

SAFETY AND NOISE

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10 SAFETY AND NOISE

Protecting the public health, safety and welfare is one of the City's most basic responsibilities, and is the legal and historical basis for its police power and planning authority. The City's tools for protecting public safety include regulating land use planning and other activities, providing police and emergency services, research and monitoring, preparing for potential natural disasters and threats to residents' well-being, community engagement, and enacting other policies that promote public safety and welfare.

After discussing statutory requirements for protecting public safety, this chapter organizes policies and background information into the following sections:

- Environmental Hazards
- Noise
- Police, Fire and Emergency Services

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

According to California Government Code, a city's general plan is required to address safety and noise. This Chapter meets state requirements with respect to the safety and noise elements, and addresses additional topics important to the community.

Safety Element

Community safety is governed in part by California Government Code §65302(g), which requires that each city prepare and adopt a Safety Element. Safety includes natural hazards as well as man-made hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, flooding, fires, water supply, and related hazards (CGC §65302(g)(1-2)). The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) describes the purposes of the Safety Element as risk identification, risk reduction, hazard mitigation, and comprehensive decision-making related to hazards in new and existing development, as follows:

The safety element must identify hazards and hazard abatement provisions to guide local decisions related to zoning, subdivisions, and entitlement permits. The element should contain general hazard and risk reduction strategies and policies supporting hazard mitigation measures. Policies should address the identification of hazards and emergency response, as well as mitigation through avoidance of hazards by new projects and reduction of risk in developed areas. (2003 OPR General Plan Guidelines, 90).

West Hollywood's General Plan meets the requirements of the safety element by identifying, preventing, mitigating, and managing reasonably anticipated hazards to the City, such as seismic hazards, fires, flooding and exposure to hazardous materials.

Noise Element

The Noise Element is also a mandatory component of the General Plan. Government Code Section 65302(f) describes the noise element as follows:

- (1) *A noise element...shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:*
 - (A) *Highways and freeways.*
 - (B) *Primary arterials and major local streets.*
 - (C) *Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.*
 - (D) *Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helispot, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.*
 - (E) *Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.*
 - (F) *Other ground stationary noise sources, including, but not limited to, military installations, identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.*
- (2) *Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.*
- (3) *The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.*
- (4) *The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state's noise insulation standards.*

This General Plan provides policies regarding stationary, ambient, and mobile sources of noise through state-mandated and approved standards and noise thresholds.

Optional Topics

This chapter's section on Police, Fire and Emergency Services is not mandated by state law, but is included here because of its importance to public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

West Hollywood is committed to reducing the community's exposure to environmental hazards. This includes disaster prevention, mitigation, response, and evacuation related to potential hazards including earthquakes, flooding, landslides and mudslides, subsurface gas, fire, and hazardous materials. In addition to prudent land use and regulation, an important component of minimizing risk from hazards is building a strong safety network through collaboration with residents, neighborhoods, districts, neighboring local governments and regional entities. The following chapter contains policies as well as context for minimizing environmental hazards in West Hollywood, addressing fires, earthquakes, flooding, landslides and mudslides, subsurface gas, and hazardous materials.

Context

West Hollywood is susceptible to fire, earthquakes, flooding, landslides and mudslides, subsurface gas, as well as potential public exposure to hazardous materials. These are described in greater detail below. The West Hollywood Hazard Mitigation Plan Appendix A) describes the process for identifying hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, and prioritizing mitigation actions, and is included as an appendix to the General Plan.

Fires

West Hollywood sits at the base of the Hollywood Hills, where roads can be difficult to navigate and significant vegetation and brush cover the undeveloped areas between homes and neighborhoods. A fire in the Hollywood Hills could easily spread to the northern region of the City of West Hollywood. Figure 10-1 shows a map of wildland fire hazards.

In addition, urban fires are possible from careless human activity, or in the event of an earthquake, subsurface gas explosion, or hazardous material combustion. In the event of an urban fire, fire growth is related to type of building construction, water supply, fire department response time and resources, and building density and fire breaks.

Earthquakes

West Hollywood is located in a seismically active zone. The City is susceptible to the effects of earthquakes within the greater Los Angeles area as well as its own borders. The active Hollywood Fault runs through the City and is capable of producing surface fault rupture during a future earthquake. The City has established a Fault Precaution Zone spanning the mapped trace of the Hollywood Fault within the City. In 2001, West Hollywood was the location of an earthquake of magnitude 4.2, which was felt throughout the Los Angeles Basin and San Fernando Valley. Future earthquakes in the region are virtually inevitable and could be of a magnitude that would compromise buildings and structures.

In addition to strong ground shaking and movement, West Hollywood is susceptible to liquefaction during seismic activity due to conditions of loose, granular alluvial soils and locally shallow water table. Liquefaction causes soil to become disturbed in the presence of water, lose strength, and take on the properties of liquid during an earthquake. Liquefaction significantly amplifies the effects of ground shaking, putting structures and individuals at

Wildland Fire Hazards

Fire Hazards

- Very High
- High
- Moderate

Major Roads

City of West Hollywood Boundary

0 500 1,000 2,000 ft

City of West Hollywood General Plan 2035

Note: The Draft Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) shown on this map DO NOT define final adopted Very High zones in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) - users are cautioned to obtain the adopted zone data when it becomes available for actual decisions related to zones.

For more information visit: <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/hazard.html>

Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2007.

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greater risk. This means that existing buildings in liquefaction zones, as mapped by the State of California, are at greater risk during an earthquake. It also means that new development on liquefaction zones should only occur if potential hazards have been addressed based on technical guidelines adopted by the City. Figure 10-2 shows seismically prone areas in the City.

Flooding

The City is land-locked, and therefore unlikely to experience direct inundation from rising sea levels. However, West Hollywood is susceptible to flooding from watercourses that flow through narrow, steep canyons from the natural drainage basin in the hills above the City. The basin has historically experienced flooding during major winter storms. Moreover, the City has a high water table, which decreases the ability of pooled water to drain.

No portions of West Hollywood lie within a federally designated mandatory flood insurance zone. On June 3, 1994, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a Letter of Map Revision for Case No. 94-09-540P. The FEMA flood insurance rate map was revised for the eastern portion of the City to reflect upgrades to flood protection due to the completion of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's Pan Pacific Flood Control System. On September 29, 2008, FEMA issued a Letter of Map Revision for Case No. 08-09-1715P. The flood insurance rate map was revised for the southwest portion of the City to reflect upgrades to flood protection due to the completion of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's Holly Hills Storm Drain System.

Localized flooding represents the only flood concern in the City. Historically, localized flooding has occurred in low topographic areas where street gutters must accommodate peak flows during a storm event. Generally, localized flooding does not overtop curbs and dissipates quickly after heavy rain ceases. The topographical features in the City and local drainage infrastructure reduce any serious threat of storm flooding within the City. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District maintains the backbone flood control system, a network of catch basins and underground storm drain pipes. The City owns and maintains a few catch basins and small storm drain pipes that directly flow into the Los Angeles County Flood Control District system.

Parts of the City are also within a potential dam inundation area. Figure 10-3 shows potential dam inundation hazard areas.

Landslides and Mudslides

Landslides and mudslides are a potential danger during earthquakes, rainstorms, and flooding conditions. They are also a possibility during excavation or from the placement of buildings and infrastructure on steep slopes. West Hollywood lies at the base of the Hollywood Hills, and northern portions of the City are at steeper grades, susceptible to landslides and mudslides. Sites located on slopes along the north side of the City will require slope stability evaluation of critical slopes including seismic loads from a nearby earthquake. Figure 10-2 identifies landslide hazards in West Hollywood.

Subsurface Gas

Surface gas in the form of natural methane deposits and from abandoned oil fields is present in the area under the City. While this gas may innocuously seep out in non-urbanized areas, it poses a significant health and safety risk in urban West Hollywood. The urban landscape tends to cap gases underground, where they can accumulate to the point of combustion and/or escape in higher concentrations during construction, earthquakes, and other ground movements. In addition, a rising water table may also pressurize or force gases upward into the urbanized environment. Depending on the circumstances, these gases can combust, cause asphyxiation, and lead to urban fires. For example, the Fairfax district experienced a subsurface natural gas explosion and related fires in 1985. Other deposits may be present as well. The Sherman Oil Field is under the City and the Salt Lake Oil Field is immediately to the southeast.

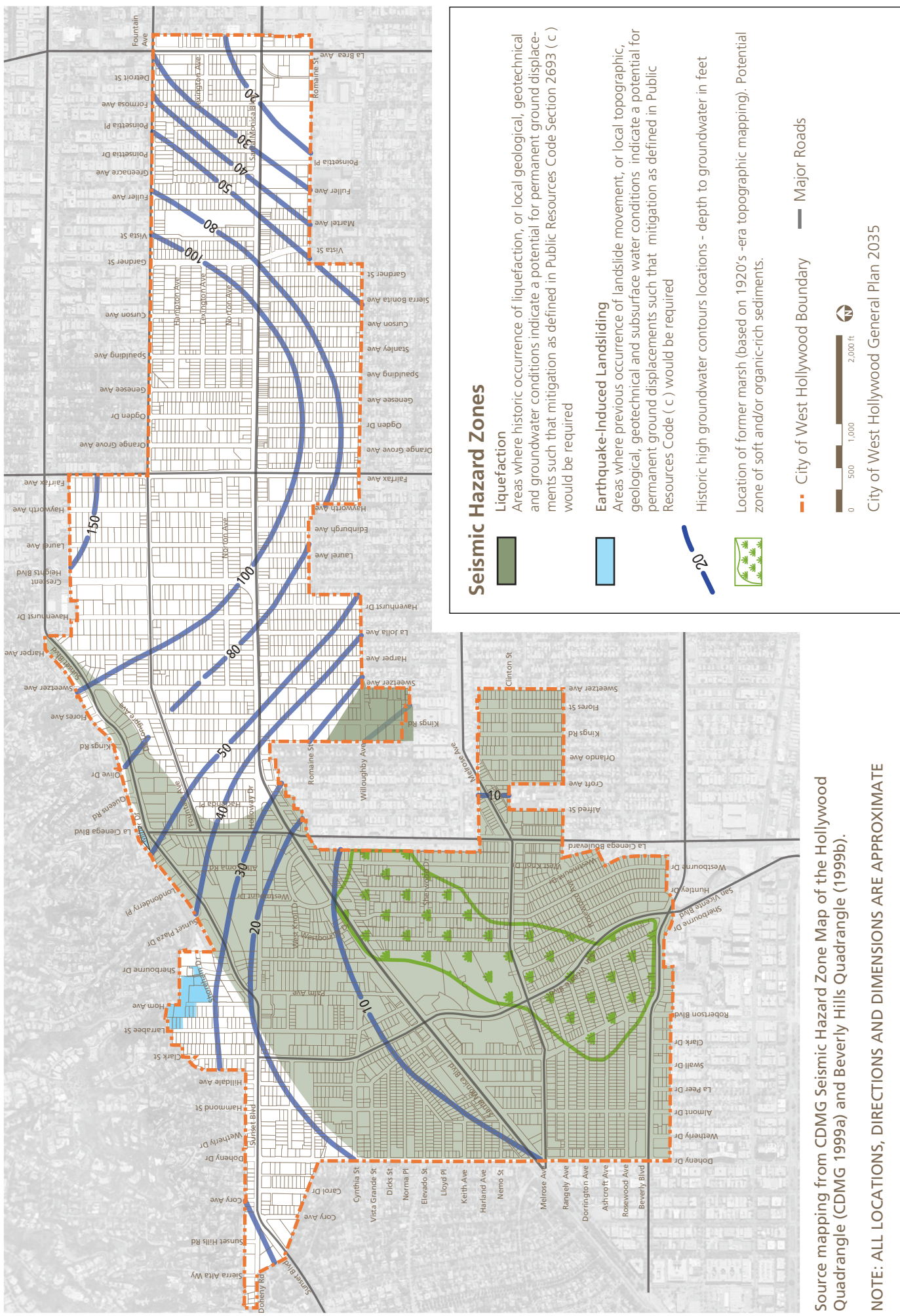
Hazardous Materials

A variety of hazardous materials have become a part of modern life, and are either transported through West Hollywood, used in commercial and production processes, or used by individuals and households in their daily lives. Some materials cause acute public health issues; others are more chronic.

California law requires State agencies to compile a list of properties affected by hazardous waste. This so-called “Cortese List” is maintained in the EnviroStor online database by the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, and generally includes commercial and industrial properties with focused chemical activity. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board maintains a database of underground fuel tanks that can result in significant groundwater pollution.

Common hazardous materials used in urbanized areas are prevalent throughout the City and may include petroleum, fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil and lubricants, cleaning products, high VOC paint and paint thinners, old batteries, and other chemicals and products. Many of these contain chemicals known by the state of California to cause cancer or birth defects as defined by Proposition 65, California’s toxic disclosure law. Therefore, proper disposal of these products is important, as is minimizing their use.

Figure 10-2: Seismic Hazard Zones

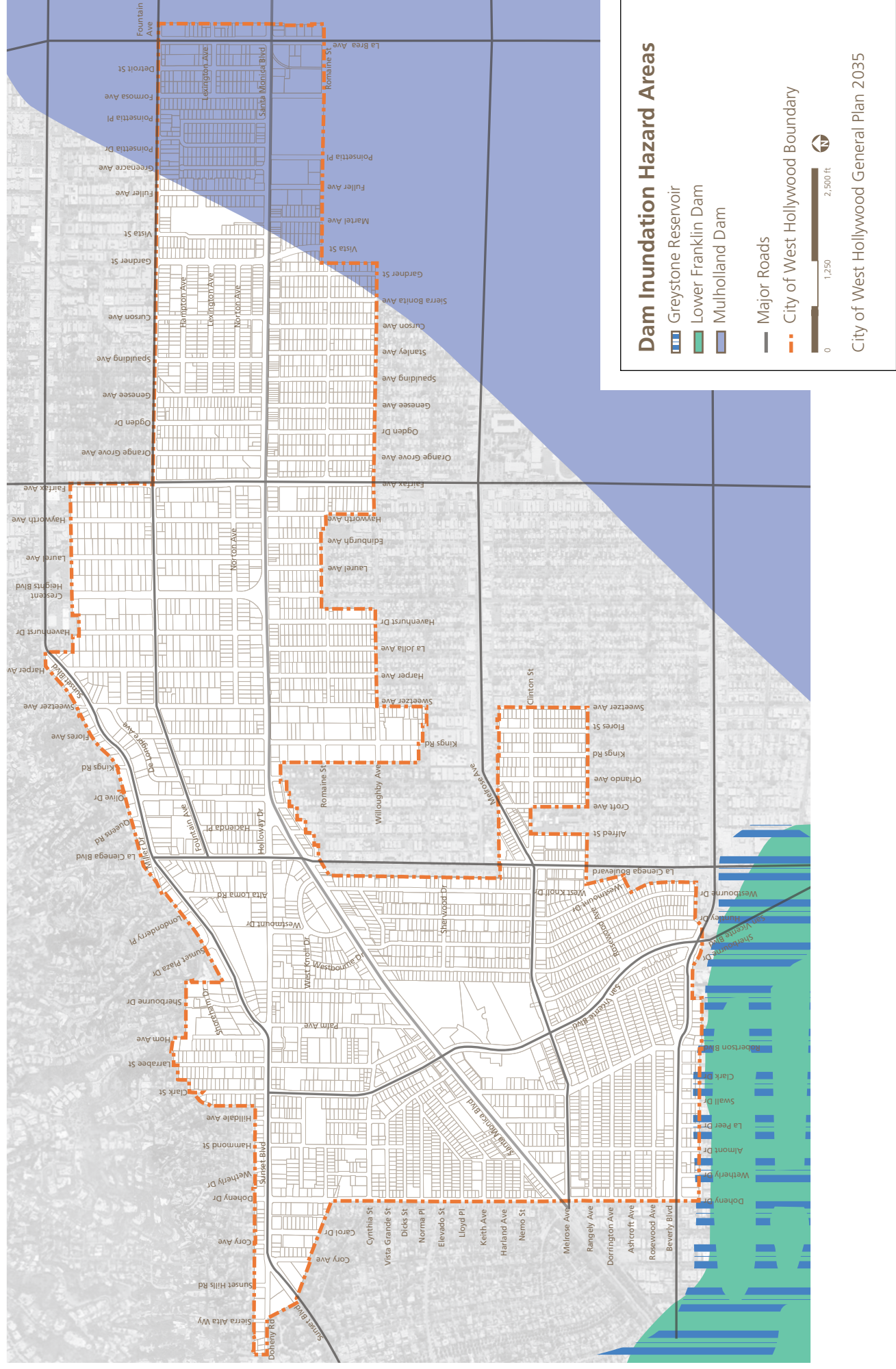


Source mapping from CDMG Seismic Hazard Zone Map of the Hollywood Quadrangle (CDMG 1999a) and Beverly Hills Quadrangle (1999b).

NOTE: ALL LOCATIONS, DIRECTIONS AND DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

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Figure 10-3: Damn Inundation Hazard Areas



Source: AECOM 2010.

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Goals and Policies

SN-1: Reduce injury and damage from natural hazards.

Intent: To protect the community from avoidable risk and harm by factoring natural hazards such as seismic hazards, flooding, landslides, subsurface gas, and fires into community planning and outreach, maintenance and upgrades, emergency response, and municipal operations.

- SN-1.1 Follow State guidelines regarding requiring upgrades or minimize the use of buildings and facilities that are vulnerable to natural or man-made hazards throughout the community through a program of orderly and effective identification of vulnerable buildings, outreach, education, support and enforcement.
- SN-1.2 Allow the consideration of potential natural or man-made hazards in project review and in City operations, considering best practices in hazard-avoidance and mitigation in the siting, structural engineering, maintenance, and building and landscape design for all development projects.
- SN-1.3 Require fault rupture hazard studies for sites located within the City-defined Fault Precaution Zone delineated around the Hollywood Fault Zone.
- SN-1.4 Maintain high standards for the seismic performance of buildings in all new development, through requirements for detailed geotechnical investigations following State guidelines and prompt adoption and careful enforcement of the best available standards for seismic design.
- SN-1.5 Ensure adequate site runoff and connections to the storm drain system to minimize flooding.
- SN-1.6 Utilize relevant data on natural hazards, including earthquakes, flooding, liquefaction, landslides, natural gas and subsurface methane gas, and apply this information for purposes of land use planning, including any permitting.
- SN-1.7 Maintain the West Hollywood Emergency Plan (2009), including plans for police and fire services, vulnerable populations, and sensitive facilities, as well as plans for the continuity of the community and important networks following a significant disaster.
- SN-1.8 Utilize the latest technologies to inform the community regarding potential hazards, locations of potential sources of hazards, and actions to take in case of emergency, ensuring that emergency preparedness is the mutual responsibility of the City, residents, and the business community.

SN-2: Minimize exposure to hazardous materials.

Intent: To minimize community exposure to hazardous and potentially hazardous materials, including materials that can lead to delayed, chronic and/or acute health effects.

- SN-2.1  As feasible, continue to avoid toxic cleaning and building materials and products in civic facilities and services to avoid health impacts to building occupants, visitors, maintenance crew, and to minimize environmental pollution to the soil, air, and water from material production and disposal.
- SN-2.2  Provide information, opportunities, and incentives to the community for proper disposal of toxic materials to avoid environmental degradation to the air, soil, and water resources from toxic materials contamination.
- SN-2.3  Encourage non-toxic materials and products in homes and businesses as an alternative to products containing potentially hazardous materials, including cleaning products, personal care products, storage and packaging products, furnishings, as well as foodstuffs to minimize the community's exposure to petrochemicals, volatile organic compounds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals suspected of causing cancer, reproductive toxicity or other health-related concerns.

NOISE

The City of West Hollywood aims to protect residents' quality of life by maintaining an environment free from excessive or harmful noise. This includes minimizing point-source and ambient noise, transportation-related noise, and noise from sources other than transportation sources. West Hollywood will identify current and future sources of noise so that future land uses can be organized and new development adequately designed in a manner to minimize noise impacts to community residents and businesses. The section below contains policies and background information about noise and noise mitigation in West Hollywood.

State planning law requires the Noise Element to be consistent with other General Plan elements. Policies and plans developed in the Noise Element are intended to protect current and planned land uses identified in the Land Use and Urban Form Chapter from excessive noise. Potential noise sources are identified in the Noise Element and programs are established to avoid or mitigate noise impacts from new planned development. Preventing the intrusion of negative environmental conditions, such as excessive noise, in order to create a healthy environment is a central objective of the Land Use and Urban Form Chapter.

The transportation issues discussed in the Mobility and Infrastructure, Resources, and Conservation Chapters are also directly related to noise. Noise from transportation is largely responsible for excessive noise levels in certain locations in urban environments. The Mobility Chapter addresses truck routes in the City. Projected noise distribution, depicted as noise contours, is corollary to circulation and infrastructure. Noise policies and implementation are largely based on the Mobility and Infrastructure, Resources, and Conservation Chapters, and are aimed to minimize the effects of transportation noise on current and planned land uses.

The Parks and Recreation Chapter is also related to noise. Enjoyment of parks and open spaces can be diminished by excessive noise, and noise information provided in this chapter should be considered in planning new recreational areas. At the same time, where appropriate, open space areas can serve as effective buffers between sensitive land uses and noise producers.

Context

West Hollywood is committed to minimizing excessive noise and limiting the community's exposure to loud noise sources. The City of West Hollywood Noise Ordinance (Chapter 9.08 of the West Hollywood Municipal Code) is intended to protect people from non-transportation noise sources such as construction activities, commercial operations, machinery, and nightlife. Enforcement of the noise ordinance requires new developments to show compliance with the ordinance, including operating in accordance with noise levels recommended in this chapter. The ordinance also provides general standards for prohibited noises and identifies specific activities that are prohibited because of their capability to create unreasonable noise. As an example, the City requires construction activity to comply with established work schedule limits (Section 9.08.050(f), Prohibited Noises).

The City of West Hollywood is located in an urbanized and developed environment which is subject to numerous noise sources. The primary noise source in the City is currently vehicular traffic along major arterials including Sunset Boulevard, Fountain Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. In addition, typical urban noise sources (e.g., hospitality businesses, entertainment venues, community events, construction activities, landscape equipment, and emergency vehicle sirens) also contribute to the overall noise environment. Another significant source of noise is the CEMEX ready mix concrete facility located at 1000 North La Brea Avenue. Because of City's distance from airports, noise from aircraft over-flights are audible but are not considered excessive. The closest airports to West Hollywood are the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport and Santa Monica Municipal Airport, which are both located approximately 7 miles from the city limits.

Noise and Land Use Planning

Consideration of the sources and recipients of noise early in the land use planning and development process can be an effective way to reduce the impact of noise on the community. Consideration should be given to both reducing noise in severely impacted areas through rehabilitative improvements and avoiding potential noise impacts through effective land use planning and design.

Accumulation of noise from transportation activities and stationary sources determines the overall noise environment within a community. Noise generated from automobile use, trucking, airports and rail operations is referred to as transportation-related noise, while noise from stationary sources such as commercial establishments, machinery, air conditioning systems, compressors and landscape maintenance equipment is typically referred to as non-transportation noise. Noise is most problematic when it affects "sensitive receptors" such as residences, schools, hospitals, religious facilities, theaters, concert halls, libraries, offices, and parks. These uses are considered sensitive because the presence of excessive noise may interrupt normal activities typically associated with their use. Consideration of noise sources, sensitive receptors, and information regarding the future noise environment leads to implementation of effective ways to avoid noise impacts.

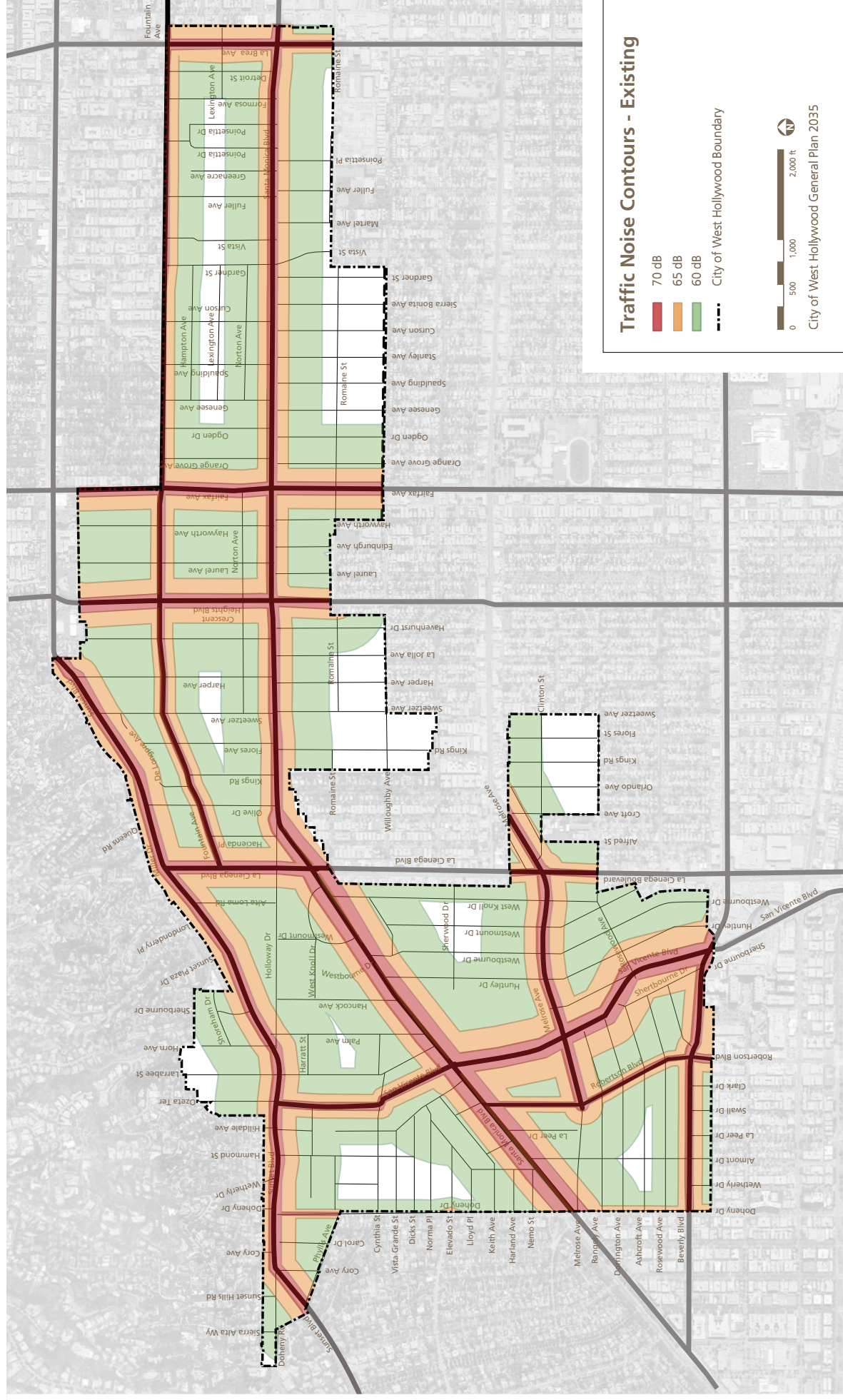
Noise Contours and Impacted Areas

Noise contours, based on the location of major noise sources, describe the noise environment within the community. These contours outline areas of equal noise exposure. Existing (2010) noise contours are illustrated in Figure 10-4. Information about existing and projected land use development and transportation activity has been used to estimate future noise contours for West Hollywood.

Future noise contours for West Hollywood shown in Figure 10-5 will guide land use and development decisions to address potential noise issues. Noise impacted areas are those areas that fall within the 60 dB(A) CNEL or greater noise contours.

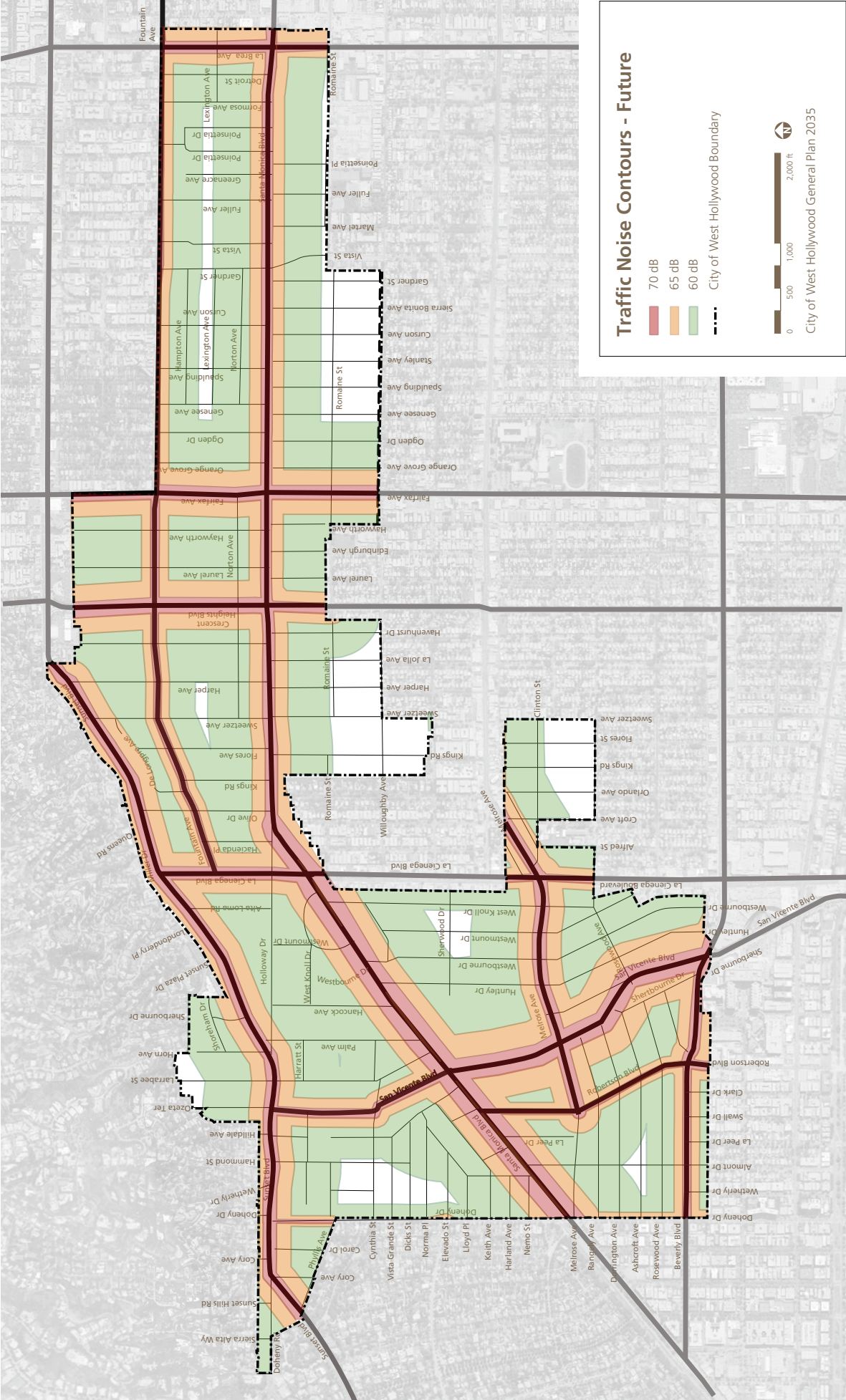
Noise producing land uses will be evaluated using the standards set forth by the City to ensure that proposed land uses do not adversely impact the current noise environment. If proposed project designs do not meet noise standards, mitigation will be recommended.

Figure 10-4: Existing Traffic Noise Contours (2010)



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Figure 10-5: Future Traffic Noise Contours



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If the analysis demonstrates that the noise standards can be met by implementing the mitigation measures, the project can be approved conditioned upon those measures. Noise attenuation measures may include soundwalls, berms, and other noise-reducing devices.

Transportation Related Noise

Transportation activity is a significant contributor of noise to the overall noise environment within West Hollywood. Transportation related noise is primarily concentrated along the transportation corridors that traverse the community such as Santa Monica Boulevard. Reduction of transportation-related noise levels is desired to improve quality of life in all neighborhoods and for other noise-sensitive receptors.

Noise Control at Reception Sites

The City has little direct control over noise produced by transportation sources since the State is responsible for regulating motor vehicle noise. Therefore, City noise programs focus on reducing the impact of transportation noise on the community.

The most effective ways to mitigate transportation noise impacts on the community are through mitigation of potential noise impacts during the design review process. Identification of potential impacts from transportation noise will occur during this stage of the development process and mitigation measures may be required to meet City noise standards identified in this Chapter. The most common ways to reduce transportation-related noise impacts are through site planning, landscaping, use of natural topography, and the design and construction of noise barriers. Small noise reductions can also be achieved by use of setbacks, landscaping and architectural design.

Non-Transportation Related Noise

In addition to transportation related noise, excessive noise generated by non-transportation sources, such as commercial and industrial uses, and restaurants and bars (nightlife), have the potential to impact sensitive receptors. Noise is also associated with construction activity, manufacturing or business operations, and everyday activities in West Hollywood neighborhoods, such as leaf blowing, dog barking, and lawn mowing. Analysis of potential noise impacts during the site design review process, compliance with CEQA, and enforcement of City noise requirements are the best means to protect sensitive receptors.

When reviewing proposed non-residential projects, the City considers noise generation and potential impacts to surrounding development. New development can be made compatible with the noise environment by utilizing noise and land use compatibility standards and the Noise Map (see Figure 10-5) as a guide for planning and development decisions. An acoustical analysis is required for projects that will generate noise potentially affecting sensitive receptors. Where significant impacts are identified, mitigation measures are required. Mitigation measures that could be applied when reviewing projects include, but are not limited to, acoustically treated and/or quiet designs for furnaces, fans, motors, compressors, valves, pumps and other mechanical equipment. Noise resulting from special

one-time events should be minimized as well. The City may also require limited delivery hours and/or hours of operation in order to minimize impacts to adjacent residential uses. In addition, all City departments must comply with State and federal OSHA standards. Any new equipment or vehicles purchased by the City will comply with local, State and federal noise standards, and the City will encourage landscaping contractors to utilize modern noise-reducing equipment.

Noise Standards

Excessive noise is considered an environmental impact under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The provisions of the law and environmental review procedure are described in the CEQA Statutes and the CEQA Guidelines. Implementation of CEQA ensures that during the decision making stage of development, City officials and the general public will be able to assess the potential noise impacts associated with private and public development projects.

Noise standards are also dictated by state acoustic standards. The California Commission of Housing and Community Development officially adopted noise insulation standards in 1974. In 1988, the Building Standards Commission approved revisions to the standards (Title 24, Part 2, California Code of Regulations). As revised, Title 24 establishes interior noise standards for residential space (CNEL or Ldn). Acoustical studies must be prepared for residential structures to be located within noise contours of 60 dB(A) or greater (CNEL or Ldn) from freeways, major streets, thoroughfares, rail lines, rapid transit lines, or industrial noise sources. The studies must demonstrate that the building is designed to reduce interior noise to 45 dB(A) or lower (CNEL or Ldn).

Noise generally is defined as unwanted or intrusive sound. Because noise consists of pitch, loudness, and duration, describing noise with a single unit of measure presents a challenge. The A-weighted decibel scale (dB(A)) has been developed to describe the loudness of a sound or sound environment based on the sensitivity of the human ear.

The dB(A) descriptor only reports noise from a single source or combination of sources at a point in time. To allow a more comprehensive description of the noise environment, Federal and State agencies have established noise and land use compatibility guidelines that use averaging approaches to noise measurement. Two measurement scales commonly used in California are the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and the day-night level (Ldn). To account for increased human sensitivity at night, the CNEL level includes a 5-decibel penalty on noise during the 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. time period and a 10-decibel penalty on noise during the 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. time period. The Ldn level includes only the 10 decibel weighting for late-night noise. These values are nearly identical for all but unusual noise sources. West Hollywood's standard daytime hours are 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and nighttime hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Noise Standards and Land Use Compatibility

Table 10-1 summarizes non-transportation source noise level guidance for use in determining general compatibility of proposed residential properties with adjacent properties. These noise levels represent the maximum acceptable noise levels for new developments as measured from any adjoining or proposed residential property within the City. Accordingly, proposed development should generally not cause, or if residential in nature, be exposed to a noise level that exceeds the noise levels shown in Table 10-1.

The land use compatibility guidelines presented in Table 10-2 are based in part on the City's noise Level Guidance for Residential Properties. A project is considered to be compatible with the noise environment if the noise level generated by the project falls within Zone A or Zone B. If the anticipated noise level of a proposed project falls into Zone A, typically no mitigation is needed, and if it falls into Zone B, minor mitigation may be required to meet City and State Title 24 noise standards. All project proponents must demonstrate that noise standards have been met prior to human occupation of a building.

If the noise level of a proposed project falls within Zone C, mitigation is likely needed to meet City noise standards. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, construction of noise barriers, and/or the inclusion of substantial building sound insulation. Projects in Zone C may be successfully mitigated; however, project applicants with a project in Zone C must demonstrate that the noise standards can be met prior to issuance of a building permit. If noise levels of a proposed project fall within Zone D, the project is incompatible with the noise environment.

Table 10-1: Non-Transportation Source Noise Standards Effecting Noise-Sensitive Land Uses

	Daytime Hourly Noise Level (8am to 10pm)	Nighttime Hourly Noise Level (10pm to 8am)
Exterior Noise Standards	55 dB(A) Leq(1)	50 dB(A) Leq(1)

Note: Noise levels should be measured, or modeled, at the property line of the affected property or a primary exterior use area within the affected property.

Table 10-2: Noise/Land Use Compatibility Matrix

Land Use	Community Noise Exposure (Ldn or CNEL)						
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Residential							
Transient Lodging – Motel, Hotel							
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes							
Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheaters							
Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports							
Playgrounds, Parks							
Golf Course, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries							
Office Buildings, Business Commercial, and Professional							
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture							

Source: Modified by AECOM from 1998 State of California General Plan Guidelines.



ZONE A - Normally Acceptable: Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved meet conventional Title 24 construction standards. No special noise insulation requirements.



ZONE B - Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development shall be undertaken only after a detailed noise analysis is made and noise reduction measures are identified and included in the project design.

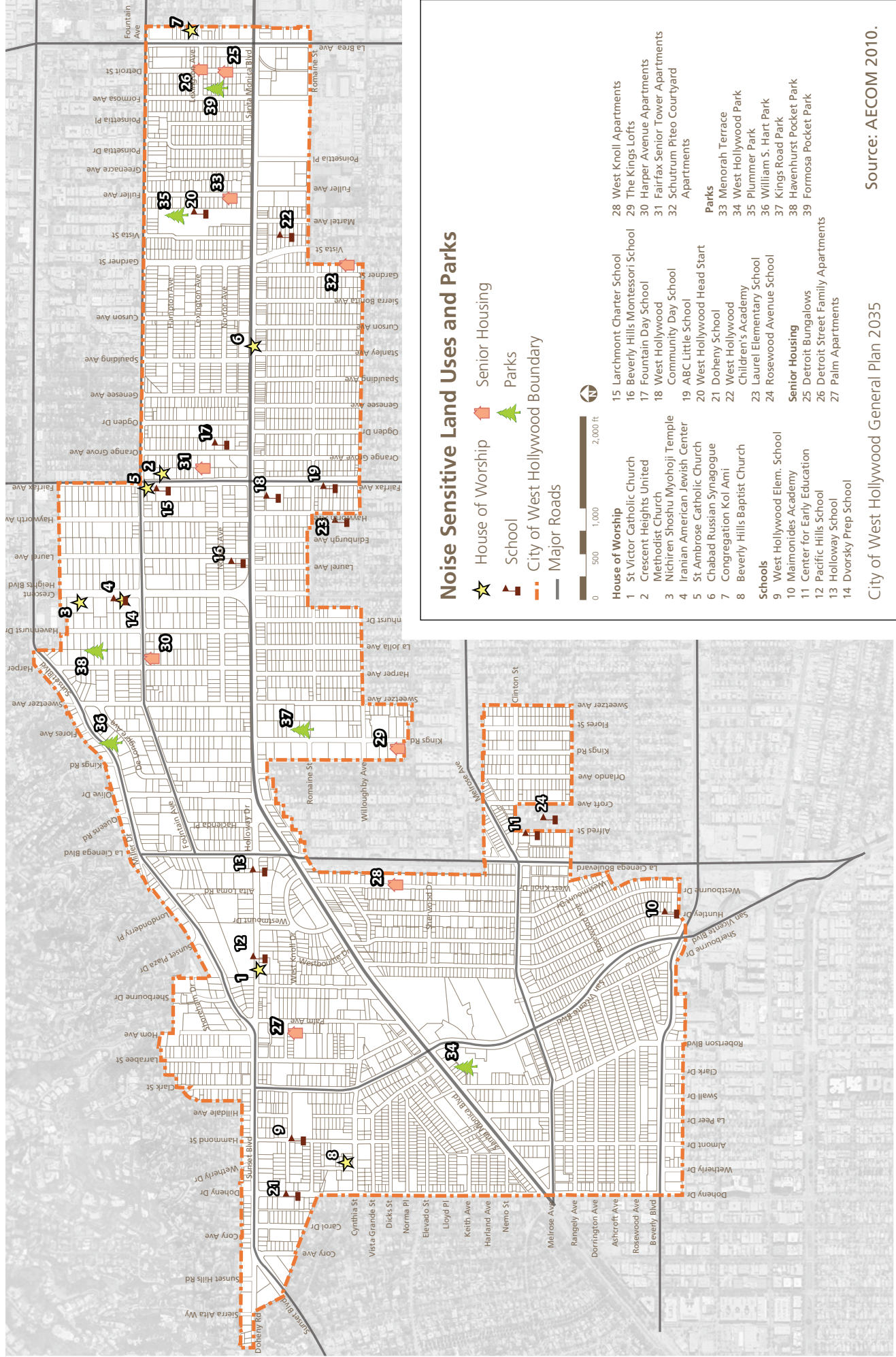


ZONE C - Normally Unacceptable: New construction or development is discouraged. If new construction is proposed, a detailed analysis is required, noise reduction measures must be identified, and noise insulation features included in the design.



ZONE D - Clearly Unacceptable: New construction or development should not be undertaken.

Figure 10-6: Noise Sensitive Land Uses



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Goals and Policies

SN-3: Minimize the impact of point source noise and ambient noise levels throughout the community.

Intent: To address potential point source and ambient noise levels through land use planning and design.

- SN-3.1 As feasible, ensure that construction and occupancy of new development is compatible with and does not exceed thresholds defining the acceptable noise environment in surrounding areas.
- SN-3.2 Require the inclusion of noise-reducing design features in development projects to address the impact of noise on residential development.
- SN-3.3 Review development proposals to ensure that noise standards and compatibility criteria set forth in the General Plan are met.
- SN-3.4 Require all proposed development within the 65 dB Ldn contour as shown on Figure 10-5 in the Safety and Noise Chapter of the General Plan to comply with Title 24, as amended.
- SN-3.5 Require all proposed multi-family residential uses within the 60 dB Ldn contour as shown on Figure 10-5 in the Safety and Noise Chapter of the General Plan to comply with Title 24, as amended.
- SN-3.6 Require development projects to implement mitigation measures, where necessary, to reduce noise levels to meet the adopted standards and criteria. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, berms, walls, and sound attenuating architectural design and construction methods.
- SN-3.7 Require new development to meet adopted noise standards and regulations.

SN-4: Minimize transportation-related noise.

Intent: To protect the community from transportation-related noise by avoiding, reducing, and managing noise from transportation, including daily traffic volumes, commercial vehicles/trucks, and excessively loud vehicles.

- SN-4.1 Require new development and/or modifications to existing development to include sound-reducing design measures, where needed, to maintain compatibility with adjacent and surrounding uses.
- SN-4.2 Promote alternative transportation technologies that minimize noise impacts.
- SN-4.3 Seek to establish and designate a system of truck routes on specified arterial streets to minimize the negative impacts of trucking through the City.

SN-5: Create a healthy physical environment related to noise.

Intent: Systematically address sources of noise to protect the health and safety of West Hollywood residents.

- SN-5.1 Work to minimize stationary noise impacts on sensitive receptors and noise emanating from construction activities, private developments/residences, landscaping activities, night clubs and bars, and special events.
- SN-5.2 Require that mixed-use structures and areas be designed to prevent transfer of noise from commercial uses to residential uses.
- SN-5.3 Require that entertainment uses, restaurants, and bars engage in responsible management and operation to control the activities of their patrons on-site and within reasonable and legally justifiable proximity to minimize noise impacts on adjacent residences.
- SN-5.4 Require mitigation as needed for development of new nightclubs, bars, and other high noise-generating uses adjacent to residences, schools, senior citizen housing, and other noise-sensitive uses.

POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

West Hollywood is one of the safest communities in Southern California, supporting economic health and walkability as well as physical and mental health among residents and visitors. This is partially a result of the City's progressive and well-trained police force, whose mission is to promote and protect public safety. Public safety is also enhanced by its excellent fire and emergency services, which seek to minimize natural and safety hazards and meet those threats when they arise. The following section provides specific policies and context for police, fire and emergency services in the City.

Context

The Public Safety and Community Services Division of the City Manager's Office oversees crime prevention services in West Hollywood. The Division coordinates with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which contracts with the City to provide police services out of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. In response to the community's unique demographics, West Hollywood Sheriff's Deputies utilize innovative and progressive law enforcement programs such as Community-Oriented Policing, Russian-Speaking Community Outreach, Domestic Violence Prevention Programs, and Hate Crimes Enforcement. The West Hollywood Sheriff's station has also created a Community Impact Team that provides specialized services, entertainment policing, and special events staffing.

As part of the Community-Oriented Policing Program, the City operates under the "broken window theory," which holds that broken windows, graffiti, and dirty neighborhoods invite and propagate crime and therefore should be repaired as soon as possible. Citizen involvement is also a vital component in crime prevention. There are several active Neighborhood Watch groups within the City's 1.9 square miles. Most of those participate in the National Night Out Against Crime, an annual city-wide event to reinforce safe nightlife and public gathering.

In addition to ongoing public safety, both police and fire services offer assistance in cases of emergency. Fire services in West Hollywood are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which has two fire stations in West Hollywood. The two stations within the City are staffed by 19 Firefighters and a Battalion Chief who work 24 hour shifts. There



Los Angeles County Fire Station #8 on Santa Monica Boulevard.



Many Neighborhood Watch groups celebrate National Night Out, a chance for residents to meet their neighbors, City staff, and safety personnel.

are 3 shifts total for a total of 60 personnel. The City of West Hollywood is part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District of the County of Los Angeles, which also provides immediate access to the Urban Search and Rescue and HazMat teams, Air Operations, and other sophisticated resources.

The City of West Hollywood also has an active Sheriff's Volunteer Program and Community Emergency Response Training comprised of volunteer citizens trained to respond to emergencies and natural disasters, particularly providing assistance to the elderly and persons with disabilities. The City also engages in a number of emergency preparedness outreach programs, such as community fairs, hand-outs, and an emergency mass notification system. West Hollywood firefighters provide public education outreach to schools, residents, seniors, and staff and teach Community Emergency Response Training.

The City maintains the West Hollywood Emergency Plan (2009), which is an all-hazards preparedness, emergency evacuation, response and recovery plan. It addresses hazards including, but not limited to fires, earthquakes, flooding, terrorism, transportation accidents, public health emergencies, and hazardous materials accidents.

Goals and Policies

SN-6: Maintain adequate levels of law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services.

Intent: To ensure that law enforcement and fire protection/emergency medical services are being adequately provided by addressing core issues related to service provision, including law enforcement within the community, resource pooling with neighboring jurisdictions, and anticipation of community needs due to growth and development.

- SN-6.1 Provide sufficient law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services to meet the needs of a changing population.
- SN-6.2 Cooperate and collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions, social services, and internal departments to maximize public safety and emergency services.
- SN-6.3 Continue to support the County's existing mutual aid and automatic aid agreements for additional fire and police resources needed during an emergency, as feasible.

SN-7: Utilize law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services in a proactive and preventative way.

Intent: