrastructure.

Building and Facilities

Buildings and facilities most at risk from impacts of more intense storms would be residential structures and community parks. The proper functioning residential septic systems could be impacted by more intense rainfall and minor flooding. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall. Residential structures located in landslide hazard areas shown in Figure 2 could be impacted. In addition, the Storm Hill open space area is an important facility in the city and is also located in a landslide area. Due to the variability in weather projections, there is a low potential impact for buildings and facilities.

Services

Increased storm intensity and drought conditions from climate change could impact public safety response, energy delivery and water services in the city. Emergency response systems could be impacted from flooding or landslides within or outside of city limits, which could restrict the ability for emergency response to access the city and impact response times.

More intense storms could adversely affect electricity delivery from Southern California Edison from power outages caused by downed electrical utility lines from wind of landslide events. In addition, water service from the California Water Service Palos Verdes District could be affected by increased drought conditions throughout the state. There is a medium potential impact for buildings and facilities.

Wildfire

Wildfires in Los Angeles County are projected to increase under all emissions and population scenarios. As discussed in the Exposure section above, wildfire hazards to the city are widespread and wildfire conditions are expected to be exacerbated by a range of factors including droughts,

more severe winds, wildfire fuel (i.e., dry vegetation), and hotter and drier landscapes from increased temperatures and extreme heat.

Populations

The vulnerable populations discussed above that are most at risk to increases in wildfire from climate change are older adults, persons in poverty, and persons with chronic health conditions. Older adults are almost three times more likely to die in a fire than the overall population (USFA 2017), and typically have increased mobility issues or mental health. Therefore, older adults, especially those in the city living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when there is a need. Those in Rolling Hills with limited financial resources are more unlikely to retrofit their homes to better resist climate-related hazards such as wildfires.

In addition to direct impacts, indirect impacts such as poor air quality also creates public health hazards to the city. Recent California wildfires in August and September 2020 had areas of California recording the worst air quality in the world and highlighted the hazards of secondary impacts from wildfires, which could impact the city from fires throughout the State. Older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions are likely to be impacted most by these secondary impacts. Also, those with limited finances or without air conditioning would be impacted by secondary smoke impacts that occur during local and regional wildfires. There is a high potential for wildfire impacts on the vulnerable populations.

Infrastructure

All city infrastructure is located in a VHFHSZ. The critical infrastructure most at risk to increased wildfire impacts would be access roads, bridle trails, above ground electrical utility lines, and water systems. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from many areas of the city. Wildfires may not significantly damage the infrastructure, but they could result in closure or the inability to travel on them during wildfire events, which can isolate areas of the city and create severe health and safety risks. There is a high potential for impacts to access roads from wildfires.

Wildfires are unlikely to substantially damage trails directly, but they can force widespread trail closures which are an important asset to the community. Above ground electrical lines are also at risk from wildfires and could impact electricity services to residents in Rolling Hills. Water systems could be directly affected by wildfires in addition to indirect impacts from water use from firefighting activities and peak load water supply in remote portions of the city. There is a medium potential for impact to these infrastructures.

Building and Facilities

As discussed under Hazards of Concern section, all of Rolling Hills is designated a VHFHSZ. Therefore, all buildings and facilities within the city are at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change. The greatest potential impact of life and well-being would be to residential structures, which are the primary structures in the city. In addition, impacts to Rolling Hills Community Association and City Hall structures would impact community functions and government services. There is a high potential for impact to buildings and facilities from wildfire.

Services

Energy delivery, specifically electricity delivery, could be impacted from increased wildfires. Direct impacts to Southern California Edison electricity transmission infrastructure could impact power in the city. In addition, utility companies have begun shutting off power to areas to avoid wildfires during times when weather creates high wildfire risk. In addition, public safety services could be strained during wildfire events, which are expected to increase. There is a medium potential for impacts to services in the city from wildfire.

Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is the current ability to cope with climate change impacts to community populations and assets (Cal OES 2020). Specifically, adaptative capacity is the ability to mitigate the potential impacts and damages or take advantage of the opportunities from climate change. Many communities have adaptive capacity in the form of policies, plans, programs, or institutions. Rolling Hills has actively taken steps to increase the city’s adaptive capacity, which include preparing a community wildfire protection plan, hazard mitigation plan, undergrounding utility lines, and adopting strict new building standards. Table 5 lists various guiding documents, projects, plans, and policies that have an underlying emphasis on adaptive capacity in the city.

Table 5 Rolling Hills Existing Adaptive Capacity

Project, Policy, or Plan	Year Established	Climate Change Impact
City of Rolling Hill Community Wildfire Protection Plan	2020	Wildfire
City of Rolling Hills Safety Element	2003	Wildfire, Storms
California Water Service Palos Verdes Water District Urban Water Management Plan	2016	Drought
Utility Undergrounding Requirement	n/a	Wildfire
Fire Prevention Power Line Undergrounding	2020	Wildfire
RHMC Chapter 8.30: Fire Fuel Abatement	n/a	Wildfire
Hazard Mitigation Plan	2019	Wildfire, Drought, Storm-induced Landslides
Emergency Operations Plan	2020	Wildfire, Storm, Extreme Heat
Emergency Notification and Notify Me	n/a	Wildfire, Storms
VHFHSZ Building Requirements	n/a	Wildfire
Rolling Hills Municipal Code Requirements for lot slope and lot stability	n/a	Storm-Induced Landslides

Rolling Hills has a number of plans and policies specific to wildfire hazards. The city’s recently adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plan that includes fire mitigation strategies and evacuations strategies specific for the city. In addition, the Hazard Mitigation Plan provides an analysis of historical hazards, a local hazard assessment, hazard impacts on the community, and recommended mitigation strategies. The City requires the undergrounding of utility lines with specific home upgrades and has a reimbursement program for utility pole replacement. In addition, building code requirements for development within VHFHSZ, such as Class A roofing, would help reduce wildfire impacts to structures in the city.

The Rolling Hills Building and Zoning Codes include controls on development on steep slopes and canyon bottoms. In addition, development requires proof of stability of the property through geotechnical reports and only a percentage of each lot can be disturbed.

The Palos Verdes Water District's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) provides water supply and demand projections and includes a climate change analysis. The 2015 UWMP projected that water supply reductions to the District due to climate change would be small for through the end of the century. In addition, the UWMP includes a water shortage contingency plan and demand reduction measures in the event water supply to the District is impacted from drought due to climate change.

In addition, the city's population has a high degree of adaptive capacity due to the high levels of home ownership, low poverty levels, and high average income levels. These characteristics improve resident's ability to upgrade their homes and come back from potential impacts to their property from wildfire and extreme storm events.

Vulnerability Scoring

Vulnerability scores are based on the combination of potential impacts from climate hazards and adaptive capacity in order to identify the climate vulnerabilities in the city to address with additional adaptation strategies. A vulnerability score was determined for each sensitivity area based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity from climate change in the city. Vulnerability was assessed on a scale from 1 to 5:

- V-1: Minimal Vulnerability
- V-2: Low Vulnerability
- V-3: Moderate Vulnerability
- V-4: High
- V-5: Severe

Cal OES recommended the following scoring rubric to determine the vulnerability score for the potential impacts and adaptive capacity.

- **Low Potential Impact:** Impact is unlikely based on projected exposure; would result in minor consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **Medium Potential Impact:** Impact is somewhat likely based on projected exposure; would result in some consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **High Potential Impact:** Impact is highly likely based on projected exposure; would result in substantial consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **Low Adaptive Capacity:** The population or asset lacks capacity to manage climate impact; major changes would be required
- **Medium Adaptive Capacity:** The population or asset has some capacity to manage climate impact; some changes would be required
- **High Adaptive Capacity:** The population or asset has high capacity to manage climate impact; minimal to no changes are required

Table 6 shows how the final vulnerability score was determined. To summarize, potential impacts from climate change that are highly likely to occur in the city based on projected exposure would

create a high vulnerability score. However, if the city has a high adaptive capacity to manage the impact, then the overall vulnerability score would be reduced.

Table 6 Vulnerability Score Matrix

Potential Impacts	High	V-3	V-4	V-5
	Medium	V-2	V-3	V-4
	Low	V-1	V-2	V-3
		High	Medium	Low
Adaptive Capacity				

The vulnerability scoring for the identified population and assets for each climate impact is included below in Table 7 and based on Cal OES California Adaptation Planning Guide. For those populations and assets that are not anticipated to be impacted directly or indirectly from the identified climate impacts, no vulnerability score or color is provided. For example, drought impacts on children were determined to not be a threat in Rolling Hills.

For the purposes of this vulnerability assessment, a score of V-4 or V-5 is considered significant. Populations and assets that score at least a V-4 for one or more exposures are considered substantially vulnerable. As shown in Table 7, the potential impacts from climate change the city’s population and assets are most vulnerable to are wildfire, extreme heat, and landslides. Vulnerable populations such as older adults, residents with chronic health conditions, and those with financial trouble are most at risk to extreme heat and wildfire impacts and are substantially vulnerable to climate change impacts in the city. Access roads and residential structures are also the most vulnerable to wildfire and landslide impacts from climate change. Overall, climate change impacts on wildfire are the greatest potential impact to the city. While the City has adopted a significant number of adaptation strategies related to wildfire impacts, because they were recently adopted and some of the strategies were included as recommendations, it will be important to determine and monitor if implementation is occurring and which recommendations should be included in the Safety Element update.

This vulnerability assessment and the results in Table 7 will be used to identify specific policies and implementable strategies for adapting to climate change in the Safety Element, thus making the Rolling Hills community more resilient.

Table 7 Vulnerability Assessment Results

Community Sensitivity	Storms/Extreme Weather	Extreme Heat	Wildfire	Landslides
Population				
Children		V-3	V-2	V-2
Persons with Chronic Health Conditions	V-2	V-4	V-4	V-2
Persons in Poverty	V-2	V-3	V-4	V-2
Renters		V-3	V-2	V-2
Older Adults	V-2	V-4	V-4	V-2
Limited English Speaking			V-2	V-2
Infrastructure				
Access Roads	V-2		V-4	V-3
Bridle Trails	V-2		V-3	V-2
Electrical Substations	V-1	V-2	V-3	
Electrical Utility Lines	V-2	V-1	V-3	V-2
Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines			V-2	V-2
Water Reservoirs and Systems	V-1	V-2	V-3	V-3
Buildings and Facilities				
Residential Structures	V-1		V-5	V-3
Community Facilities and Government Buildings	V-1		V-4	V-1
Community Parks	V-1	V-1	V-3	V-3
Schools	V-1		V-3	V-1
Public Safety Facilities	V-1		V-3	V-1

Community Sensitivity	Storms/Extreme Weather	Extreme Heat	Wildfire	Landslides
Services				
Public Safety Response	V-2		V-3	V-1
Water Services	V-2	V-2	V-3	V-2
Energy Delivery	V-2	V-3	V-4	V-2

Notes: Drought was not included in this table because the city’s vulnerability to drought is primarily low. White boxes indicate very low to now vulnerability.

Summary of Issues and Opportunities

Existing hazards of concern in the city that should be a major focus of the Safety Element update include landslide and wildfire hazards. In addition, emergency response and evacuation should be a focus due to the city's accessibility issues. Climate change is expected to increase potential hazards the city experiences. From the vulnerability analysis, the city is most vulnerable to wildfire impacts, extreme heat, and landslides impacts from climate change.

Hazards of Concern and Community Sensitivity

While there are a number of hazards that could impacts the city, the following are hazards of concern that pose the greatest challenge to the city.

Wildfire

The greatest hazard of concern for the city is wildfire as the entire city limits are within a VHFHSZ and the city contains many remote areas and limited evacuation routes. Some existing residential and accessory structures are not built to current standards that apply to VHFHSZ and as a result many of these structures may require mitigation and retrofit to reduce this potential threat. The area's most vulnerable to wildfire impacts include older adults, persons with chronic health conditions, residential structures, government and community buildings, and access roads.

Landslides

Landslides are also a major concern for the city, whether they are earthquake induced, induced from high precipitation events, or occur due to the underlying soil conditions. Existing landslides are impacting the southern portion of the city. Climate change has the potential to create more landslide events if Rolling Hills experiences more intense storms and precipitation events. The area's most vulnerable to landslide impacts include access roads, residential structures, and community parks.

Extreme Heat

The city is expected to see increases in the number and length of extreme heat days and events due to climate change, which could impact vulnerable people in the city and lead to increased wildfire risks. The area's most vulnerable to extreme heat impacts from climate change include older adults, persons with chronic health conditions, and the energy system.

Opportunities

The need to further analyze evacuation routes and access is one of the most recent changes in Safety Element requirements. These new requirements focus on the identification of areas where routes are lacking or inadequate. A key opportunity for the Safety Element update is address specific evacuation needs.

The City has recently adopted a number of planning documents, such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan, that seek to reduce the risk of hazards in the city. Many of the strategies included in these documents are recommendations and are used for educational purposes. An opportunity for the Safety Element update would be to include the recommendations

as implementation tools for the Safety Element and to conduct outreach with the community to determine if community preparedness is occurring.

The California Legislature recently adopted Senate Bill 182 (SB 182) and is awaiting Governor approval. SB 182 would require the Safety Element to include a comprehensive retrofit strategy as necessary to reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires. Additionally, in order to reduce development pressures in the VHFHSZ through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, SB 182 requires a lower proportion of state housing allocation to jurisdictions that meet specified conditions. The City should monitor and incorporate these elements as necessary.

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CITY OF ROLLING HILLS

DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE AND SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

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January 2022

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SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update

Project Location: Citywide. Rolling Hills is located in Los Angeles County, on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (See Figure 2.1-1: Project Location.)

Lead agency name and address:

City of Rolling Hills
No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

Contact person and phone number:

John F. Signo, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Services
phone: (310) 377-1521
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Project sponsor's name and address:

City of Rolling Hills
No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

General Plan Description: Citywide

Zoning: Citywide; No proposed zoning changes

Approvals Required: Pursuant to State law, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is empowered to review the housing element of each community to ensure its compliance with the provisions of the Government Code related to facilitating the improvement and development of housing in order to make adequate provisions for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community. HCD has review but not approval authority.

Prior to adoption of the Safety Element, coordination and feedback from Los Angeles County Fire Department, Rolling Hills Community Association, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is required.

The City Council will need to adopt the Negative Declaration for the Housing Element and Safety Element Updates. No other approvals will be required.

Project Description Summary: The Project is the Sixth Cycle, 2021-2029 Housing Element Update of the City of Rolling Hills General Plan and an update to the City's Safety Element to address various natural and human-caused hazards the City has dealt with, including earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and land movement. The Housing Element and Safety Element Updates are policy updates only, and no specific development is proposed at this time. See further discussion under Section 2.0, "Project Description and Setting."

SECTION 2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Rolling Hills (City) is a rural, equestrian residential community, consisting entirely of large lot residential parcels of one acre or more. The community encompasses 2.99 square miles of land (approximately 1,910 acres) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the County of Los Angeles (Figure 2.1-1: Project Location). The City’s General Plan was drafted and adopted in 1990. The City is proposing updates to both the Housing Element and Safety Element of the General Plan, two of the six elements. A description of each of the updates is provided below.

2.1.1 Housing Element Update

The 2020 Census indicates a citywide population of 1,739 residents, making the City the fifth smallest of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. The City is proposing to adopt the Housing Element for the Sixth Cycle planning period from 2021 to 2029. The proposed Housing Element Update (HEU) is attached hereto as Appendix A. The Housing Element, which is part of the City’s General Plan, is a policy document designed to provide the City a coordinated and comprehensive strategy for promoting the production of safe, decent, and affordable housing within the community. California Government Code Section 65580 states the following regarding the importance of creating housing elements:

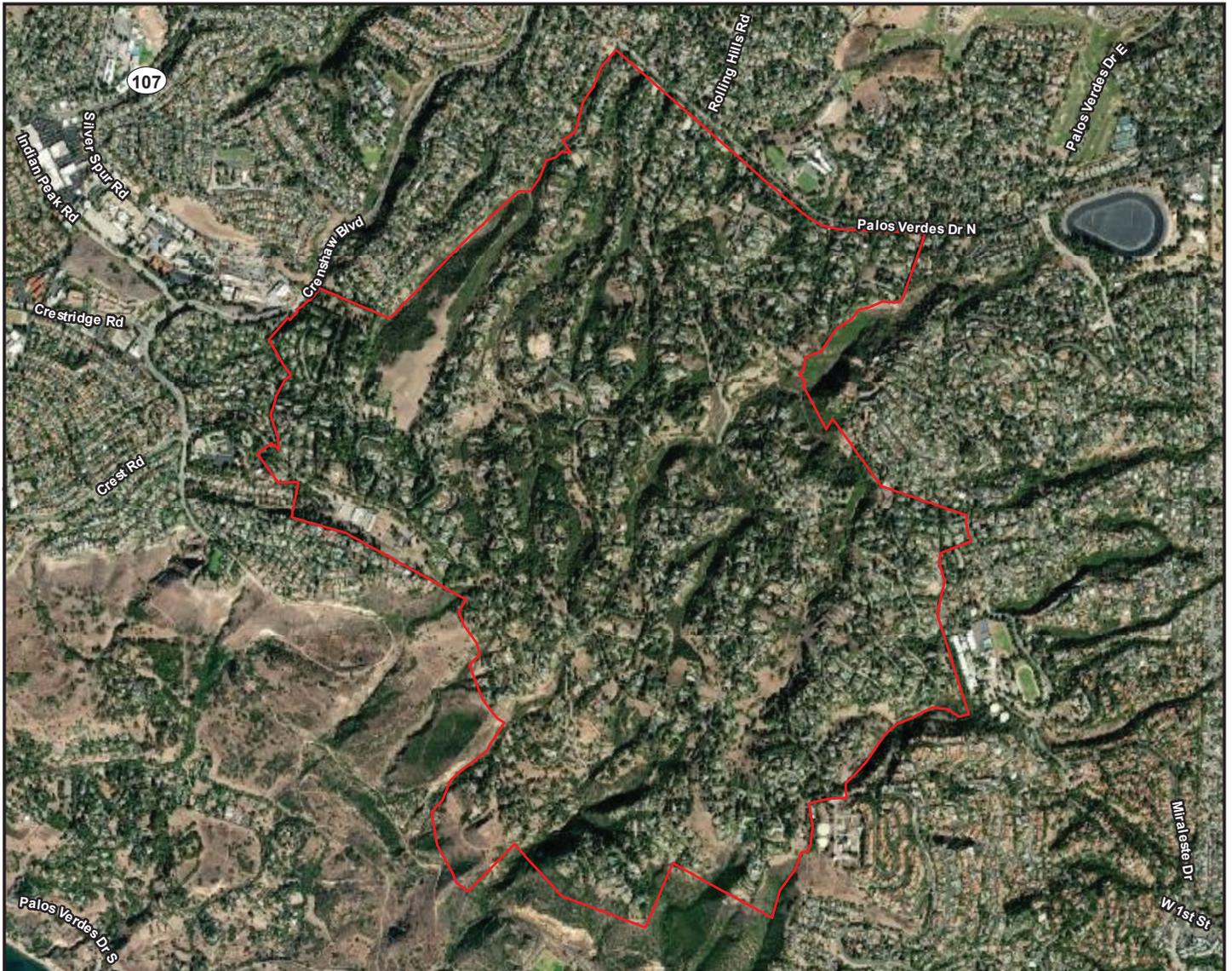
The availability of housing is of vital statewide importance, and the early attainment of decent housing and a suitable living environment for every Californian, including farmworkers, is a priority of the highest order.

Per State law, the housing element has two main purposes:

1. To provide an assessment of both current and future housing needs and constraints in meeting these needs; and
2. To provide a strategy that establishes housing goals, policies, and programs.

2.1.2 Safety Element Update

The Safety Element Update (SEU), (Appendix B) provides the City’s goals, policies, and actions to minimize the hazards to safety in and around the City. The SEU evaluates natural and human-caused safety hazards that affect existing and future development and provides guidelines for protecting the community from harm. The SEU describes existing and potential future conditions and sets policies for improved public safety. The goal of the SEU is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels.



Project Location

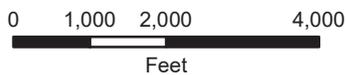


Figure 2.1-1
City of Rolling Hills
Housing and Safety Element Updates
Project Location

2.2 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

2.2.1 Background

The City's Housing Element serves as an integrated part of the General Plan and is subject to detailed statutory requirements, including a requirement to be updated every eight years and mandatory review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This action includes the adoption of the HEU, which is a policy document; no actual development or rezoning of parcels is included as part of the HEU. The proposed HEU is an eight-year plan for the 2021-2029 period.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65583, a housing element is required to consist of an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, financial resources, and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Specifically, a housing element is required to contain the following:

- An assessment of housing needs and an inventory of resources and constraints relevant to meeting those needs (Government Code Section 65583[a])
- A statement of the community's goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the maintenance, preservation, improvement, and development of housing (Government Code Section 65583[a])
- A program that sets forth a schedule of actions during the planning period, each with a timeline for implementation of the policies and to achieve the goals and objectives of the housing element (Government Code Section 65583[c])

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) began the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process for the Sixth Cycle in Fall 2019, exploring different methodologies for allocating the regional need to individual cities and counties. As other cities began work on their Sixth Cycle Elements, the City was required to first amend its Fifth Cycle Element to accommodate both the current (Fifth) cycle and the prior (Fourth) cycle RHNA allocations due to its noncompliant status. The combined RHNA for the two cycles was 28 units. Accommodating this need meant that City was also required to amend its General Plan and zoning to create additional housing capacity.

The Fifth Cycle Housing Element was adopted June 14, 2021. The Fifth Cycle Housing Element was submitted to HCD and found to be in compliance on July 7, 2021. As a result of the compliance determination, the City does not have to carry over its prior allocation and may plan only for the 45 units identified in the Sixth Cycle RHNA.

2.2.2 Housing Element Overview

The City's HEU consists of the following major components:

- A review of the prior housing element and goals that were accomplished (Section 2, Evaluation of Prior Housing Element)

- An assessment of housing needs in the City including profile and analysis of the City’s demographics, housing characteristics, and existing and future housing needs (Section 3, Housing Needs Assessment)
- An assessment of resources available to meet the City’s objectives regarding housing production and preservation. Resources include land available for new construction and redevelopment, as well as financial and administrative resources available (Section 4, Housing Sites)
- A review of the constraints to housing production and preservation. Constraints include potential market, governmental policy, and environmental limitations to meeting the City’s identified housing needs (Section 5, Constraints to Housing Production)
- A statement of the housing plan to address the City’s identified housing needs, including housing goals, policies, and programs (Section 6, Housing Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Programs)

2.2.3 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

State housing element law requires housing elements to be updated regularly to reflect a community’s changing housing needs, including preparation of a RHNA plan [Government Code Section 65584(a)]. A critical measure of compliance is the ability of a jurisdiction to accommodate its share of the regional housing needs based on a RHNA prepared by HCD for each Council of Governments in the state that identifies projected housing units needed for all economic segments based on Department of Finance population estimates. The SCAG is responsible for allocating this total to each of the six counties and 191 cities in the SCAG area. This process is known as the RHNA and occurs every eight years.

SCAG calculates each city and county’s “fair share” of the regional need using a computer model that weighs factors such as existing population and employment, growth potential, proximity to transit, and social equity. For each jurisdiction, SCAG distributes the RHNA among four different income groups. This ensures that each city or county is planning for housing that meet the needs of all economic segments of the community, including lower income households.

For the City, the RHNA for 2021-2029 is 45 units (SCAG 2020). This includes 20 very low income units, 9 low income units, 11 moderate income units, and 5 above moderate income units. The 2021-2029 Housing Element demonstrates that the City has the capacity to accommodate this assignment.

2.2.4 Summary of Ability to Meet RHNA

As shown in Table 2.2-1 below, the combination of recently approved housing units (expected to be occupied in 2022), future affordable units on the Rancho Del Mar site¹, and new accessory dwelling units (ADUs) can accommodate the RHNA allocation in all income categories. The table illustrates a surplus capacity of seven lower income units based on projected ADU production over the planning period.

¹ In March 2021, the City adopted an Affordable Housing Overlay Zone on the 31-acre Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) property located at 38 Crest Road (Rancho Del Mar site). Although the site is technically non-vacant, roughly three-quarters of the property (23 acres) is open space. The remaining areas are underutilized and could be repurposed. Consistent with the General Plan and Zoning amendments completed in 2021, the site is viable for 16 units of low/very low income housing.

Table 2.2-1: Summary of Ability to Meet RHNA

	Income Category				Total
	Extremely Low/ Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate	
Approved Development	-	2	3	7*	12
Vacant Residential Lots	-	-	-	20	20
Rancho Del Mar Site	8	8	-	-	16
Accessory Dwelling Units	12	6	8	14	40
TOTALS	20	16	11	41	88
RHNA	20	9	11	5	45
Surplus/Deficit	0	+7	0	+36	+43
Adequate Sites?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Notes: Includes 3 new homes and 4 ADU's

2.2.5 2021-2029 Goals and Policies

As previously mentioned, based on the City's ability to meet RHNA allocation as described above, the HEU is a policy document; no actual development nor rezoning of parcels is included as part of the approval. The housing goals, policies, objectives, and programs which can be found in Chapter 6 of the HEU reflect the City's continued commitment to actively support residential development and plan for the City's fair share of regional housing needs.

2.3 SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

2.3.1 Background

Throughout its history as a city, the City has dealt with various natural hazards, including earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and land movement. Developments in high landslide areas have occurred, and the City has been identified as being located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). As a result, the City has amended its building and safety codes to include special requirements such as fire-rated materials for new construction and a requirement for geotechnical studies in active fault zones.

2.3.2 Safety Element Overview

The City's SEU addresses hazards of concern relevant to the City and provides goals, policies, and implementation measures to minimize these hazards. Figures 2 through 6 of the SEU show exact locations of these hazards, which are described in the following paragraphs.

Landslide Hazards

Much of the existing development in the City is located on hilly terrain and has a greater potential to experience landslide hazards. Many of the canyons in the City exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage, leaving them susceptible to slope failure.

Seismic Hazards

The City is in a seismically active region of southern California. The last major earthquake in the Los Angeles area was the 5.1 magnitude La Habra earthquake in 2014. The City is within 50 miles of the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault. Analysis of seismic data from the region indicates that the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults may generate a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and 7.4, respectively. The earthquake shaking potential for the City is moderate. A number of seismically active faults are present in the City and region; however, none are active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and delineated by California Geological Survey. The City has a low potential for liquefaction, as the subsurface soils generally lack saturated alluvial deposits and thick, granular soils.

Flooding

The City is not in any immediate risk from flooding caused by overflowing water bodies or heavy rains. However, runoff and minor flooding pose a risk if drainage systems fail along canyon bottoms, where natural drainage leads. Due to dam locations and the topography of the area, the inundation areas do not enter or affect any portion of the City.

Wildland and Urban Fires

The entire City is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE 2011). The terrain in the City is composed of several large and steep canyons that limit and challenge vegetation management and present conditions where a fire can quickly travels up and downslope to nearby homes. Due to the rural nature and large residential lots, many homes are surrounded by more substantial vegetation and dense brush than in more suburban settings.

Hazardous Materials

According to the Department of Substances Control (DTSC 2021), no hazardous waste sites or facilities are present in the City. The City and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster.

2.3.3 Goals and Policies

Similar to the HEU, the SEU is a policy document; no actual development or rezoning of parcels is included as part of the approval. In addition to goals and policies, the SEU includes implementation measures for action items for the City. The goals, policies, and implementation for hazard mitigation, community communication, and climate change adaptation and resilience are listed at the end of the SEU.

SECTION 3.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the checklists on the following pages. For each of the potentially affected factors, mitigation measures are recommended that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology /Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use /Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities /Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

3.2 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

1. I find that the project **could not** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
2. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
3. I find the proposed project **may have a significant effect** on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
4. I find that the proposed project **may have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated impact”** on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
5. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



 Signature

January 10, 2022

 Date

John F. Signo, AICP

 Name

Director of Planning and Community Services

 Title

SECTION 4.0 – EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if substantial evidence exists that an effect may be significant. If one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries are marked when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

SECTION 5.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5.1 AESTHETICS

1.	AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*
- b) *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are both policy documents and do not include any changes to land use designations, zoning, building heights and intensities, or residential densities. Further, the Housing Element and Safety Element include policies intended to continue to make the City a safe and desirable place to work and live. All future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to scenic vistas. Additionally, no officially designated State scenic highway is located in the City (Caltrans 2021). Potential aesthetic-related impacts are unique to a project’s location and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project site has been defined. Any future development would be subject to the City’s zoning requirements, and any potentially significant impacts identified would be addressed through mitigation measures specific to the impact. The Project would result in no impacts to scenic vistas or scenic resources within a State scenic highway.

- c) *Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

No Impact. As previously mentioned, the Project would implement policies intended to continue to make the City a safe and desirable place to work and live including efforts such as development and landscaping policies, among others. The City’s current Zoning Code contains standards intended to preserve the natural beauty of the City and to maintain visual orderliness, including provisions related

to building standards (height, setbacks, intensities), screening of utilities in development, and outdoor improvements. All future development in the City would be required to comply with the provisions of the City’s Zoning Code and undergo project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts. The Project would result in no impacts to the visual character or quality of public views or conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

No Impact. Sources of light present throughout the City include residential uses of both interior and exterior lighting and vehicular traffic, while sources of glare include highly finished building materials such as glass, and roadway traffic. The Project consists of two policy documents and would not directly enable construction or development. Nevertheless, all future residential development enabled by the City’s General Plan is anticipated to introduce light and glare sources typical of development; and all future development in the City would be subject to the City’s zoning requirements. The City’s current Zoning Code contains lighting requirements intended to maintain public health, safety, and welfare from noxious or offensive illumination, glare, or similar effects. All future development in the City would be required to comply with the provisions of the City’s Zoning Code and undergo project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts. The Project would result in no impact to the creation of light or glare that would adversely affect views.

5.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

2.	AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES. (In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.2.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*
- b) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*
- c) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*
- d) *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*
- e) *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact. The City does not contain any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (DOC 2021a). Additionally, no land within the City is under a Williamson Act contract (DOC 2017). The Project involves updates to the City’s Housing Element and Safety Element, with no proposed changes to land use designations or zoning of parcels within the City. The City is a residential community, and no provisions contained in the Housing Element Update or the Safety Element Update would convert Prime Farmland or any farmland of unique or Statewide importance. Further, no development is proposed on forestland or timber property zoned Timberland Production. Any future development proposals would not conflict with an existing Williamson Act contract; that would result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to nonagricultural use or result in conversion or loss of forest land. Any future development on properties zoned agricultural would be analyzed in a future site-specific environmental document. Therefore, no impacts to agricultural or forestry resources would occur.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

3.	AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.3.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*
- b) *Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

No Impact. The City is located within the South Coast Air Basin, which is currently designated nonattainment for ozone and fine particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) (SCAQMD 1999). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) prepared an air quality management plan (AQMP) for both pollutants in 2016 and is currently working on the 2022 AQMP (SCAQMD 2021). The Project would not directly result in construction or development activity, nor would it enable development beyond that which is currently provided for in the City’s General Plan. The number of residential units that could be developed under the HEU is consistent with the City’s current General Plan and zoning designations. Potential air quality-related impacts are location-specific and cannot be assessed in a meaningful way until the location of a project site is known. At such time that a development proposal is considered, that project will be subject to adopted development air quality standards; and any impacts identified with the development project will be addressed through mitigation measures specific to the impact. Short-term air quality impacts resulting from construction activities, such as dust generated by clearing and grading activities, exhaust emissions from gas- and diesel-powered construction equipment, and vehicular emissions associated with the commuting of construction workers, will be subject to SCAQMD air quality management plans identified above and all other relevant SCAQMD rules and regulations.

Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to implementation of any applicable air quality plan, nor would it result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard.

- c) *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

No Impact. As mentioned, the HEU and SEU are both policy documents and do not include any changes to land use designations or zoning. Moreover, the Project does not directly enable construction or development activities. Potential air quality-related impacts are location-specific and cannot be assessed in a meaningful way until the location of a project site is known. The City’s General Plan and Municipal Code contain policies and measures related to maintaining air quality in residential neighborhoods, including protecting neighborhoods from air pollution-generating activities through site-specific environmental review and appropriate development buffers. At the time that a development proposal is considered, that project will be subject to the development review process, and any potentially significant impacts identified would be addressed through mitigation measures

specific to the impact. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d) *Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

No Impact. Impacts would be considered potentially significant if the Project were to result in the creation of objectionable odors with the potential to affect substantial numbers of people, or if construction or operation of the Project would result in the creation of nuisance odors that would be noxious to a substantial number of people. The City’s General Plan and Municipal Code contain policies and measures related to maintaining air quality in residential neighborhoods, including protecting neighborhoods from odor-generating activities through site-specific environmental review and appropriate development buffers.

Residential development, such as that described in the HEU, is not a land use typically associated with odor complaints or noxious emissions. Moreover, the SEU contains policies to prevent health threats due to air quality impacts such as those associated with wildfire. The Project would not directly enable construction or development activities upon implementation. At the time that a development proposal is considered, that project will be subject to the development review process; and any potentially significant impacts identified would be addressed through mitigation measures specific to the impact. The Project would therefore not result in impacts related to emissions adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.4.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

No Impact. The City’s environs have the capacity to house a range of plant and wildlife species, including State and federally listed species. To protect candidate, sensitive, or special status species all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts. Potential impacts related to biological resources are unique to a project’s location and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project site has been defined. Any future development would be subject to federal, State, regional, and local regulatory requirements related to biological resources.

Further, the HEU and SEU include policies intended to lessen impacts to biological resources, including policies to minimize housing construction in environmentally sensitive areas and policies for climate change adaptation and resiliency. Additionally, future projects would be evaluated by the City for their compliance with goals, policies, and measures contained in the City’s General Plan intended to mitigate potential impacts to natural and biological resources, including those contained in the Open Space and Conservation Element. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts on any candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

- b) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*
- c) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

No Impact. A substantial amount of land in the City is constrained from development due to steep hillsides and canyons, many of which contain intermittently flooded riparian and wetland habitat (USFWS 2021). However, the HEU and SEU are both policy documents and would not directly enable construction or development activity. Potential impacts related to sensitive natural communities, such as riparian or wetland habitats, are unique to a project’s location and cannot be meaningfully

determined until a project site has been defined. Thus, all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts on any riparian habitat, other sensitive natural communities, or on State or federally protected wetlands.

- d) *Would the project Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

No Impact. The City is a heavily landscaped residential community interspersed with undeveloped steep hillsides and canyons (City 1990). Within these undeveloped areas, the potential exists for nesting birds and other species to occur. Nonetheless, the HEU and SEU are policy documents consistent with the City’s General Plan and do not propose any land use or zoning changes. Further, future development will require site-specific environmental analysis. Potential environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts to the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, corridors, or nursery sites.

- e) *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*
 f) *Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservancy Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

No Impact. The County of Los Angeles’s Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program was originally established as a part of the 1980 County General Plan, to help conserve the genetic and physical diversity in the County. The SEA Ordinance, which codified the SEA Program, establishes the permitting, design standards and review process for development within SEAs. The City contains portions of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Coastline SEA; however, only areas within unincorporated Los Angeles County are subject to this ordinance. Further, policies and programs of the HEU promote infill housing including ADUs. Any development that occurs pursuant to HEU or SEU policies will occur in already disturbed areas of the community and will be reviewed and processed in accordance with City planning policies. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or plans protecting biological resources; and no impacts would occur.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

5.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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5.5.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?*
- b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?*
- c) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

No Impact. The Project involves adoption of two policy documents, the HEU and SEU, which do not directly propose any ground disturbance. Potential impacts related to cultural resources are unique to a project’s location and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project site has been defined. Thus, all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts. Future development would be subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to the discovery and proper handling of cultural and historic resources, including Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 211083.2, which requires avoidance and other measures in the event of discovery. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, no impacts to cultural resources would occur with implementation of the Project.

5.6 ENERGY

6.	ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.6.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are consistent with the City’s General Plan and contain policies to conserve energy resources. However, potential impacts related to energy resources are unique to a project and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project has been defined. The HEU also seeks to conserve energy through public education on the reduction of residential energy use. Any future development would also be subject to individual review for compliance with federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to energy efficiency. Future development projects would incorporate site-specific infrastructure improvements, as necessary, and would be reviewed by relevant energy providers to identify necessary energy facility and service connections. Additionally, future projects

would be evaluated by the City for their compliance with goals, policies, and measures contained in the City’s General Plan intended to mitigate potential impacts to energy resources. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, no impacts would occur.

b) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*

No Impact. Any future development in the City would be subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to energy efficiency. Additionally, goals, policies, and programs related to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (as discussed in Section 5.8: Greenhouse Gas Emissions) are closely related to reducing energy consumption through the use of alternative forms of energy or sustainable design features.

Future projects would be evaluated by the City for their compliance with goals, policies, and measures contained in the City’s General Plan intended to mitigate potential impacts to energy resources. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.7.1 Impact Analysis

- a) i) *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.*
- ii) *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?*
- iii) *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*
- iv) *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?*

No Impact. Rolling Hills is in a seismically active region of southern California, with the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault all within 50 miles of the City. The closest active fault to the City is the Palos Verdes Fault, located within the City boundaries. While there are a number of seismically active faults in the City and region, there are no active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. The closest Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone is the Newport-Inglewood Fault approximately nine miles northeast of the City (City 1990).

Regarding other geologic hazards, much of the existing development in Rolling Hills is located on hilly terrain highly susceptible to landslide risks. However, the potential for liquefaction, lateral spreading, and seismically induced dynamic settlement is low (City 1990).

The SEU addresses the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards through a number of goals, policies, implementation programs, principles, and standards. Among these is Goal 1 of the SEU, which aims for “minimization of loss of life, injury, and property damage resulting from geologic hazards”. Additionally, the Project includes implementation of two policy documents and no development is proposed at this time. All future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine that any potential impacts are less than significant. Any future development would be subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to building design and construction. Any potentially significant impacts identified would be addressed through mitigation measures specific to the impact. Therefore, the Project would result in no impacts related to the direct or indirect cause of potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death,

involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, and seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction or landslides.

b) *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

No Impact. The Project consists of two policy documents and would not directly enable construction or development activities. Any future development in the City would be subject to State, regional, and local requirements related to the prevention of erosion of onsite soils, as well as discharge of other construction-related pollutants, through the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Additionally, future projects would be evaluated by the City for their compliance with goals, policies, and measures contained in the SEU intended to protect lives and property. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

c) *Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

No Impact. As previously discussed, much of the existing development in Rolling Hills is located on hilly terrain; and many of the City's canyons exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage. These areas are highly susceptible to landslide risks. However, the City generally lacks the thick, loose, sandy soils which lead to liquefaction and ground failure hazards. Thus, the potential for liquefaction, lateral spreading, and seismically induced dynamic settlement is low (City 1990).

The HEU and SEU are policy documents; thus, the Project does not directly propose physical changes in the environment and does not, in and of itself, enable future development. To account for any potential instability, all future development projects would be evaluated on a site-specific basis and would be subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to building design and construction. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would have no impacts related to location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the Project and potentially result in on or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

d) *Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?*

No Impact. Expansive soils are characterized as fine-grained, such as silts and clays or soils with variable amounts of expansive clay minerals that can change in volume due to changes in water content. According to the General Plan, soil types within the City consist predominantly of fertile clays with some loams and shales (City 1990). Nevertheless, the HEU and SEU are policy documents; thus, the Project does not directly propose physical changes in the environment and does not, in and of itself, enable future development. Future development would be evaluated in separate, site-specific CEQA documents and would be subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to building design and construction. Potential environmental impacts from future development would

be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a development project is considered by the City.

- e) *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?*

No Impact. With the exception of a Palos Verdes Unified School District site and 13 residences that have individually or collectively (through the creation of a small sewer district) connected to an adjacent jurisdiction’s sewer systems, no sanitary sewer system exists in Rolling Hills. Residences are served by individual septic tanks and seepage pits. These systems are designed to serve single-family residences and are not conducive to multi-family housing; particularly given the geologic, slope, and soil constraints in Rolling Hills. However, the HEU and SEU are policy documents consistent with the City’s General Plan and do not propose any land use or zoning changes. Moreover, all future development would be evaluated on a site-specific basis and subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to building design and construction. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. The Project would have no impacts related to soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

- f) *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?*

No Impact. All future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine that any potential impacts are less than significant. Potential impacts related to paleontological and geologic resources are unique to a project and site and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project has been defined. In the event that paleontological resources are discovered during future development projects, applicants will be required to comply with regulatory standards enumerated under in PRC Section 5097.574, which sets the protocol for proper handling. Any potentially significant environmental impacts from future development would be analyzed in a separate CEQA document and addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts related to the direct or indirect destruction of a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

8.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.8.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*
- b) *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are policy documents consistent with the City’s General Plan. The Project does not directly propose physical changes in the environment and does not, in and of itself, enable future development. Any future development in the City would be required to comply with the latest California Building Code, including the CALGreen code, which helps reduce GHG emissions through sustainable design and renewable energy considerations. Any potentially significant environmental impacts would be analyzed in a project-specific environmental document and addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. The Project would have no impacts related to the generation of GHG emissions or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of GHGs.

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

9.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Error! Bookmar k not defined.
(c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Error! Bookmar k not defined.
(e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.9.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are policy documents consistent with the City's General Plan. The Project does not directly propose physical changes in the environment and does not, in and of itself, enable future development. Moreover, the SEU addresses the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards through a number of goals, policies, implementation programs, principles, and standards. Among these are measures to mitigate the risk from hazardous materials.

Construction activities associated with future individual development projects would likely involve the temporary transportation, management, and use of oils, fuels and other potentially flammable substances, such as paints, solvents, and cleaners. Hazardous materials that may be present during operation of future individual projects are usually associated with landscaping and building maintenance. Nevertheless, any future development in the City would be subject to federal, State, and local regulatory requirements related to the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. All potential environmental impacts resulting from future development would be analyzed in a separate environmental document and addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City.

- b) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

No Impact. Residential uses enabled by the City's HEU are generally not characterized as substantial generators of hazardous materials, nor are they anticipated to result in upset or accident conditions involving the release thereof. Further, the SEU addresses the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards, including hazardous materials. Regardless, the Project involves two policy documents and would not directly result in physical changes in the environment. Any future development would be subject to all applicable regulatory requirements concerning the proper handling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City.

- c) *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

No Impact. The City only has one school in its boundary: Rancho Del Mar High School located in the western portion of the City. Potential hazardous material-related impacts are location-specific and cannot be assessed in a meaningful way until the location of a project site is known. At such time that a development proposal is considered, that project will be subject to the development review process; and any potentially significant impacts would be addressed through mitigation measures specific to the impact. Since the current Project involves two policy documents and does not directly propose physical changes in the environment, no impacts related to the emission or handling of hazardous or

acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school would occur.

- d) *Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

No Impact. According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), no potential hazardous waste sites are under evaluation in Rolling Hills (DTSC 2021; SWRCB 2021). The City and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster. Additionally, the City is not located near any major transit routes involving transport of a substantial quantity of hazardous material through the City (City 1990).

The Project involves two policy documents and does not directly propose physical changes in the environment. Any future development would be subject to all applicable regulatory requirements concerning the proper handling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. The Project would result in no impacts related to location on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are policy documents that analyze housing and safety needs in the City. The City is within 2 miles of the Torrance Airport, which is approximately 1.4 miles from the northern boundary of the City. However, the City is not located within the airport or airfield safety hazard zone (ALUC 2003). Any development that occurs pursuant to Housing Element or Safety Element policies will be subject to State and local regulations regarding the transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials and to City planning, engineering, and building requirements. No impacts relative to noise hazards are expected to occur as a result of the Project.

- f) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

No Impact. The City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies the potential evacuation routes listed below, which include options for rapid egress from areas within the City if threatened by a wildfire.

- Main Gate at Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North
- Crest Gate at Crest Road near Crenshaw Boulevard
- Eastfield Gate at Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive East
- Crest Road East (emergency access only)

The SEU addresses the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards through a number of goals, policies, implementation programs,

principles, and standards. Among these are measures to provide and maintain an emergency response system for the City. Moreover, future development in the City would be required to comply with the provisions of the City’s General Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to the impairment of or physical interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- g) *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*

No Impact. The entire City is designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by CAL FIRE (2011). The SEU and HEU address the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards through a number of goals, policies, implementation programs, principles, and standards. Among these are measures to mitigate the risk from the hazards of fire and ensure the protection of people and wildlife from hazardous materials in the community.

Further, future development in the City would be required to comply with the provisions of the City’s General Plan and CWPP during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would not expose people or structures to loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires; and no impacts would result.

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flood on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.10.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

No Impact. The Project involves two policy documents which are consistent with the City’s General Plan and do not directly propose physical changes to the environment. Future development in the City would be required to follow State, regional, and local regulations regarding onsite stormwater retention, so that surface waters and the groundwater aquifer are not contaminated with Project-related pollutants. To comply with federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and maintain its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, the City is required to screen and monitor its runoff to avoid compromising downstream water quality standards. It is also required to implement a number of programs, such as an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program. The City requires BMPs for construction in order to avoid erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and runoff that would degrade water quality. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would have no impact related to violation of any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.

b) *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

No Impact. The City’s water infrastructure is owned, maintained, and operated by California Water Service Palos Verdes District (District). According to the District’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), the current water supply for the customers of the District is purchased imported water and groundwater is not being used as a source of supply (CalWater 2021). Further, all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potentially significant impacts to groundwater and required project-specific mitigation measures. Any future development would also be subject to all applicable State, regional, and local regulatory requirements concerning the efficient use and conservation of water resources, including measures identified in the City’s General Plan. Therefore, the Project would result in no impacts related to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge.

- c) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*
- i) *result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;*
 - ii) *substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;*
 - iii) *create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources or polluted runoff; or*
 - iv) *impede or redirect flood flows?*

No Impact. The Project involves two policy documents which are consistent with the City's General Plan and do not directly propose physical changes to the environment. The City's SEU also contains principles and standards intended to minimize risk from flooding or erosion. Nonetheless, potential impacts related to drainage are unique to a project and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project site has been defined. Future development in the City would be required to follow State, regional, and local regulations regarding drainage, erosion, and runoff. As mentioned, the City is required to screen and monitor its runoff to avoid compromising downstream water quality standards to comply with federal NPDES requirements and maintain its MS4 permit. The City also requires BMPs for construction in order to avoid erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and runoff that would degrade water quality. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would have no impacts.

- d) *Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

No Impact. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels 06037C2026G, 06037C2027G, and 06037C1940F, the City is not located in a flood hazard area and currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2021). Additionally, the City is not located within a tsunami or seiche zone (DOC 2021b; DWR 2021). Regardless, all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts. Future development would be subject to all applicable federal, State, and local regulatory requirements concerning flood hazards, including measures identified in the City's General Plan intended to minimize impacts. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would result in no impact related to risking release of pollutants due to Project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones.

- e) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

No Impact. The Project involves updating two policy documents and does not propose any zoning or land use changes, or authorize any physical development. Any future development that occurs pursuant to the HEU or SEU will be subject to State and local regulations regarding water quality, runoff, and hydrology and to City planning, engineering and building requirements. The Project would

not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan; thus, no impacts would occur.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

11.	LAND USE/PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.11.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project physically divide an established community?*
- b) *Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

No Impact. The City has prepared its HEU and SEU in accordance with Section 65580 and Section 65302(g) of the Government Code, respectively. The updates have also been prepared consistent with the City General Plan and the community’s vision of its housing and safety needs and objectives. Accordingly, the HEU examines the City’s housing needs as they exist today and projects future housing needs based on RHNA allocation. No change to the land use plan or zoning map is proposed as part of the HEU. The SEU identifies and offers goals, policies, and actions to minimize the City’s hazards which pose a risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships. Any subsequent discretionary actions or development that occur pursuant to HEU policies will be reviewed and processed in accordance with City planning policies. The HEU and SEU have been prepared in full compliance with the State law, and no potential adverse impacts relative to land use would occur.

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

12.	MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.12.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

- b) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

No Impact. The City is not designated as having any known mineral resources. Although mineral resources exist in the area, they are outside the City limits and outside the boundaries of the General Plan (City 1990). Additionally, the Project proposes implementation of the HEU and SEU, which are policy documents consistent with the General Plan. No land use or zoning changes are proposed, and the Project would not result in direct physical changes to the environment. All future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potentially significant impacts and would integrate project-specific mitigation measures if needed. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts on the availability of any known resources or locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

5.13 NOISE

13.	NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.13.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*
- b) *Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are both policy documents and would not result in direct physical changes in the environment. Thus, implementation of the Project would not generate a temporary or substantial increase in ambient noise levels. All future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential noise impacts. Further, future development would be required to adhere to the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation as outlined in the General Plan Noise Element and the City’s Municipal Code. Therefore, the Project would result in no impacts associated with an increase in temporary or ambient noise levels or groundborne vibration/noise levels.

- c) *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public us airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

No Impact. The City is within 2 miles of the Torrance Airport but is not within the airport or airfield safety hazard zone. Moreover, the HEU and SEU are policy documents; thus, future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential noise impacts. Further, future development would be required to adhere to the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation as outlined in the General Plan Noise Element and the City’s Municipal Code. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts related to noise levels associated with development within 2 miles of an airport.

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

14.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.14.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*
- b) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. As the regional planning agency for the Los Angeles region, SCAG is responsible for preparing jurisdiction-level forecasts for each city and county in the region. The latest forecasts were adopted in September 2020 and describe conditions in a base year (2016) and forecast year (2045). SCAG forecasts indicate that City growth will be flat through 2045, with the latest published forecasts showing 700 households in 2016 and 700 households in 2045. Population in the City over the equivalent period is shown as increasing from 1,900 to 2,000, a growth rate of about 5 percent over 29 years (SCAG 2020).

The 2021-2029 RHNA allocation for the City is 45 units, including 20 very low income units, 9 low income units, 11 moderate income units, and 5 above moderate income units. As previously shown in Table 2.2-1, the combination of recently approved housing units (expected to be occupied in 2022), future affordable units on the Rancho Del Mar site, and new ADUs, which have been made easier to develop under a series of recently passed legislation, can accommodate the RHNA allocation in all income categories. The table illustrates a surplus capacity of seven lower income units based on

projected ADU production over the planning period. Any subsequent development accomplished pursuant to the HEU or SEU will be consistent with State and regional growth mandates. The Project will not displace housing or people but, conversely, is intended to promote affordability and increase housing supply, which can support retention of households in all income categories. No impacts relative to population or housing would occur as a result of the Project.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

15.	PUBLIC SERVICES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	i) Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.15.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection?*

No Impact. The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides fire protection services to the City. Fire Station 56, located at 12 Crest Road West, serves the City under Battalion 14. The Project, which involves the SEU and HEU, would implement policies to promote maintenance of acceptable service ratios, response times, and other performance objectives for fire protection. Additionally, since the City is within the CAL FIRE VHFHSZ, the SEU includes policies to enforce VHFHSZ-specific standards during development. Compliance with these standards reduces the fire vulnerability of new structures built in the City. The HEU and SEU are only policy documents, and all future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to fire protection. Further, future development would be required to adhere to State and local regulations as well as the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation as outlined in other sections of the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on fire protection services.

b) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection?*

No Impact. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is contracted with the City to provide police services and protection. The Lomita Station of the Sheriff's Department is located at 26123 Narbonne Avenue. The Project, which involves the SEU and HEU, would implement policies to promote maintenance of acceptable service ratios, response times, and other performance objectives for police protection. The HEU and SEU are only policy documents, and all future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to police protection. Further, future development would be required to adhere to State and local regulations as well as the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation as outlined in other sections of the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on police protection services.

- c) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for schools?*

No Impact. The Palos Verdes Unified School District serves the City. School-related impacts depend upon the location and intensity of a project, students generated per household, and the capacity of facilities in a given attendance area. The HEU and SEU are only policy documents and do not authorize future development. All future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to schools. Further, future development would be required to adhere to State and local regulations as well as the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation outlined in other sections of the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on schools.

- d) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks?*

No Impact. Park-related impacts depend upon the location and intensity of a project. There is one public park, numerous trails, open space areas, three tennis courts, and two equestrian facilities that will not be impacted by the Project. The HEU and SEU are policy documents and do not authorize future development. All future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to parks. Further, future development would be required to adhere to State and local regulations as well as the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation as outlined in other sections of the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on parks.

- e) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities?*

No Impact. The HEU and SEU are policy documents and do not authorize future development. All future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to other public facilities. Further, future development would be required to adhere to State and local regulations as well as the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation

outlined in other sections of the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on other public facilities.

5.16 RECREATION

16.	RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.16.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

No Impact. Impacts to recreational facilities depend upon the location and intensity of a project. There is one public park, numerous trails, open space areas, three tennis courts, and two equestrian facilities that will not be impacted by the Project. The HEU and SEU are policy documents and do not authorize future development. All future development would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to recreational facilities. Further, future development would be required to adhere to State and local regulations as well as the policies, principles, standards, and mitigation outlined in other sections of the General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on existing recreational facilities.

b) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

No Impact. The Project proposes adoption of the HEU and SEU, both of which are policy documents that would not result in direct development or construction. Therefore, the Project would not construct any recreational facilities or require the expansion of any recreational facilities. No impacts would occur to or from recreational facilities.

5.17 TRANSPORTATION

17.	TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

17.	TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(b)	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e. g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.17.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*
- b) *Would the project Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?*
- c) *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?*

No Impact. Rolling Hills has no public roads or streets; thus the City's circulation infrastructure is not conducive to uses generating high trip volumes (City 2014). Nonetheless, the HEU and SEU are policy documents consistent with the General Plan. The updates do not include any changes to land use designations, zoning, building heights and intensities, or residential densities. Any future development would be required to adhere to all programs, ordinances, and policies that address circulation, including those in the General Plan Circulation Element and the City’s Municipal Code. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, no circulation-related impacts would result from the Project.

- d) *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

No Impact. Many streets in the community are “dead ends” without emergency vehicle access alternatives in the event that ingress and egress is blocked (City 2014). However, the SEU addresses the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards through a number of goals, policies, implementation programs, principles, and standards. To ensure adequate emergency access, future development in the City would be required to undergo environmental analysis and comply with the provisions of the Municipal Code during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to emergency access.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

18.	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.18.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?*
- b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?*

According to the California PRC Section 21084, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the project “may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.” Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) specifies that a project with the potential for adverse effects on tribal cultural resources may be considered a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) requires a government-to-government consultation process initiated by the local governmental agency prior to adoption or amendment of a General or Specific Plan.

The City, as the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA and as required by AB 52 and SB 18, has consulted with the local Native American Tribes in the Project Area. Tribes that are located regionally include: Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission

Indians, Gabrielino /Tongva Nation, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Letters were sent to these Tribes on December 13, 2021. Tribes were requested to respond to AB 52 by January 12, 2022, and SB 18 by January 27, 2022.

As of the release of this document, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation responded with two separate letters on December 21, 2021 noting that they had no comments or concerns and no additional information to provide regarding the HEU or SEU, but requesting consultation for any and all future projects with ground disturbance as shown in Appendix C: Tribal Consultation Response. Additionally, the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California responded noting that the City is a highly culturally sensitive area and expressed interest in finding out more information regarding the project, however, after review of the project, they submitted a follow up email stating that they have no concerns, but requested notification on future projects.

The HEU and SEU are policy documents that would not result in direct development or construction. As noted, to date, two Tribes responded during the consultation process and did not have any comments or concerns. Similar to the Project, future projects would be required comply with AB 52 and SB 18, which require consultation with any Tribes that request consultation. The Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in the local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k). Thus, no impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources would occur.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

19.	UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.19.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or expansion of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No Impact. The Project is for the adoption of the City's HEU and SEU, which are policy documents that would not result in direct development or construction. The HEU identifies approved housing developments and the construction of ADUs within the City to meet RHNA allocation. According to the HEU, the principal site improvements required upon development of a vacant property in the City are the undergrounding of electrical lines to the structure, installation of a septic system, and conformance to the City's outdoor lighting standards.

All future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation and would be subject to all applicable State, regional, and local regulatory requirements concerning the installation of utilities. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. The HEU and SEU are policy documents that would not result in direct development or construction. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts regarding the construction or expansion of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities.

- b) *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years?*

No Impact. According to the 2020 UWMP, the District's only source of water supply is imported, purchased water from the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) (CalWater 2021). The WBMWD Draft 2020 UWMP states that it will be able to serve 100 percent of projected demands in normal, single-dry and multiple-dry years. As such, the District expects that, under all hydrologic conditions, purchased water supplies (in combination with the future recycled supplies) will fully serve future potable demands (CalWater 2021).

Further, all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts to groundwater. Any future development would also be subject to all applicable State, regional, and local regulatory requirements concerning the efficient use and conservation of water resources, including measures identified in the City's General Plan. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would result in no impacts related to water supply availability.

- c) *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

No Impact. Wastewater treatment in the City generally occurs through private septic tanks, as only several parcels on the western periphery of the City have access to sanitary sewer. For these several parcels, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) owns, operates, and maintains the sewer

system consisting of gravity sewers, pumping stations, and force mains to collect wastewater from the Palos Verdes District service area (Sanitation District #5). The LACSD’s Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) provides the wastewater service for the District service area. It provides advanced primary and partial secondary treatment for 400 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater and serves a population of approximately 4.8 million people (LACSD 2021). This plant currently processes 260 MGD; thus, the system has adequate capacity for the Project (CalWater 2021).

Since the Project proposes adoption of two policy documents, all future development in the City would require project-specific environmental evaluation in order to determine any potential impacts related to wastewater. Any future development would also be subject to all applicable State, regional, and local regulatory requirements concerning the efficient use and conservation of water resources, including measures identified in the City’s General Plan. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Therefore, the Project would result in no impacts related to wastewater treatment.

- d) *Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*
- e) *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

No Impact. The closest landfill to the City is the Savage Canyon Landfill in Whittier, California. This landfill has a remaining capacity of 9,510,833 tons and is not expected to close until 2055 (CalRecycle 2021). Since the Project proposes adoption of two policy documents, all future development projects would require an environmental analysis to ensure compliance with the State and local standards and the federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the Project would have no impact in regard to an increase in solid waste generation or complying with applicable regulations related to solid waste.

5.20 WILDFIRE

20.	WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

20.	WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.20.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

No Impact. The entire City is designated as a VHFHSZ by CAL FIRE (CAL FIRE 2011). As mentioned in Section 5.9, the City’s CWPP identifies the potential evacuation routes described below, which include options for rapid egress from areas within the City if threatened by a wildfire.

- Main Gate at Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North
- Crest Gate at Crest Road near Crenshaw Boulevard
- Eastfield Gate at Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive East
- Crest Road East (emergency access only)

The SEU and HEU address the protection of the existing and future population and development from both natural and man-made hazards through a number of goals, policies, implementation programs, principles, and standards. Among these are measures to mitigate the risk from the hazards of fire. Regardless, potential impacts related to emergency response and evacuation are unique to a project and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project has been defined. Therefore, future development in the City would require individual environmental analysis to ensure compliance with the provisions of the City’s General Plan and CWPP during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to the impairment of or physical interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

b) *Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*

No Impact. As mentioned above, the entire City is designated a VHFHSZ by CAL FIRE, and a substantial amount of land in the City is steep hillsides and canyons (CAL FIRE 2011). Although the SEU and HEU include measures to mitigate the risk of fire hazards, potential impacts related to fire exacerbation are unique to a project and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project has been defined. Thus, future development in the City would require separate environmental analysis to ensure compliance with the provisions of the City’s General Plan and CWPP during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to wildfire exacerbation.

- c) *Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

No Impact. Principal site improvements required upon development of a vacant property in the City are the undergrounding of electrical lines to the structure, installation of a septic system, and conformance to the City’s outdoor lighting standards. The entire City is designated a VHFHSZ by CAL FIRE; however, the SEU includes measures to mitigate the risk of fire hazards. Although not anticipated under the HEU or the SEU, potential impacts related to utility installation and fire exacerbation are unique to a project and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project has been defined. Thus, future development in the City would require separate environmental analysis to ensure compliance with the provisions of the City’s General Plan and CWPP during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to wildfire exacerbation.

- d) *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes?*

No Impact. As mentioned above, the entire City is designated a VHFHSZ by CAL FIRE, and a substantial amount of land in the City is steep hillsides and canyons highly susceptible to landslide risks (CAL FIRE 2011). Although the SEU includes measures to mitigate the risk of fire hazards, potential impacts related to post-fire instability and drainage changes are unique to a project and cannot be meaningfully determined until a project has been defined. Thus, future development in the City would require separate environmental analysis to ensure compliance with the provisions of the City’s General Plan and CWPP during construction and operation. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, the Project would result in no impacts related to post-fire slope instability or drainage changes.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

21.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

21.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.21.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*
- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)*
- c) *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

No Impact. As demonstrated throughout this document, the Project would have no impacts to Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, or Wildfires. Implementation of the City’s HEU and SEU will not create any significant or adverse impacts and would therefore not contribute to any cumulatively considerable impacts. Potential site-specific impacts that cannot be known at this time would be addressed in conjunction with any development proposal submitted for the individual project sites. The Project involves adoption of two policy documents consistent with the General Plan and does not include any changes to land use designations, zoning, building heights and intensities, or residential densities. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts or cumulatively considerable impacts on the environment or human beings.

SECTION 6.0 – REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A AND B ARE PROVIDED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE: WWW.ROLLING-HILLS.ORG

APPENDIX C – TRIBAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES



GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION
Historically known as The Gabrielino Tribal Council - San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

December 21, 2021

Project Name: The City of Rolling Hills Housing and Safety Element
Updates Project

Dear John F. Signo,

Thank you for your email dated December 13, 2021. Regarding the project above. This is to concur that we are in agreement with the Housing Element Update. However, our Tribal government would like to request consultation for any and all future projects within this location.

Sincerely,

Andrew Salas, Chairman

Albert Perez, treasurer I

Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman

Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II

Dr. Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary

Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

PO Box 393 Covina, CA 91723

www.gabrielenoindians.org

admin@gabrielenoindians.org



GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION
Historically known as The Gabrielino Tribal Council - San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

December 21, 2021

Project Name: The City of Rolling Hills Safety Element

Thank you for your letter regarding the project above. This is to concur that we are in agreement with the Safety Element. However, our Tribal government would like to request consultation for any and all future projects when ground disturbance will be occurring within this location.

Sincerely,

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
1(844)390-0787

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Albert Perez, treasurer I

Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman
Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II

Dr. Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary
Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

PO Box 393 Covina, CA 91723

www.gabrielenoindians.org

admin@gabrielenoindians.org

From: CHRISTINA CONLEY-HADDOCK <christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Richard Shultz <rshultz@chambersgroupinc.com>
Cc: Robert Dorame <gtongva@icloud.com>
Subject: Re: Follow-up re: 21330 City of Rolling Hills Housing & Safety Element Project SB 18/AB 52 Consult Request

Good afternoon Richard,
Apologies for the delay - I have been out on the field.

At this time, as there are no specific developments planned, we have no concerns about any future projects in the city of Rolling Hills as aforementioned, it is a sensitive area for our tribe.

Take good care,
Christina

tehoovet taamet

CHRISTINA CONLEY
Native American Monitor - Caretaker of our Ancestral Land
Cultural Resource Administrator Under Tribal Chair, Robert Dorame (MLD)
HAZWOPER Certified
626.407.8761

GABRIELINO TONGVA INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA



On Jan 3, 2022, at 12:56 PM, Richard Shultz <rshultz@chambersgroupinc.com> wrote:

Good afternoon and happy new year Christina.

I am following up on your recent letter (below). Chambers Group is assisting the City of Rolling Hills with their requirement to conduct SB 18 and AB 52 consultations related to the proposed Housing and Safety Element Updates to the General Plan and policies.

As noted in the attached consultation request letter there are no specific developments planned at this time, and the consultation is being requested for comments or concerns with the proposed Element Updates. Chambers Group and the City of Rolling Hills greatly appreciate the concerns of the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council and wish to allay any apprehensions that the resources listed, and not listed, below would be affected by the proposed Element Updates.

If the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council wish to consult under SB 18 or AB 52 concerning these proposed Element Updates please contact John Signo, AICP, at the City of Rolling Hills (jsigno@cityofrh.net - City Of Rolling Hills – City Hall 2; Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills CA 90274; O: 310.377.1521 | F: 310.377.7288). Alternatively, feel free to contact either Kellie or myself and we will coordinate with the City.

Please let Kellie or me know if you have any questions or concerns, and we will be happy to help.

Thank you,

Richard

From: CHRISTINA CONLEY-HADDOCK <christina.marsden@alumni.usc.edu>
Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Kellie Kandybowicz <kkandybowicz@chambersgroupinc.com>
Cc: Richard Shultz <rshultz@chambersgroupinc.com>; Robert Dorame <gtongva@icloud.com>
Subject: Re: Follow-up re: 21330 City of Rolling Hills Housing & Safety Element Project SB 18/AB 52 Consult Request

Good morning John,

We are in receipt of your 21330 City of Rolling Hills Housing & Safety Element Project SB 18/AB 52 Consult Request. Thank you for reaching out.

After conferring with Tribal Chair Dorame (the Most Likely Descendent), this property is highly culturally sensitive to the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California (GTIOC) as it resides near one of our villages. The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California request an AB52 and SB18 consultation for this project.

There are a minimum of 7 identified sites near the project area; LAN 110, LAN 191, LAN 276, LAN277, LAN278, LAN 279, LAN 280 (LAN 275 borders your project area).

The concern with all of these sites is that they are significant evidence of the existence of a village site and the area may still yield evidence of buried deposits. Artifacts unearthed in previous projects included obsidian projectiles, sandstone bowls, cog stones and more importantly, human remains.

The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California tribe is deeply concerned with any ground disturbances in your project area and this project will need a monitor from the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California for only ground disturbances.

Attached are our treatment plans for your project site.

Please let us know what your next steps are and how we may assist you.

Take good care and happy new year,
Christina

tehoovet taamet

CHRISTINA CONLEY

Native American Monitor - Caretaker of our Ancestral Land

Cultural Resource Administrator Under Tribal Chair, Robert Dorame (Most Likely Descendent)

HAZWOPER Certified

626.407.8761

GABRIELINO TONGVA INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

From: Kellie Kandybowicz

Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 9:28 AM

To: 'christina.marsden@alumni.isc.edu' <christina.marsden@alumni.isc.edu>

Cc: Richard Shultz <rshultz@chambersgroupinc.com>

Subject: 21330 City of Rolling Hills Housing & Safety Element Project SB 18/AB 52
Consult Request

Dear Christina Conley,

The City of Rolling Hills (City) is commencing its Senate Bill (SB) 18 and Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation processes for the Housing and Safety Element Updates Project (Project). Pursuant to Government Codes §65352.3 and §65352.4 SB 18 require local governments to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to cultural places when creating or amending General Plans, Specific Plans and Community Plans. Additionally, AB 52 (Public Resources Codes §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2) requires public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the NAHC for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources (TCRs) as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects. This letter is being provided to you because your Tribe, the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, was listed on the NAHC directory as an individual or group who may have additional knowledge pertaining to tribal cultural resources within this geographic area.

The Project consists of a Housing Element Update of the City of Rolling Hills General Plan and an update to the City's Safety Element to address various natural and human-caused hazards the City has dealt with including earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and land movement.

The Housing Element and Safety Element Updates are policy updates only, and no specific developments are proposed at this time. A description of each of the updates is provided below.

Housing Element Update

The City's Housing Element serves as an integrated part of the General Plan, and is subject to detailed statutory requirements, including a requirement to be updated every eight years, and mandatory review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The City is currently adopting their 6th cycle Housing Element Update (HEU). The City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for this 6th cycle, is 45 units which the City determined can be met with existing approved developments, the underutilized Rancho Del Mar school site, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Therefore, the HEU, is a policy document; no actual development nor rezoning of parcels is included as part of the approval.

Safety Element Update

The Safety Element Update (SEU) provides the City goals, policies, and actions to minimize the hazards to safety in and around the City. The SEU evaluates natural and human-caused safety hazards that affect existing and future development and provides guidelines for protecting the community from harm. The SEU describes existing and potential future conditions and sets policies for improved public safety. The goal of the SEU is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels.

As part of the proposed updates the City has requested a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search by the NAHC. The result of the SLF search conducted through the NAHC was *negative* for the Project site. The City of Rolling Hills is a rural, equestrian residential community, consisting entirely of large lot residential parcels of one acre or more (Figure 1). The community encompasses 2.99 square miles of land (approximately 1,910 acres) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the County of Los Angeles.

Please consider this letter notification and preliminary Project information as the initiation of the SB 18 and AB 52 requests for consultation. Pursuant to PRC 21080.3.1(d), the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council have 30 days upon receipt of this letter to provide a request for AB 52 consultation on the Project. Pursuant to GC 65352.3, the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council have 90 days upon receipt of this letter to provide a request for SB 18 consultation. Due to the abbreviated timeline regarding funding opportunities for this affordable housing Project, we respectfully ask that requests for SB 18 consultation also be provided within 45 days, if practicable.

Your comments are important to the City of Rolling Hills. If the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council have any concerns regarding the proposed Project as it relates to Native American issues or interests, or has any information regarding sacred sites in the vicinity of the proposed Project that may help avoid impacts to those sites, please send your response to:

John F. Signo, AICP

Director of Planning and Community Services

<image006.jpg> **City of Rolling Hills – City Hall**
2 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills CA 90274
O: 310.377.1521 | F: 310.377.7288
jsigno@cityofrh.net

Attachments – Project Location Map

Kellie Kandybowicz | Cultural Resources Specialist

<image002.png>

t | 858.541.2800 x7140 f | 866.261.3100 m | 760.521.9005

6

kkandybowicz@chambersgroupinc.com www.chambersgroupinc.com

<21330_CityofRollingHillsHousing&SafetyElementProject_20211215_Conley.pdf><21330 PLAN Fig 1 Project Location_small.pdf>

<SB18-AB52 Letter Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council.pdf>



CITY OF ROLLING HILLS

FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE AND SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

Prepared for:

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274
Contact: John F. Signo, AICP
(310) 377-1521

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
600 West Broadway #250
Glendale, CA 91204
(213) 623-1859

February 2022

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SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 DRAFT INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE DECLARATION

On January 13, 2022, the City of Rolling Hills distributed the Draft Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update Project to public agencies and the general public. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21091 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, a 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/ND was provided from January 13, 2022 to February 11, 2022.

1.2 AVAILABILITY OF THE NOI AND IS/MND

The NOI and the IS/ND were available for review at the following locations:

- City of Rolling Hills City Hall
Planning and Community Services Department
No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274
- The city's website at:
https://www.rolling-hills.org/21330%20-%20Rolling%20Hills%20IS_011022.pdf

Additionally the NOI was posted in the Daily Breeze on January 13, 2022. Agencies and members of the public were invited to reach out to the City's Director of Planning and Community Services, John F. Signo, AICP, with any comments or questions regarding the Project.

SECTION 2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Rolling Hills (City) is a rural, equestrian residential community, consisting entirely of large lot residential parcels of one acre or more. The community encompasses 2.99 square miles of land (approximately 1,910 acres) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the County of Los Angeles. The City’s General Plan was drafted and adopted in 1990. The City is proposing updates to both the Housing Element and Safety Element of the General Plan, two of the six elements. A description of each of the updates is provided below.

2.1.1 Housing Element Update

The 2020 Census indicates a citywide population of 1,739 residents, making the City the fifth smallest of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. The City is proposing to adopt the Housing Element for the Sixth Cycle planning period from 2021 to 2029. The Housing Element, which is part of the City’s General Plan, is a policy document designed to provide the City a coordinated and comprehensive strategy for promoting the production of safe, decent, and affordable housing within the community. California Government Code Section 65580 states the following regarding the importance of creating housing elements:

The availability of housing is of vital statewide importance, and the early attainment of decent housing and a suitable living environment for every Californian, including farmworkers, is a priority of the highest order.

Per State law, the housing element has two main purposes:

1. To provide an assessment of both current and future housing needs and constraints in meeting these needs; and
2. To provide a strategy that establishes housing goals, policies, and programs.

2.1.2 Safety Element Update

The Safety Element Update (SEU), provides the City’s goals, policies, and actions to minimize the hazards to safety in and around the City. The SEU evaluates natural and human-caused safety hazards that affect existing and future development and provides guidelines for protecting the community from harm. The SEU describes existing and potential future conditions and sets policies for improved public safety. The goal of the SEU is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels.

2.2 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

2.2.1 Background

The City’s Housing Element serves as an integrated part of the General Plan and is subject to detailed statutory requirements, including a requirement to be updated every eight years and mandatory review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This action includes the adoption of the HEU, which is a policy document; no actual development or rezoning of parcels is included as part of the HEU. The proposed HEU is an eight-year plan for the 2021-2029 period.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65583, a housing element is required to consist of an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, financial resources, and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Specifically, a housing element is required to contain the following:

- An assessment of housing needs and an inventory of resources and constraints relevant to meeting those needs (Government Code Section 65583[a])
- A statement of the community's goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the maintenance, preservation, improvement, and development of housing (Government Code Section 65583[a])
- A program that sets forth a schedule of actions during the planning period, each with a timeline for implementation of the policies and to achieve the goals and objectives of the housing element (Government Code Section 65583[c])

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) began the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process for the Sixth Cycle in Fall 2019, exploring different methodologies for allocating the regional need to individual cities and counties. As other cities began work on their Sixth Cycle Elements, the City was required to first amend its Fifth Cycle Element to accommodate both the current (Fifth) cycle and the prior (Fourth) cycle RHNA allocations due to its noncompliant status. The combined RHNA for the two cycles was 28 units. Accommodating this need meant that City was also required to amend its General Plan and zoning to create additional housing capacity.

The Fifth Cycle Housing Element was adopted June 14, 2021. The Fifth Cycle Housing Element was submitted to HCD and found to be in compliance on July 7, 2021. As a result of the compliance determination, the City does not have to carry over its prior allocation and may plan only for the 45 units identified in the Sixth Cycle RHNA.

2.2.2 Housing Element Overview

The City's HEU consists of the following major components:

- A review of the prior housing element and goals that were accomplished (Section 2, Evaluation of Prior Housing Element)
- An assessment of housing needs in the City including profile and analysis of the City's demographics, housing characteristics, and existing and future housing needs (Section 3, Housing Needs Assessment)
- An assessment of resources available to meet the City's objectives regarding housing production and preservation. Resources include land available for new construction and redevelopment, as well as financial and administrative resources available (Section 4, Housing Sites)
- A review of the constraints to housing production and preservation. Constraints include potential market, governmental policy, and environmental limitations to meeting the City's identified housing needs (Section 5, Constraints to Housing Production)

- A statement of the housing plan to address the City’s identified housing needs, including housing goals, policies, and programs (Section 6, Housing Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Programs)

2.2.3 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

State housing element law requires housing elements to be updated regularly to reflect a community’s changing housing needs, including preparation of a RHNA plan [Government Code Section 65584(a)]. A critical measure of compliance is the ability of a jurisdiction to accommodate its share of the regional housing needs based on a RHNA prepared by HCD for each Council of Governments in the state that identifies projected housing units needed for all economic segments based on Department of Finance population estimates. The SCAG is responsible for allocating this total to each of the six counties and 191 cities in the SCAG area. This process is known as the RHNA and occurs every eight years.

SCAG calculates each city and county’s “fair share” of the regional need using a computer model that weighs factors such as existing population and employment, growth potential, proximity to transit, and social equity. For each jurisdiction, SCAG distributes the RHNA among four different income groups. This ensures that each city or county is planning for housing that meet the needs of all economic segments of the community, including lower income households.

For the City, the RHNA for 2021-2029 is 45 units (SCAG 2020). This includes 20 very low income units, 9 low income units, 11 moderate income units, and 5 above moderate income units. The 2021-2029 Housing Element demonstrates that the City has the capacity to accommodate this assignment.

2.2.4 Summary of Ability to Meet RHNA

As shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** below, the combination of recently approved housing units (expected to be occupied in 2022), future affordable units on the Rancho Del Mar site¹, and new accessory dwelling units (ADUs) can accommodate the RHNA allocation in all income categories. The table illustrates a surplus capacity of seven lower income units based on projected ADU production over the planning period.

Table 2.2-1: Summary of Ability to Meet RHNA

	Income Category				Total
	Extremely Low/ Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate	
Approved Development	-	2	3	7*	12
Vacant Residential Lots	-	-	-	20	20
Rancho Del Mar Site	8	8	-	-	16
Accessory Dwelling Units	12	6	8	14	40
TOTALS	20	16	11	41	88
RHNA	20	9	11	5	45

¹ In March 2021, the City adopted an Affordable Housing Overlay Zone on the 31-acre Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) property located at 38 Crest Road (Rancho Del Mar site). Although the site is technically non-vacant, roughly three-quarters of the property (23 acres) is open space. The remaining areas are underutilized and could be repurposed. Consistent with the General Plan and Zoning amendments completed in 2021, the site is viable for 16 units of low/very low income housing.

Surplus/Deficit	0	+7	0	+36	+43
Adequate Sites?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Notes: Includes 3 new homes and 4 ADU's

2.2.5 2021-2029 Goals and Policies

As previously mentioned, based on the City’s ability to meet RHNA allocation as described above, the HEU is a policy document; no actual development nor rezoning of parcels is included as part of the approval. The housing goals, policies, objectives, and programs which can be found in Chapter 6 of the HEU reflect the City’s continued commitment to actively support residential development and plan for the City’s fair share of regional housing needs.

2.3 SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

2.3.1 Background

Throughout its history as a city, the City has dealt with various natural hazards, including earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and land movement. Developments in high landslide areas have occurred, and the City has been identified as being located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). As a result, the City has amended its building and safety codes to include special requirements such as fire-rated materials for new construction and a requirement for geotechnical studies in active fault zones.

2.3.2 Safety Element Overview

The City’s SEU addresses hazards of concern relevant to the City and provides goals, policies, and implementation measures to minimize these hazards. Figures 2 through 6 of the SEU show exact locations of these hazards, which are described in the following paragraphs.

Landslide Hazards

Much of the existing development in the City is located on hilly terrain and has a greater potential to experience landslide hazards. Many of the canyons in the City exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage, leaving them susceptible to slope failure.

Seismic Hazards

The City is in a seismically active region of southern California. The last major earthquake in the Los Angeles area was the 5.1 magnitude La Habra earthquake in 2014. The City is within 50 miles of the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault. Analysis of seismic data from the region indicates that the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults may generate a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and 7.4, respectively. The earthquake shaking potential for the City is moderate. A number of seismically active faults are present in the City and region; however, none are active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and delineated by California Geological Survey. The City has a low potential for liquefaction, as the subsurface soils generally lack saturated alluvial deposits and thick, granular soils.

Flooding

The City is not in any immediate risk from flooding caused by overflowing water bodies or heavy rains. However, runoff and minor flooding pose a risk if drainage systems fail along canyon bottoms, where natural drainage leads. Due to dam locations and the topography of the area, the inundation areas do not enter or affect any portion of the City.

Wildland and Urban Fires

The entire City is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE 2011). The terrain in the City is composed of several large and steep canyons that limit and challenge vegetation management and present conditions where a fire can quickly travel up and downslope to nearby homes. Due to the rural nature and large residential lots, many homes are surrounded by more substantial vegetation and dense brush than in more suburban settings.

Hazardous Materials

According to the Department of Substances Control (DTSC 2021), no hazardous waste sites or facilities are present in the City. The City and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster.

2.3.3 Goals and Policies

Similar to the HEU, the SEU is a policy document; no actual development or rezoning of parcels is included as part of the approval. In addition to goals and policies, the SEU includes implementation measures for action items for the City. The goals, policies, and implementation for hazard mitigation, community communication, and climate change adaptation and resilience are listed at the end of the SEU.

2.4 APPROVALS REQUIRED

Pursuant to State law, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is empowered to review the housing element of each community to ensure its compliance with the provisions of the Government Code related to facilitating the improvement and development of housing in order to make adequate provisions for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community. HCD has review but not approval authority.

Prior to adoption of the Safety Element, coordination and feedback from Los Angeles County Fire Department, Rolling Hills Community Association, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is required.

The City Council will need to adopt the Negative Declaration for the Housing Element and Safety Element Updates. No other approvals will be required.

SECTION 3.0 – FINDINGS

An IS / ND was prepared to assess the Proposed Project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts. Based on this IS / ND, it was determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the environment. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- No potential was found for adverse impacts on Aesthetics, Agriculture, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gases, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire associated with the Proposed Project.
- The proposed Project will not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory with the implementation of the recommended mitigation.
- The proposed Project will not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- The proposed Project will not have environmental effects which will cause substantially adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly

SECTION 4.0 – CIRCULATION

On January 13, 2022, the City of Rolling Hills circulated a NOI to Adopt an IS / ND to public agencies. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21091 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, a 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/ND was provided from January 13, 2022 to February 11, 2022. Copies of the IS / ND and supporting materials were made available for review at the City of Rolling Hills City Hall No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road Rolling Hills, CA 90274, and online at https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning_and_community_services/index.php.

The City will review the Final IS / ND for adoption on February 15, 2022, at its regularly scheduled City Council meeting located at No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road Rolling Hills, CA 90274.

During the 30-day comment period, the following comments were received from the following agencies.

Comment Letter No.	Commenting Agency	Date of Comment
1	California Department of Transportation	January 27, 2022
2	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	February 4, 2022
3	Los Angeles County Sanitation District	February 7, 2022

SECTION 5.0 – RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (b) outlines parameters for submitting comments and reminds persons and public agencies that the focus of review and comment of negative declarations should be, “on the proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. If persons and public agencies believe that the project may have a significant effect, they should: (1) Identify the specific effect; (2) Explain why they believe the effect would occur, and; (3) Explain why they believe the effect would be significant.”

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (c) further advises, “Reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts in support of the comments. Pursuant to Section 15064, an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence.” Section 15204 (d) also states, “Each responsible agency and trustee agency shall focus its comments on environmental information germane to that agency’s statutory responsibility.” Section 15204 (e) states, “This section shall not be used to restrict the ability of reviewers to comment on the general adequacy of a document or of the lead agency to reject comments not focused as recommended by this section.”

In accordance with Public Resources Code 21092.5 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency shall notify any public agency which comments on a negative declaration of the public hearing or hearings, if any, on the project for which the negative declaration was prepared. If notice to the commenting public agency is provided pursuant to Section 21092, the notice shall satisfy the requirement of this subdivision.

5.1 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Written comments on the Draft IS / ND are reproduced on the following pages, along with responses to those comments. To assist in referencing comments and responses, the letters are coded using numbers (e.g., Comment Letter 1) and each issue raised in the comment letter is assigned a number that correlates with the letter (e.g. 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, etc.).

Comment-initiated text revisions to the Draft ND and minor staff-initiated changes are compiled in their entirety and are demarcated with revision marks in Section 6.0, Revisions to the Draft Negative Declaration, of this Final IS/ ND.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 269-1124
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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

January 27, 2022

John F. Signo, Director
Planning and Community Services
City of Rolling Hills
No. 2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

RE: City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing
Element Update and Safety Element
Update
SCH # 2022010176
Vic. LA-01, LA-213, Citywide
GTS # LA-2022-03823-ND

Dear John F. Signo:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced environmental document. The Project is the Sixth Cycle, 2021-2029 Housing Element Update of the City of Rolling Hills General Plan and an update to the City's Safety Element to address various natural and human-caused hazards, including earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and land movement. The City's Housing Element serves as an integrated part of the General Plan and is subject to detailed statutory requirements, including a requirement to be updated every eight years and mandatory review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The City's Safety Element addresses hazards of concern relevant to the City and provides goals, policies, and implementation measures to minimize these hazards. The Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update are policy updates only, and no specific development is proposed at this time.

The 2020 Census indicates a citywide population of 1,739 residents, making the City the fifth smallest of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. For the City, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for 2021-2029 is 45 units (SCAG 2020). This includes 20 very low income units, 9 low income units, 11 moderate income units, and 5 above moderate income units. The 2021-2029 Housing Element demonstrates that the City has the capacity to accommodate this assignment.

Comment
1-1

Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment

John F. Signo, Director
January 27, 2022
Page 2 of 3

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

Caltrans is aware of challenges that the region faces in identifying viable solutions to alleviating congestion on State and Local facilities. With limited room to expand vehicular capacity, all future developments should incorporate multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better manage existing parking assets. Prioritizing and allocating space to efficient modes of travel such as bicycling and public transit can allow streets to transport more people in a fixed amount of right-of-way.

Caltrans supports the implementation of complete streets and pedestrian safety measures such as road diets and other traffic calming measures. Please note the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the road diet treatment as a proven safety countermeasure, and the cost of a road diet can be significantly reduced if implemented in tandem with routine street resurfacing. Overall, the environmental report should ensure all modes are served well by planning and development activities. This includes reducing single occupancy vehicle trips, ensuring safety, reducing vehicle miles traveled, supporting accessibility, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

For future specific projects, we encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications in order to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements. For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8). This reference is available online at:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

You can also refer to the 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), which is available online at:

Comment
1-2

Comment
1-3

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

John F. Signo, Director
January 27, 2022
Page 3 of 3

<http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>

Rolling Hills has no public roads or streets; thus, the City's circulation infrastructure is not conducive to uses generating high trip volumes (City 2014). Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Thus, no circulation-related impacts would result from the Project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2022-03823-ND.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse

↑
Comment
1-3 cont.
|
Comment
1-4
|
Comment
1-5

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 1

Commenter: Miya Edmonson, IGR/CEQA Branch Chief, California Department of Transportation

Date of Letter: January 27, 2022

Response to Comment 1-1: The commenter acknowledges receipt of the environmental document, and accurately discusses the Project components. and the comment also provides population and housing information regarding the City of Rolling Hills. No response is required.

Response to Comment 1-2: The commenter discusses the shift in transportation analysis as a result of Senate Bill 743 which utilizes VMT as the analysis metric as required for CEQA projects and notes the challenges that the region faces in identifying viable solutions to alleviating congestion on state and local facilities. The commenter suggests use of road diets, complete streets, and use of pedestrian safety measures to increase road safety and notes the environmental report should ensure all modes are served well by planning and development activities. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

Response to Comment 1-3: The commenter encourages the lead agency to use Transportation Demand Management strategies for future specific projects to support transit and pedestrian services, while providing reference manuals for these strategies. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

Response to Comment 1-4: The commenter acknowledges the lack of public roads or streets in the City and notes the City's circulation infrastructure does not support high volume trips. The commenter also notes impacts associated with future development would require project specific mitigation measures. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development, would be addressed through project specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City.

Response to Comment 1-5: The commenter concludes the letter and provides contact information for questions related to the letter. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Feb 04 2022

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Via Electronic Mail Only

February 4, 2022

Victoria Boyd
Chambers Group
5 Hutton Centre Suite 750
Santa Ana, CA 92707
VBoyd@chambersgroupinc.com

Subject: Negative Declaration for the City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update, SCH #2022010176, City of Rolling Hills, Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Boyd:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed a Negative Declaration (ND) from the City of Rolling Hills (City) for the City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update (Project). CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding aspects of the Project that could affect fish and wildlife resources and be subject to CDFW's regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW's Role

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State [Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subdivision (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, § 15386, subdivision (a)]. CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Id., § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect State fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW is also submitting comments as a Responsible Agency under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code, including lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 *et seq.*). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take", as defined by State law, of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*), or CESA-listed rare plant pursuant to the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; Fish & G. Code, § 1900 *et seq.*), CDFW recommends the Project proponent obtain appropriate authorization under the Fish and Game Code.

Comment
2-1

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Victoria Boyd
Chambers Group
February 4, 2022
Page 2 of 25

Project Description and Summary

Objective: The Project proposes to update both the Housing Element and Safety Element of the City's General Plan.

Housing Element Update: State housing element law requires housing elements to be updated regularly to reflect a community's changing housing needs. A critical measure of compliance is the ability of a jurisdiction to accommodate its share of the regional housing needs based on a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The RHNA is prepared by California Department of Housing and Community Development for each Council of Governments. The City's RHNA for the 6th Cycle 2021-2029 Housing Element Update is 45 units. This includes 20 very low-income units, 9 low-income units, 11 moderate income units, and 5 above moderate income units. The Housing Element Update will consist of the following major components:

- A review of the prior housing element and goals that were accomplished (Section 2, Evaluation of Prior Housing Element);
- An assessment of housing needs including profile and analysis of the City's demographics, housing characteristics, and existing and future housing needs (Section 3, Housing Needs Assessment);
- An assessment of resources available to meet the City's objectives regarding housing production and preservation. Resources include land available for new construction and redevelopment, as well as financial and administrative resources available (Section 4, Housing Sites);
- A review of the constraints to housing production and preservation. Constraints include potential market, governmental policy, and environmental limitations to meeting the City's identified housing needs (Section 5, Constraints to Housing Production); and,
- A statement of the housing plan to address the City's identified housing needs, including housing goals, policies, and programs (Section 6, Housing Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Programs).

Comment
2-2

Safety Element Update: The Safety Element Update addresses hazards of concern relevant to the City. Hazards within the City include landslides, seismic activity, flooding, wildland and urban fires, and hazardous materials. The Safety Element Update provides goals, policies, and implementation measures to minimize these hazards.

Location: The Project would apply to the entire City. The City is a rural, equestrian residential community, consisting entirely of large lot residential parcels of one acre or more. The City encompasses 2.99 square miles (approximately 1,910 acres) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles County.

Comments and Recommendations

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in adequately identifying, avoiding, and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct, and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Editorial comments or other suggestions are also included to improve the environmental document. CDFW recommends the measures or revisions below be included in a science-based monitoring program that contains adaptive management strategies as part of the Project's CEQA mitigation, monitoring, and reporting program (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6; CEQA Guidelines, § 15097).

Comment
2-3

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Victoria Boyd
 Chambers Group
 February 4, 2022
 Page 3 of 25

Specific Comments

Comment #1: Impacts on Biological Resources

Issue: Development facilitated by the Project could impact biological resources.

Specific impacts: The City has identified 20 developable vacant sites to meet the City's RHNA of above moderate-income units (Attachment B). Development of any those 20 vacant sites could impact biological resources. Development of all 20 sites could result in approximately 75 acres of habitat loss. Biological resources that could be impacted by development facilitated by the Project includes, but is not limited to, the following (Table 1; Attachment B):

Table 1. Biological resources that could be impacted by development facilitated by the Project. This is not an exhaustive list of biological resources that could be impacted nor all plants, wildlife, and natural communities that occur/could occur in the City.

Wildlife		
Common name	Scientific Name	Status
coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	FT, SSC
coastal cactus wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus cousei</i>	SSC
El Segundo blue butterfly	<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	FE
Palos Verdes blue butterfly	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i>	FE
Plants		
Common name	Scientific Name	Status
aphanisma	<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>	CRPR 1B.2
south coast saltscale	<i>Atriplex pacifica</i>	CRPR 1B.2
Catalina crossosoma	<i>Crossosoma californicum</i>	CRPR 1B.2
Island green dudleya	<i>Dudleya virens ssp. insularis</i>	CRPR 1B.2
Santa Catalina Island desert-thorn	<i>Lycium brevipes var. hasselii</i>	CRPR 3.1
woolly seablight	<i>Suaeda taxifolia</i>	CRPR 4.2
Natural communities		
woodlands (oak and California walnut)	<i>Quercus</i> genus Woodland Alliance, <i>Juglans californica</i> Woodland Alliance	S4, S3.2
coastal sage scrub	<i>Artemisia californica-Salvia mellifera</i> Shrubland Alliance, <i>Encelia californica</i> Shrubland Alliance, <i>Salvia apiana</i> Shrubland Alliance	S3, S4
riparian scrub	<i>Salix</i> genus Shrubland Alliance	S3, S4
southern coastal bluff scrub		
coast prickly pear scrub	<i>Optunia littoralis</i> Shrubland Alliance	S3
grasslands		
FE: Federally endangered		
FT: Federally threatened		
SSC: California Species of Special Concern		
CRPR: California Rare Plant Rank (CNPS 2022a)		
CRPR 1B: rare throughout their range, endemic to California; declined significantly over the last century		
CRPR 3: lacking the necessary information to assign one of the other ranks or to reject them		
CRPR 4: limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California		
S: State Rank (Sawyer et al. 2009)		
S3: 21-100 viable occurrences worldwide/statewide		
S4: greater than 100 viable occurrences worldwide/statewide		
0.2: threatened		

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Why impacts would occur: The 20 vacant sites identified by the City would accommodate single-family units. These vacant sites currently are open space/natural areas. Future housing development facilitated by the Project would require open space/natural areas to be substantially graded and disturbed. This could result in removal of vegetation, trees, and habitat supporting plants and wildlife. Furthermore, development could impact biological resources within Significant Ecological Areas (Attachment B). Impacts on biological resources could extend beyond the immediate development footprint because development of a site could likely require fuel modification and grading to mitigate the effects of fire and landslide hazards.

Evidence impact would be significant: The Project would result in direct physical changes to the environment and substantially degrade the quality of the environment. Development facilitated by the Project would occur on vacant sites that are open space and natural areas. Development resulting in habitat degradation could impact biological resources, including plant and/or wildlife species that is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a SSC, or a rare species (Table 1).

- **ESA-listed species:** Impacts on ESA-listed species requires a mandatory finding of significance under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). Take under ESA also includes significant habitat modification or degradation that could result in death or injury to a listed species by interfering with essential behavioral patterns such as breeding, foraging, or nesting.
- **SSC:** A [California Species of Special Concern](#) meets the CEQA definition of rare, threatened, or endangered species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). Therefore, impacts on SSC could require a mandatory finding of significance (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). An SSC is a species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following (not necessarily mutually exclusive) criteria:
 - is extirpated from the State or, in the case of birds, is extirpated in its primary season or breeding role;
 - is listed as ESA-, but not CESA-, threatened, or endangered; meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed;
 - is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status; and/or,
 - has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for CESA threatened or endangered status (CDFW 2022a).
- **Rare Plants:** Plants with a CRPR of 1B meet the definition of endangered, rare, or threatened species (CNPS 2022a). Plants with a CRPR of 4 may meet the definition of endangered, rare, or threatened species. Therefore, impacts on rare plants could require a mandatory finding of significance.
- **Sensitive Natural Communities:** CDFW considers Sensitive Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance. Natural communities, alliances, and associations with a State-wide rarity ranking of S1, S2, and S3 should be considered sensitive and declining at the local and regional level. These ranks can be obtained by visiting the [Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program - Natural Communities](#) webpage (CDFW 2022b). Impacts on sensitive natural communities could require a mandatory finding of significance.

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The Project's potential impacts on biological resources, especially rare, sensitive, or special status species, as well as sensitive natural communities, requires a mandatory finding of significance. However, the Project's ND concludes that there will be no impacts. Development facilitated by the Project could substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species [CEQA Guidelines, § 150565(a)(1)]. For example, the Palos Verdes blue butterfly is restricted to open coastal sage scrub habitat on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The Project resulting in the development and loss of open coastal sage scrub habitat could therefore have a significant effect on biological resources in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 150565(a)(1). Furthermore, the Project has possible environmental effects that are individual limited but cumulatively considerable [CEQA Guidelines, § 150565(a)(3)].

The ND does not provide measures to mitigate for the Project's potentially significant impacts on rare, sensitive, or special status species, as well as sensitive natural communities. Accordingly, the Project has a substantial adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species, or a Sensitive Natural Community, in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #1: Applicants of future development projects should be required to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment (BRA). The BRA should be prepared by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist should conduct field surveys of the project site and focused plant and wildlife surveys. Focused species-specific surveys should be required if suitable habitat is present and performed according to established [Survey and Monitoring Protocols and Guidelines](#) (CDFW 2021c). The BRA should characterize the biological resources on site, analyze project-specific impacts to biological resources, and propose appropriate mitigation measures to offset those impacts. The BRA should provide the following information:

- 1) A complete, recent, assessment of rare, threatened, and endangered species, regionally and locally unique species, and sensitive habitats at the project site and within the area of potential effect, including California Species of Special Concern and California Fully Protected Species (Fish & G. Code, §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515). Species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition of endangered, rare, or threatened species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). Seasonal variations in use of land around the project site should also be addressed. A nine-quadrangle search of CDFW's [California Natural Diversity Database](#) (CNDDDB) should be conducted to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat (CDFW 2022d);
- 2) A thorough, recent, floristic-based assessment of special status plants and natural communities following CDFW's [Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities](#) (CDFW 2018). Adjoining habitat areas should be included where project construction and activities could lead to direct or indirect impacts off site;
- 3) Floristic, alliance- and/or association-based mapping and vegetation impact assessments conducted at the project site and within the area of potential effect. The [Manual of California Vegetation](#) (MCV), second edition, should be used to inform this mapping and assessment (Sawyer et al. 2009);

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- 4) A rare plant assessment using online databases for rare, threatened, and endangered plants, including the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) [Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California](#) (CNPS 2022b) as well as the Calflora's [Information on Wild California Plants](#) database (Calflora 2022);
- 5) A discussion regarding project-related indirect impacts on biological resources in nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed or existing reserve lands [e.g., preserve lands associated with a Natural Community Conservation Plan (Fish & G. Code, § 2800 et. seq.)]; and,
- 6) Impacts on, and maintenance of, wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitats in areas adjacent to the project site.

Mitigation Measure #2: Development projects that would impact species listed under CESA and/or ESA should be required to obtain appropriate take authorization from CDFW and/or USFWS prior to the City's issuance of a grading permit.

Mitigation Measure #3: If a rare plant species or a Sensitive Natural Community is detected, the project applicant should fully avoided impacts. The project applicant should retain a qualified biologist to develop an avoidance plan. An avoidance plan should be submitted to the City prior to any grading or vegetation removal.

If the project cannot feasibly avoid impacts to rare plants and habitat, or sensitive natural communities, either during project activities or over the life of the project, the project applicant should provide compensatory mitigation for the loss of individual plants and habitat acres, which should include impacts due to fuel modification and landslide remediation. Impacts on vegetation due hazard mitigation should also be mitigated as these impacts would result in permanent loss and perpetual impacts on habitat function and quality. The project applicant should provide compensatory so that there is no net loss of rare plants and habitat, or sensitive natural communities. Compensatory mitigation should be appropriate for the extent of permanently disturbed habitat. Compensatory mitigation should be higher for impacts on CRPR 1 species, S1 or S2 Sensitive Natural Community, and Sensitive Natural Community with an additional rank of 0.1 or 0.2. Compensatory mitigation should be implemented by a qualified restoration ecologist. A Restoration Plan, at a minimum, should include success criteria and performance standards for measuring the establishment of rare plants and habitat, responsible parties, maintenance techniques and schedule, 5-year monitoring and reporting schedule, adaptive management strategies, and contingencies. A Restoration Plan should be submitted to the City prior to any grading or vegetation removal.

Recommendation #1: CDFW considers adverse impacts to a species protected by CESA to be significant without mitigation under CEQA. As to CESA, take of any endangered, threatened, candidate species that results from a project is prohibited, except as authorized by State law (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2080, 2085; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 786.9). Consequently, if a project, project construction, or any project-related activity for the duration of the project will result in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, CDFW recommends the project applicant seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing/continuing the project. Appropriate authorization from CDFW may include an Incidental Take Permit or a Consistency Determination in certain circumstances, among other options [Fish & G. Code, §§ 2080.1, 2081, subs. (b) and (c)]. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may

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require that CDFW issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP unless the Project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to CESA-listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP. For these reasons, biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP.

Recommendation #2: The City's [Open Space and Conservation Element](#) sets forth goals to conserve and enhance the City's natural resources. The City's Open Space and Conservation Element states that conversion of land use often endangers sensitive resources and open space lands, and the City is committed to maintaining a balance of preservation and development. Yet, the City's current [Zoning Map](#) shows the entire City zoned for residential development (City of Rolling Hills 1990). CDFW recommends the City consider conserving sites 6 through 14 and 31 through 34 as large continuous open space for preservation of natural resources, habitats, natural vistas, canyons, and corridors benefiting local and transient wildlife populations (Attachment B). CDFW recommends the City protect from development sites that overlap with critical habitat, Significance Ecological Areas, and streams (Attachment B). Finally, CDFW recommends the City consider focusing development the northern part of the City where impacts on biological resources would be minimized and focus development where it already exists.

Comment
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Comment #2: Impacts on Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Issue: Development facilitated by the Project could impact coastal California gnatcatcher.

Specific impacts: Housing development during the coastal California gnatcatcher breeding and nesting season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings. In addition, development facilitated by the Project could result in permanent loss of coastal California gnatcatcher habitat.

Why impacts would occur: Fourteen of 20 developable vacant sites identified by the City overlap with critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher (Attachment B; USFWS 2021a). Where a development project would occur within or adjacent to suitable habitat, the project could impact coastal California gnatcatcher. Construction would create elevated levels of noise, human activity, dust, ground vibrations, and vegetation disturbance. These activities occurring near potential nests could cause birds to abandon their nests and a decrease in feeding frequency, both resulting in the loss of fertile eggs or nestlings. Accordingly, the Project would have an impact on coastal California gnatcatcher. In addition, a development project would require grading and vegetation removal in the project site and adjacent areas for fuel modification and/or landslide remediation. Accordingly, development may result in permanent loss of coastal California gnatcatcher habitat. The quality and function of nesting habitat in areas adjacent to a project site could also be permanently impacted by project-facilitated edge effects such as ambient nighttime lighting and spread of invasive, non-native species.

Comment
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Evidence impact would be significant: The Project could result in impacts on coastal California gnatcatcher. Impacts on ESA-listed species and SSC requires a mandatory finding of significance under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). The Project's ND does not provide measures to mitigate for potentially significant impacts on coastal California gnatcatcher. Accordingly, the Project has a substantial adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or

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special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW and USFWS.

In addition, nests of all birds and raptors are protected under State laws and regulations, including Fish and Game Code, sections 3503 and 3503.5. Fish and Game Code section 3503 states, "It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird." Fish and Game code section 3503.5 prohibits the take, possession, or destruction of birds-of-prey and their nests or eggs. Also, take or possession of migratory nongame birds designated in the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is prohibited under Fish and Game Code section 3513. As such, impacts on nesting birds and raptors, either directly or indirectly through nest abandonment, reproductive suppression, or loss of occupied nesting habitat, would be a significant impact under CEQA.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s): In addition to Mitigation Measure #2, #9, and #10 in this letter, CDFW recommends the mitigation measures below:

Mitigation Measure #4: Where a project site and areas adjacent to the project has suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher, applicants of future development projects should be required to retain a qualified permitted biologist to survey for coastal California gnatcatcher and prepare an impact assessment. The qualified biologist should survey the project site and adjacent areas to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatcher. The qualified biologist should conduct surveys according to USFWS [Coastal California Gnatcatcher \(Polioptila californica californica\) Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines](#) (USFWS 1997). The protocol should be followed for all surveys unless otherwise authorized by the USFWS in writing (USFWS 1997). Survey results should be provided to USFWS per protocol guidance. Survey results, including negative findings, and an impact assessment should be conducted prior to the City's issuance of a grading permits.

Mitigation Measure #5: Applicants of future development projects should be required to provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher habitat in addition to mitigation required by USFWS to prevent temporal or permanent habitat loss.

Comment #3: Impacts on Streams and Associated Natural Communities

Issue: Development facilitated by the Project could impact streams and associated natural communities.

Specific impacts: Construction of housing may result in erosion and earth movement that could impair streams, whether ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial. Construction of housing may necessitate streams to be channelized or diverted from their natural course of flow. Construction of housing may require vegetation along streams to be removed, or may degrade vegetation through habitat modification (e.g., loss of water source, encroachment, and edge effects leading to introduction of non-native plants).

Why impacts would occur: The City consists of canyons of the San Pedro Hills, and within these canyons are streams, whether ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial (Attachment B, USFWS 2021b). Most of the developable sites identified by the City are located adjacent to streams. Construction of housing would result in ground-disturbing activities (e.g., excavation, pile driving, paving, grading) and vegetation removal. This includes ground-disturbing activities

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and vegetation removal potentially required for fuel modification and landslide remediation. Ground-disturbing activities and vegetation removal could result in erosion. Excess sediment transported downslope could impair streams and herbaceous vegetation. Herbaceous vegetation adjacent to streams protects the physical and ecological integrity of these water features and maintains natural sedimentation processes. Therefore, housing projects that would impact vegetation adjacent to streams, but not the stream itself, could still impact the watercourse. In addition, housing projects may require streams to be channelized or diverted from their natural course of flow.

Evidence impacts would be significant: CDFW exercises its regulatory authority as provided by Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. to conserve fish and wildlife resources which includes rivers, streams, or lakes and associated natural communities. Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify CDFW prior to beginning any activity that may do one or more of the following:

- Divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake¹;
- Change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake;
- Use material from any river, stream, or lake; or,
- Deposit or dispose of material into any river, stream, or lake.

CDFW requires a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement when a project activity may substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. The Project may result in significant impacts on streams and associated natural communities if development facilitated by the Project would be in close proximity to these resources. The Project's ND does not provide measures to mitigate for potentially significant impacts. Accordingly, the Project has a substantial adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on fish and wildlife resources, including rivers, streams, or lakes and associated natural communities identified by CDFW.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #6: Applicants of future development projects that are located adjacent to a river, stream, or lake should be required to prepare a jurisdictional delineation² and impact assessment provided along with the project's Biological Resources Assessment.

Mitigation Measure #7: If such features are present and may be impacted by the future development, then the project should be required to avoid impacts by implementing appropriate vegetative buffers and/or setbacks adjoining the stream or wetland feature to reduce impacts of the project on these resources.

Mitigation Measure #8: If avoidance is not feasible, the project applicant should be required to notify CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code 1602 and obtain an LSA Agreement from CDFW

¹ "Any river, stream, or lake" includes those that are dry for periods of time (ephemeral/episodic) as well as those that flow year-round (perennial). This includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with a subsurface flow. It may also apply to work undertaken within the flood plain of a water body.

² Be advised that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to CDFW's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 permit and Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Certification.

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prior to the City's issuance of a grading permit. The project applicant should comply with the mitigation measures detailed in a LSA Agreement issued by CDFW. The project applicant should also provide compensatory mitigation at no less than 1:1 for the impacted stream and habitat acreage, or at a ratio acceptable to CDFW.

Please visit CDFW's [Lake and Streambed Alteration Program](#) webpage for more information (CDFW 2021b).

Recommendation #3: CDFW's issuance of an LSA Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by CDFW as a Responsible Agency. As a Responsible Agency, CDFW may consider the CEQA document from the lead agency/project applicant for the project. To minimize additional requirements by CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. and/or under CEQA, a project's CEQA document should fully identify the potential impacts to the stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSA Agreement. To compensate for any on- and off-site impacts to aquatic and riparian resources, additional mitigation conditioned in any LSA Agreement may include the following: erosion and pollution control measures; avoidance of resources; protective measures for downstream resources; on- and/or off-site habitat creation; enhancement or restoration; and/or protection and management of mitigation lands in perpetuity.

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Comment #4: Impacts on Nesting Birds

Issue: Development facilitated by the Project could impact nesting birds and raptors directly or through habitat loss and modification.

Specific impacts: Construction of housing during the nesting bird season could cause nesting birds to abandon their nests and a decrease in feeding frequency. This could result in loss of fertile eggs and nestlings. In addition, development facilitated by the Project could result in loss of nesting habitat or degrade habitat quality and function in areas adjacent to a project.

Why impacts would occur: Vegetation found in all 20 developable sites could provide suitable nesting habitat for birds and raptors. Some of these sites may contain woodlands such as oak woodlands. Oak woodlands have higher levels of biodiversity than any other terrestrial ecosystem in California. Over 330 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians depend on oak woodlands in California at some stage in their life cycle (CalPIF 2002). Large oak trees in oak woodland habitats are important for cover, nesting sites for cup nesting species and cavity nesting species, as well as caching sites for birds storing acorns (CalPIF 2002).

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Where a development project would occur within or adjacent to suitable habitat, the project could impact nesting birds and raptors. Construction would create elevated levels of noise, human activity, dust, ground vibrations, and vegetation disturbance. These activities occurring near potential nests could cause birds to abandon their nests and a decrease in feeding frequency, both resulting in the loss of fertile eggs or nestlings. Accordingly, nesting birds and raptors would be impacted. In addition, a development project would require grading and vegetation removal in the project site and adjacent areas for fuel modification and/or landslide remediation. Accordingly, development may result in permanent loss of nesting habitat. The quality and function of nesting habitat in areas adjacent to a project site could also be

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permanently impacted by project-facilitated edge effects such as ambient nighttime lighting and spread of invasive, non-native species.

Evidence impact would be significant: The Project could result in impacts on nesting birds, including ESA-listed species of birds and SSC (i.e., coastal California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren). Impacts on ESA-listed species and SSC requires a mandatory finding of significance under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). In addition, nests of all birds and raptors are protected under State laws and regulations, including Fish and Game Code, sections 3503 and 3503.5. Fish and Game Code section 3503 states, "It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird." Fish and Game code section 3503.5 prohibits the take, possession, or destruction of birds-of-prey and their nests or eggs. Also, take or possession of migratory nongame birds designated in the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is prohibited under Fish and Game Code section 3513.

Impacts on nesting birds and raptors, either directly or indirectly through nest abandonment, reproductive suppression, or loss of occupied nesting habitat, would be a significant impact. The Project's ND does not provide measures to mitigate for potentially significant impacts on nesting birds. Accordingly, the Project has a substantial adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by CDFW and USFWS.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #9: Future development projects requiring vegetation disturbance and/or removal, and/or are adjacent to suitable nesting habitat should be required to avoid impacts on nesting birds by conducting all project-related activities between September 1 through January 31, outside of the nesting bird season.

Mitigation Measure #10: If construction must occur during the bird nesting season, project applicants should be required to retain a qualified biologist to survey suitable nesting habitat for nesting birds on the project site and within 100 feet from the project site to the extent allowable and accessible. A qualified biologist should conduct a nesting bird survey no more than 7 days prior to any ground and vegetation disturbing activities. If project activities are delayed or suspended for more than 7 days during the nesting bird season, a qualified biologist should repeat nesting bird surveys before the project can recommence.

No-disturbance buffers should be established to minimize impacts on any nests and nestlings. No-disturbance buffers should be maintained until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist determines that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival.

Mitigation Measure #11: Future development projects removing habitat for nesting birds should be required to restore or replace habitat in-kind and on site if feasible to prevent temporal or permanent habitat loss. Projects should provide replacement habitat for both individual trees and habitat acres.

Comment #5: Impacts on Bats

Issue: Development facilitated by the Project could impact bats.

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Specific impacts: Construction of housing may result in direct and indirect impacts to bats. Direct impacts include removal of trees and structures occupied by roosting bats. This could result in injury or mortality to bats as well as loss of roosting habitat. Indirect impacts to bats and roosts could result from increased noise disturbances, human activity, dust, vegetation clearing, ground-disturbing activities (e.g., staging, mobilizing, excavating, and grading), and vibrations caused by heavy equipment.

Why impacts would occur: California has the fourth highest diversity of bat species in the United States, with 25 species representing three families. Twenty-four of these species occur in the south coast ecoregion of the State, indicating the importance of the region to bat diversity (Miner and Stokes 2005). The major threat to bats in the south coast ecoregion is habitat loss (especially riparian and oak woodland habitats) due to urban expansion as well as extermination or disturbance of bat colonies.

Vegetation found in all 20 developable sites could provide suitable roosting habitat for bats. Some of these sites may contain riparian and oak woodland habitats. Where a development project would occur within or adjacent to suitable habitat, the project could impact bats and roosts. Construction would create elevated levels of noise, human activity, dust, ground vibrations, and vegetation disturbance. These activities as well as the reconfiguration of large objects can lead to the disturbance of roosting bats which may have a negative impact on the animals. Modifications to roost sites can have significant impacts on the bats' usability of the roost and can impact the bats' fitness and survivability (Johnston et al. 2004). Human disturbance can lead to a change in humidity, temperatures, or the approach to a roost that could force the animals to change their mode of egress and/or ingress to a roost. Although temporary, such disturbance can lead to the abandonment of a maternity roost (Johnston et al. 2004). In addition, a development project would require grading and vegetation removal in the project site and adjacent areas for fuel modification and/or landslide remediation. Accordingly, development may result in permanent habitat loss.

Evidence impacts would be significant: Bats are considered non-game mammals and are afforded protection by State law from take and/or harassment (Fish & G. Code, § 4150; Cal. Code of Regs, § 251.1). Several bat species are considered SSC. Impacts on SSC could require a mandatory finding of significance under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). Impacts on bats, either directly or indirectly through disturbances to roosts and loss of habitat, would be a significant impact. The ND does not provide measures to mitigate for the Project's potentially significant impacts on bats. Accordingly, the Project has a substantial adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by CDFW.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #12: Surveys for Bats – Future development projects in areas with suitable roosting and foraging habitat for bats should be required to retain a qualified bat biologist to conduct a survey for within the project site and within 100 feet from the project site to the extent allowable and accessible. A qualified bat specialist should identify potential daytime, nighttime, wintering, and hibernation roost sites. Surveys should be conducted prior to any ground-disturbing activities and vegetation removal.

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Mitigation Measure #13: Tree Removal – If a project requires tree removal and a qualified bat biologist determines that roosting bats may be present at any time of year and could roost in trees that need to be removed, during tree removal, trees should be pushed down using heavy machinery rather than felling with a chainsaw. To ensure the optimum warning for any roosting bats that may still be present, trees should be pushed lightly two or three times, with a pause of approximately 30 seconds between each nudge to allow bats to become active. The tree should then be pushed to the ground slowly and remain in place until it is inspected by a qualified bat biologist. Trees that are known to be bat roosts or could support roosting bats should not be bucked or mulched immediately. A period of at least 24 hours, and preferable 48 hours, should elapse prior to such operations to allow bats to escape.

Mitigation Measure #14: Roosting Bats - If bats roosts are found within the project impact area, the qualified bat biologist should identify the bats to the species level, evaluate the colony to determine its size and significance, and establish a species-specific no-disturbance buffer that should be maintained throughout the duration of the project's construction.

Mitigation Measure #15: Maternity Roosts – If maternity roosts are found, project-related construction and activities should be scheduled between October 1 and February 28, outside of the maternity roosting season when young bats are present but are yet ready to fly out of the roost (March 1 to September 30).

If maternity roosts are found and the project must take place during the maternity roosting season, trees/structures determined to be maternity roosts should be left in place until the end of the maternity season. Project-related construction and activities should not occur within 100 feet of or directly under or adjacent to an active maternity roost. A qualified bat biologist should establish a no-disturbance buffer that should be maintained throughout the duration of the project's construction or until a qualified bat biologist determines that the roost is no longer active. Project-related construction and activities should also not occur between 30 minutes before sunset and 30 minutes after sunrise.

Additional Recommendations

Recommendation #4: Data - CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database [i.e., CNDDDB] which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations [Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)]. Information on special status species should be submitted to the CNDDDB by completing and submitting [CNDDDB Field Survey Forms](#) (CDFW 2021f). Information on special status native plant populations and sensitive natural communities, the [Combined Rapid Assessment and Relevé Form](#) should be completed and submitted to CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (CDFW 2021g).

Recommendation #5: Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan - CDFW recommends the City provide Biological Resources Mitigation Measures for the Project and condition the environmental document to include mitigation measures recommended in this letter. CDFW provides comments to assist the City in developing mitigation measures that are specific, detailed (i.e., responsible party, timing, specific actions, location), and clear for a measure to be fully enforceable and implemented successfully via a mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program (CEQA Guidelines, § 15097; Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6). The City is welcome to coordinate with CDFW to further review and refine the Project's mitigation measures. Per

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Public Resources Code section 21081.6(a)(1), CDFW has provided the City with a summary of our suggested mitigation measures and recommendations in the form of an attached Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan (MMRP; Attachment A).

Filing Fees

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the City of Rolling Hills and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required for the underlying Project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

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Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the City of Rolling Hills in adequately analyzing and minimizing/mitigating impacts to biological resources. CDFW requests an opportunity to review and comment on any response that the City of Rolling Hills has to our comments and to receive notification of any forthcoming hearing date(s) for the Project [CEQA Guidelines, § 15073(e)]. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Ruby Kwan-Davis, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at Ruby.Kwan-Davis@wildlife.ca.gov or (562) 619-2230.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



5991E19EF8094C3...

Victoria Tang signing for

Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Environmental Program Manager I
South Coast Region

Comment
2-10

ec: CDFW

Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Los Alamitos – Erinn.Wilson-Olgin@wildlife.ca.gov
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Attachment(s):

Attachment A: Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan
Attachment B: Housing Sites

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
 CHARLTON H. BOWHAM, Director

Attachment A: Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan

Biological Resources (BIO)		
Mitigation Measure (MM) or Recommendation (REC)	Timing	Responsible Party
<p>Applicants of future development projects shall be required to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment (BRA). The BRA shall be prepared by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist shall conduct field surveys of the project site and focused plant and wildlife surveys. Focused species-specific surveys shall be required if suitable habitat is present and performed according to established Survey and Monitoring Protocols and Guidelines. The BRA shall characterize the biological resources on site, analyze project-specific impacts to biological resources, and propose appropriate mitigation measures to offset those impacts. The BRA shall provide the following information:</p> <p>1) A complete, recent, assessment of rare, threatened, and endangered species, regionally and locally unique species, and sensitive habitats at the project site and within the area of potential effect, including California Species of Special Concern and California Fully Protected Species. Species to be addressed shall include all those which meet the CEQA definition of endangered, rare, or threatened species. Seasonal variations in use of land around the project site shall also be addressed. A nine-quadrangle search of CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database shall be conducted to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat;</p> <p>2) A thorough, recent, floristic-based assessment of special status</p> <p>MM-BIO-1 Impacts on Biological Resources – Biological Resources Assessment</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of grading permit</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects/City of Rolling Hills (City)</p>

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	<p>plants and natural communities following CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities. Adjoining habitat areas shall be included where project construction and activities could lead to direct or indirect impacts off site;</p> <p>3) Floristic, alliance- and/or association-based mapping and vegetation impact assessments conducted at the project site and within the area of potential effect. The Manual of California Vegetation shall be used to inform this mapping and assessment;</p> <p>4) A rare plant assessment using online databases for rare, threatened, and endangered plants, including the California Native Plant Society Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California as well as the California's Information on Wild California Plants database;</p> <p>5) A discussion regarding project-related indirect impacts on biological resources in nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed or existing reserve lands; and,</p> <p>6) Impacts on, and maintenance of, wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitats in areas adjacent to the project site.</p>		
<p>MM-BIO-2 Impacts on Biological Resources – Take of Listed Species</p>	<p>Development projects that would impact species listed under CESA and/or ESA shall be required to obtain appropriate take authorization from CDFW and/or USFWS.</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of grading permit</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects/City</p>
<p>MM-BIO-3 Impacts on Biological Resources – Rare Plants &</p>	<p>If a rare plant species or a Sensitive Natural Community is detected, the project applicant shall fully avoided impacts. The project applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to develop an avoidance plan. An avoidance plan shall be submitted to the City prior to any grading or vegetation removal.</p>	<p>An avoidance plan shall be submitted to the City prior to any grading</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects/City</p>

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<p>Sensitive Natural Communities</p>	<p>If the project cannot feasibly avoid impacts to rare plants and habitat, or sensitive natural communities, either during project activities or over the life of the project, the project shall provide compensatory mitigation for the loss of individual plants and habitat acres, which shall include impacts due to fuel modification and landslide remediation.</p> <p>The project applicant shall provide compensatory so that there is no net loss of rare plants and habitat, or sensitive natural communities. Compensatory mitigation shall be appropriate for the extent of permanently disturbed habitat. Compensatory mitigation shall be higher for impacts on CRPR 1 species, S1 or S2 Sensitive Natural Community, and Sensitive Natural Community with an additional rank of 0.1 or 0.2. Compensatory mitigation shall be implemented by a qualified restoration ecologist.</p> <p>A Restoration Plan, at a minimum, shall include success criteria and performance standards for measuring the establishment of rare plants and habitat, responsible parties, maintenance techniques and schedule, 5-year monitoring and reporting schedule, adaptive management strategies, and contingencies. A Restoration Plan shall be submitted to the City prior to any grading or vegetation removal.</p>	<p>or vegetation removal</p> <p>A Restoration Plan shall be submitted to the City prior to any grading or vegetation removal</p>	
<p>MM-BIO-4 Impacts on Coastal California Gnatcatcher – Gnatcatcher Surveys</p>	<p>Where a project site and areas adjacent to the project has suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher, applicants of future development projects shall be required to retain a qualified permitted biologist to survey for coastal California gnatcatcher and prepare an impact assessment. The qualified biologist shall survey the project site and adjacent areas to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatcher. The qualified biologist shall conduct surveys according to USFWS Coastal California Gnatcatcher (Polioptila californica californica) Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines. The protocol shall be followed for all surveys unless otherwise authorized by the USFWS in writing. Survey results shall be provided to USFWS per protocol guidance. Survey</p>	<p>Prior to the City's issuance of a grading permits</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects/City</p>

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	results, including negative findings, and an impact assessment shall be conducted prior to the City's issuance of a grading permits.		
MM-BIO-5 Impacts on Coastal California Gnatcatcher – Replacement Habitat	Applicants of future development projects shall be required to provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher habitat in addition to mitigation required by USFWS to prevent temporal or permanent habitat loss.	Prior to any grading and vegetation removal	Applicants of future development projects
MM-BIO-6 Impacts on Streams and Associated Natural Communities – Jurisdictional Delineation	Applicants of future development projects that are located adjacent to a river, stream, or lake shall be required to prepare a jurisdictional delineation and impact assessment provided along with the project's Biological Resources Assessment.	Prior to issuance of grading permit	Applicants of future development projects/City
MM-BIO-7 Impacts on Streams and Associated Natural Communities – Buffers & Setbacks	If such features are present and may be impacted by the future development, then the project shall be required to avoid impacts by implementing appropriate vegetative buffers and/or setbacks adjoining the stream or wetland feature to reduce impacts of the project on these resources.	Prior to any grading and vegetation removal Project design	Applicants of future development projects
MM-BIO-8 Impacts on Streams and Associated Natural Communities – Fish & Game Code 1602	If avoidance is not feasible, the project applicant shall be required to notify CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code 1602 and obtain an LSA Agreement from CDFW prior to the City's issuance of a grading permit. The project applicant shall comply with the mitigation measures detailed in a LSA Agreement issued by CDFW. The project applicant shall also provide compensatory mitigation at no less than 1:1 for the impacted stream and habitat acreage, or at a ratio acceptable to CDFW.	Prior to issuance of grading permit	Applicants of future development projects/City

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<p>MM-BIO-9 Impacts on Nesting Birds – Avoiding Impacts</p>	<p>Future development projects requiring vegetation disturbance and/or removal, and/or are adjacent to suitable nesting habitat shall be required to avoid impacts on nesting birds by conducting all project-related activities between September 1 through January 31, outside of the nesting bird season.</p>	<p>Prior to any grading and vegetation removal</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects</p>
<p>MM-BIO-10 Impacts on Nesting Birds – Surveys & No- Disturbance Buffers</p>	<p>If construction must occur during the bird nesting season, project applicants shall be required to retain a qualified biologist to survey suitable nesting habitat for nesting birds on the project site and within 100 feet from the project site to the extent allowable and accessible. A qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of any ground and vegetation disturbing activities. If project activities are delayed or suspended for more than 7 days during the nesting bird season, a qualified biologist shall repeat nesting bird surveys before the project can recommence.</p> <p>No-disturbance buffers shall be established to minimize impacts on any nests and nestlings. No-disturbance buffers shall be maintained until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist determines that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival.</p>	<p>No more than 7 days prior to any ground and vegetation disturbing activities Repeat surveys if project activities are delayed or suspended for more than 7 days during the nesting bird season,</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects</p>
<p>MM-BIO-11 Impacts on Nesting Birds – Replacement Habitat</p>	<p>Future development projects removing habitat for nesting birds shall be required to restore or replace habitat in-kind and on site if feasible to prevent temporal or permanent habitat loss. Projects shall provide replacement habitat for both individual trees and habitat acres.</p>	<p>Prior to any grading and vegetation removal During project construction</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects</p>
<p>MM-BIO-12 Impacts on Bats – Surveys for Bats</p>	<p>Future development projects in areas with suitable roosting and foraging habitat for bats shall be required to retain a qualified bat biologist to conduct a survey for within the project site and within 100 feet from the project site to the extent allowable and</p>	<p>Prior to any ground-disturbing activities and</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects</p>

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	<p>accessible. A qualified bat specialist shall identify potential daytime, nighttime, wintering, and hibernation roost sites. Surveys shall be conducted prior to any ground-disturbing activities and vegetation removal.</p>	vegetation removal	
<p>MM-BIO-13 Impacts on Bats – Tree Removal</p>	<p>If a project requires tree removal and a qualified bat biologist determines that roosting bats may be present at any time of year and could roost in trees that need to be removed, during tree removal, trees shall be pushed down using heavy machinery rather than felling with a chainsaw. To ensure the optimum warning for any roosting bats that may still be present, trees shall be pushed lightly two or three times, with a pause of approximately 30 seconds between each nudge to allow bats to become active. The tree shall then be pushed to the ground slowly and remain in place until it is inspected by a qualified bat biologist. Trees that are known to be bat roosts or could support roosting bats shall not be bucked or mulched immediately. A period of at least 24 hours, and preferable 48 hours, shall elapse prior to such operations to allow bats to escape.</p>	During tree removal	Applicants of future development projects
<p>MM-BIO-14 Impacts on Bats – Roosting Bats</p>	<p>If bats roosts are found within the project impact area, the qualified bat biologist shall identify the bats to the species level, evaluate the colony to determine its size and significance, and establish a species-specific no-disturbance buffer that shall be maintained throughout the duration of the project's construction.</p>	Prior to any ground-disturbing activities and vegetation removal	Applicants of future development projects
<p>MM-BIO-15 Impacts on Bats – Maternity Roosts</p>	<p>If maternity roosts are found, project-related construction and activities shall be scheduled between October 1 and February 28, outside of the maternity roosting season when young bats are present but are yet ready to fly out of the roost (March 1 to September 30).</p> <p>If maternity roosts are found and the project must take place during the maternity roosting season, trees/structures determined to be maternity roosts shall be left in place until the end of the maternity season. Project-related construction and activities shall not occur</p>	<p>Prior to any ground-disturbing activities and vegetation removal</p> <p>During project construction</p>	Applicants of future development projects

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	<p>within 100 feet of or directly under or adjacent to an active maternity roost. A qualified bat biologist shall establish a no-disturbance buffer that shall be maintained throughout the duration of the project's construction or until a qualified bat biologist determines that the roost is no longer active. Project-related construction and activities shall also not occur between 30 minutes before sunset and 30 minutes after sunrise.</p>		
<p>REC-1-CESA ITP</p>	<p>If a project, project construction, or any project-related activity for the duration of the project will result in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, the project applicant should seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing/continuing the project. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that CDFW issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP unless the Project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to CESA-listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP. For these reasons, biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP.</p>	<p>Prior to implementing/continuing the project</p>	<p>Applicants of future development projects</p>
<p>REC-2-Housing Sites</p>	<p>The City should consider conserving sites 6 through 14 and 31 through 34 as large continuous open space for preservation of natural resources, habitats, natural vistas, canyons, and corridors benefiting local and transient wildlife populations. Removing sites 31 through 34 would still allow the City to meet its 6th Cycle RHNA for above moderate income units. The City should protect from development sites that overlap with critical habitat, Significance Ecological Areas, and streams. Finally, the City should consider focusing development the northern part of the City where impacts on biological resources would be minimized such as sites 22, 23,</p>	<p>Prior to finalizing the Project's CEQA document</p>	<p>City</p>

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	and 24, and prioritize development where development already exists.		
REC-3-Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	GDFW's issuance of an LSA Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by CDFW as a Responsible Agency. As a Responsible Agency, CDFW may consider the CEQA document from the lead agency/project applicant for the project. To minimize additional requirements by CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. and/or under CEQA, a project's CEQA document should fully identify the potential impacts to the stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSA Agreement. CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database [i.e., CNDDB] which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations [Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)]. Information on special status species should be submitted to the CNDDB by completing and submitting CNDDB Field Survey Forms . Information on special status native plant populations and sensitive natural communities, the Combined Rapid Assessment and Relevé Form should be completed and submitted to GDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program.	Prior to finalizing future project-level CEQA documents	Applicants of future development projects
REC-4- Submitting Data for Sensitive and Special Status Species and Natural Communities			
REC-5- Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan	The City should provide Biological Resources Mitigation Measures for the Project and condition the environmental document to include mitigation measures recommended in this letter.	Prior to finalizing the Project's CEQA document	City

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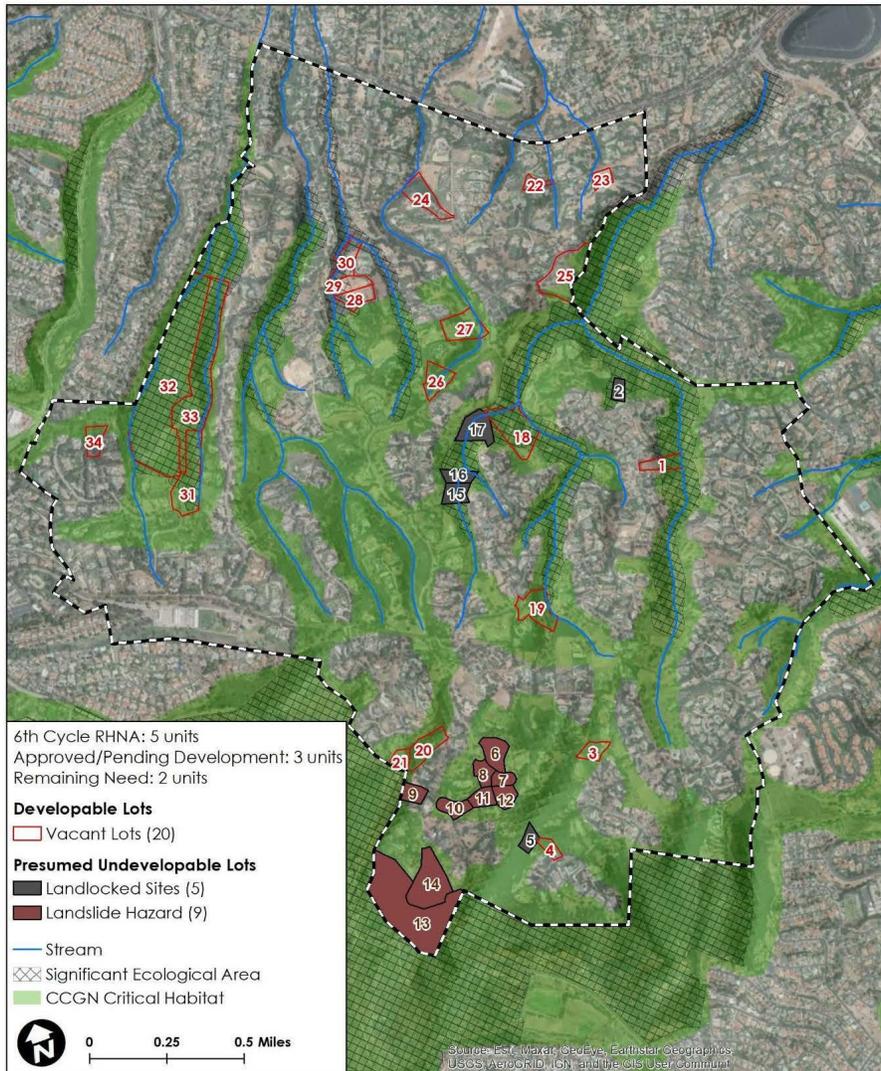


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 CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Attachment B: Housing Sites



City of Rolling Hills 6th Cycle 2021-2029 Housing Element Update
 Housing Sites for Single Family Homes
 Above Moderate Income Units

Map by: CDFW 2022

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 2

Commenter: Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Environmental Program Manager I, South Coast Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date of Letter: February 4, 2022

Response to Comment 2-1: The commenter notes that California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the proposed Project and Negative Declaration. The commenter accurately notes that they are a Trustee Agency per CEQA Guidelines Section 15386 subdivision (a). The commenter also notes that they are submitting comments as a Responsible Agency, however per CEQA Guidelines Section 15381, a responsible agency is a public agency with discretionary approval authority over a portion of a CEQA project (e.g., required permits). The commenter also notes that CDFW's regulatory authority is derived from the potential need for a lake and streambed alteration agreement or take permit; however, neither will be required for the Project. As the proposed Project requires no permits, there are no responsible agencies.

Response to Comment 2-2: The commenter accurately provides a description of the Project. No response is required.

Response to Comment 2-3: The commenter introduces their comments and provides recommendations regarding perceived impacts tied to future development. The commenter also proposes potential mitigation measures for protection of biological resources including wildlife and plant species that exist within the City.

The City is proposing updates to both the Housing Element and Safety Element of the General Plan, two of the six General Plan elements that cover long-range planning for the community's growth and development. Specifically, the Housing Element is concerned with policies and programs to meet the housing needs of current and future Rolling Hills residents. This means identifying housing needs, barriers to housing development, identifying development sites, and adopting programs to facilitate housing that is affordable to all segments of the community. Therefore, the Housing Element is a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City.

As part of updating the Housing Element, the City must prepare an inventory of land suitable for residential development. This inventory may include vacant land and sites having the "potential" for redevelopment. The California Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department has assigned the City of Rolling Hills its fair share of future housing needs through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) began the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process for the Sixth Cycle in Fall 2019, exploring different methodologies for allocating the regional need to individual cities and counties. As other cities began work on their Sixth Cycle Elements, the City was required to first amend its Fifth Cycle Element to accommodate both the current (Fifth) cycle and the prior (Fourth) cycle RHNA allocations due to its noncompliant status. The combined RHNA for the two cycles was 28 units. Accommodating this need meant that the City was also required to amend its General Plan and zoning as part of the Fifth Cycle, to create additional housing capacity.

The Fifth Cycle Housing Element was adopted June 14, 2021. The Fifth Cycle Housing Element was submitted to HCD and found to be in compliance on July 7, 2021. As a result of the compliance

determination, the City does not have to carry over its prior allocation and may plan only for the 45 units identified in the Sixth Cycle RHNA.

The City's RHNA represents a "planning target" and is not a building quota or proposed housing development application(s). Per the Housing Element law, the City must develop a list of sites where housing development during the planning cycle (2021-2029) is realistic. The City identified 20 sites for which future development could occur. These sites currently are all zoned for residential uses. The Housing Element Update does not propose any additional sites not currently zoned for residential uses, nor does it propose intensifying with zoning, any existing residentially zoned land.

CEQA Guidelines Section 153878 defines a "project" as an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change. The Guidelines further state that a project can be an "enactment and amendment of zoning ordinances, and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof pursuant to Government Code Sections 65100-65700". The Guidelines also state that the project can be a development proposal which will be subject to several governmental approvals. The Housing Element falls within the former definition. As such, implementation of the Housing Element will not result in adoption of housing development proposals or result in construction outside of what is already able to occur with the existing zoning; no actual development is proposed as part of the Project. Any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development, including development on the 20 sites, would be addressed through project-specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, notes that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant. Since the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City or change in zoning, no impacts to biological resources were identified and no mitigation is required.

Response to Comment 2-4: The commenter raised concern regarding potential impacts to the coastal California Gnatcatcher and noted that 14 of the 20 identified sites overlap with habitat for the species. The commenter also provided suggested mitigation measures to reduce perceived impacts.

Implementation of the Housing Element will not result in adoption of housing development proposals or result in construction outside of what is already able to occur with the existing zoning; no actual development is proposed as part of the Project. All future projects would be treated as individual projects and may be subject to specific environmental analysis including potential impacts to the coastal California gnatcatcher. All future projects, especially the 14 sites identified with habitat for the species, would be required address any potential impacts to the species. As necessary, future projects will analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative biological impacts and will include specific mitigation or avoidance measures as suggested to offset impacts. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, notes that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant. Since the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City or change in zoning, no impacts to the coastal California gnatcatcher were identified and no mitigation is required.

Response to Comment 2-5: Comments were provided regarding impacts on streams and associated natural communities. The commenter notes that the City consists of canyons of the San Pedro Hills, and within these canyons are streams, whether ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial. The commenter also provides suggested mitigation measures and recommendations regarding perceived impacts to these noted streams.

As previously discussed, there is no actual development proposed as part of the Housing Element. The City is proposing updates to both the Housing Element and Safety Element of the General Plan, two of the six General Plan elements that cover long-range planning for the community's growth and development. Specifically, the Housing Element is concerned with policies and programs to meet the housing needs of current and future Rolling Hills residents.

Implementation of the Housing Element will not result in adoption of housing development proposals or result in construction outside of what is already able to occur with the existing zoning; no actual development is proposed as part of the Project. All future projects would be treated as individual projects and may be subject to specific environmental analysis including potential impacts on streams. All future projects, especially those in areas with streams (ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial) would be required to prepare hydrology reports and / or obtain appropriate permits in order to evaluate potential impacts on these watercourses and permit any potential impacts. As necessary, future projects will analyze direct, indirect and cumulative biological impacts and will include specific mitigation or avoidance measures as suggested to offset impacts. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, notes that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant. Since the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City or change in zoning, no impacts to streams were identified and no mitigation is required.

Response to Comment 2-6: The commenter raises concerns regarding potential impacts to nesting birds and noted that all 20 of the sites identified for potential development contain vegetation suitable habitat for nesting birds and raptors. The commenter also provided suggested mitigation measures for perceived impacts to nesting birds.

Implementation of the Housing Element will not result in adoption of housing development proposals or result in construction outside of what is already able to occur with the existing zoning; no actual development is proposed as part of the Project. All future projects would be treated as individual projects and may be subject to specific environmental analysis including potential impacts to nesting birds and / or raptors. All future projects, especially those removing potential habitat for bird and raptor species, would be required address any potential impacts. As necessary, future projects will analyze direct, indirect and cumulative biological impacts and will include specific mitigation or avoidance measures as suggested to offset impacts. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, notes that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant. Since the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City or change in zoning, no impacts to bats were identified and no mitigation is required.

Response to Comment 2-7: The commenter raises concern regarding potential impacts to the bats and noted that all 20 of the sites identified for potential development contain vegetation suitable roosting habitat for bats. The commenter also provided suggested mitigation measures for perceived impacts to bat species.

Implementation of the Housing Element will not result in adoption of housing development proposals or result in construction outside of what is already able to occur with the existing zoning; no actual development is proposed as part of the Project. All future projects would be treated as individual projects and may be subject to specific environmental analysis including potential impacts to bats. All future projects, especially those removing potential roosting habitat for bats, would be required address

any potential impacts to the species. As necessary, future projects will analyze direct, indirect and cumulative biological impacts and will include specific mitigation or avoidance measures as suggested to offset impacts. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, notes that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant. Since the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City or change in zoning, no impacts to bats were identified and no mitigation is required. **Response to Comment 2-8:**

The commenter provides further recommendations that information developed in CEQA documents be included in databases (i.e., CNDDDB) for use in future CEQA documents. Additionally, the commenter recommends that the City include the mitigation measures mentioned in the comment letter and provide a MMRP.

Implementation of the Housing Element will not result in adoption of housing development proposals or result in construction outside of what is already able to occur with the existing zoning; no actual development is proposed as part of the Project. Any future development would provide information to appropriate databases as necessary. Additionally, any potentially significant environmental impacts identified from future development would be addressed through project specific mitigation measures identified at the time a specific development project is considered by the City. As previously noted, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4, notes that mitigation measures are not required for effects which are not found to be significant. Since the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City or change in zoning, no impacts were identified and no mitigation is required.

Response to Comment 2-9: The commenter notes that the Proposed Project is required to pay the CDFW filing fees. No development projects are proposed at this time or with implementation of the Project. The Project is the adoption of the City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update. As previously discussed, the Housing Element is concerned with policies and programs to meet the housing needs of current and future Rolling Hills residents. This means identifying housing needs, barriers to housing development, identifying development sites, and adopting programs to facilitate housing that is affordable to all segments of the community. The HEU and SEU are both policy documents and do not include any changes to land use designations, zoning, building heights and intensities, or residential densities. Therefore, the Project is the adoption of a policy document and not an application for development of any particular parcel or site in the City. Nevertheless, as directed by the CDWF, filing fees will be submitted at the time the Notice of Determination is filed.

Response to Comment 2-10: The commenter concludes the comment letter and provides references and attachments associated with the comment letter. The attachments have been reviewed as part of the responses to comments as above, and no further response is required.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS**
Converting Waste Into Resources

Robert C. Ferrante
Chief Engineer and General Manager

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
(562) 699-7411 • www.lacsd.org

February 7, 2022

Ref. DOC 6431859

Mr. John F. Signo, AICP
Planning Director
City of Rolling Hills
Planning and Community services Department
2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

Dear Mr. Signo:

NOI Response to 2021 – 2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Districts) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) for the subject project on January 14, 2022. The City of Rolling Hills (City) is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of District No. 5. We offer the following comments regarding sewerage service:

1. The Districts own, operate, and maintain the large trunk sewers that form the backbone of the regional wastewater conveyance system. Local collector and/or lateral sewer lines are the responsibility of the jurisdiction in which they are located. As such, the Districts cannot comment on any deficiencies in the sewerage system in the City except to state that presently no deficiencies exist in Districts' facilities that serve the City. For information on deficiencies in the City sewerage system, please contact the City Department of Public Works and/or the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Comment
3-1
2. The Districts should review individual developments within the City to determine whether sufficient trunk sewer capacity exists to serve each project and if Districts' facilities will be affected by the project. Comment
3-2
3. The wastewater generated by the City will be treated at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant located in the City of Carson, which has a capacity of 400 million gallons per day (mgd) and currently processes an average flow of 249.8 mgd.
4. In order to estimate the volume of wastewater the project will generate, go to www.lacsd.org, under Services, then Wastewater Program and Permits, select Will Serve Program, and scroll down to click on the [Table 1, Loadings for Each Class of Land Use](#) link for a copy of the Districts' average wastewater generation factors. Comment
3-3
5. The Districts are empowered by the California Health and Safety Code to charge a fee to connect facilities (directly or indirectly) to the Districts' Sewerage System or to increase the strength or quantity of wastewater discharged from connected facilities. This connection fee is used by the Districts for its capital facilities. Payment of a connection fee may be required before this project is permitted to discharge to the Districts' Sewerage System. For more information and a copy of the Connection Fee Information Sheet, go to www.lacsd.org, under Services, then Wastewater (Sewage) and select Rates & Fees. In determining the impact to the Sewerage System and applicable connection fees, the Districts will determine the user category (e.g. Condominium, Single Family home, etc.) that best represents the actual or anticipated use of the parcel(s) or facilities on the parcel(s) in the development. For more specific information regarding the

DOC 6455657.D05

Mr. John F. Signo

2

February 7, 2022

connection fee application procedure and fees, the developer should contact the Districts' Wastewater Fee Public Counter at (562) 908-4288, extension 2727.

↑
Comment
3-3 Cont.

6. In order for the Districts to conform to the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the capacities of the Districts' wastewater treatment facilities are based on the regional growth forecast adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Specific policies included in the development of the SCAG regional growth forecast are incorporated into clean air plans, which are prepared by the South Coast and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management Districts in order to improve air quality in the South Coast and Mojave Desert Air Basins as mandated by the CAA. All expansions of Districts' facilities must be sized and service phased in a manner that will be consistent with the SCAG regional growth forecast for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial. The available capacity of the Districts' treatment facilities will, therefore, be limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG. As such, this letter does not constitute a guarantee of wastewater service, but is to advise the developer that the Districts intend to provide this service up to the levels that are legally permitted and to inform the developer of the currently existing capacity and any proposed expansion of the Districts' facilities.

↑
Comment
3-4

7. Portions of the City where sewage disposal will be achieved by on-site septic systems will have no effect on Districts' facilities.

↑
Comment
3-5

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (562) 908-4288, extension 2743, or mandyhuffman@lacsdc.org.

Very truly yours,

Mandy Huffman

Mandy Huffman
Environmental Planner
Facilities Planning Department

MNH:mnh

DOC 6455657.D05

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 3

Commenter: Mandy Huffman, Environmental Planner, Facilities Planning Department, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

Date of Letter: February 7, 2022

Response to Comment 3-1: The commenter acknowledges receipt of the environmental document, and provides details regarding the wastewater conveyance system in the area. However, the commenter notes that, since local collectors and/or lateral sewer lines are the responsibility of the jurisdiction, the Districts cannot provide information on deficiencies in the area. This comment is noted and no response is required.

Response to Comment 3-2: The commenter states that the Districts should review projects within the City to ensure sufficient capacity. Future Projects will be evaluated as necessary to determine available sewer capacity. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

Response to Comment 3-3: The commenter provides the full and average available capacity of the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant, with information on how to estimate wastewater produced by a project. The commenter also notes there would be a connection fee for future projects. Future Projects will be required to pay any necessary connection fees. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

Response to Comment 3-4: The commenter discusses compliance with the Clean Air Act, and notes that facility capacities are based on SCAG growth forecasts. The commenter notes that this letter does not constitute a guarantee of wastewater service, but provides advice for future developers. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

Response to Comment 3-5: The commenter states that use of septic systems would have no effect on wastewater facilities and provides contact information for questions related to the letter. This comment is noted and no further response is required.

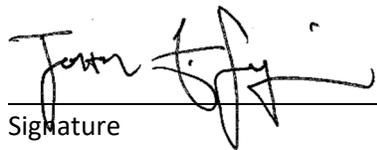
SECTION 6.0 – REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

There are no revisions, clarifications, and/or corrections to the Draft Negative Declaration.

SECTION 7.0 – NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration; and the Notice of Determination, constitute the Final Negative Declaration for the City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update Project in the City of Rolling Hills.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the City of Rolling Hills has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of the City of Rolling Hills.



Signature

February 11, 2022

Date

John F. Signo, AICP

Printed Name

Director of Planning and Community Services

Title

SECTION 8.0 – REFERENCES

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

2011 Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA: Rolling Hills. Available online at:
https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/5840/rolling_hills.pdf.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

2021 EnviroStor. Accessed December 2021. Available online at:
<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=rolling+hills%2C+CA>.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

2020 The 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy of the Southern California Association Of Governments: Connect SoCal. Available online at:
https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/0903fconnectsocial-plan_0.pdf?1606001176.



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 14.A

Mtg. Date: 02/15/2022

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: JOHN SIGNO, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: EXPANDED LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DATE: February 15, 2022

BACKGROUND:

None.

DISCUSSION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

ATTACHMENTS: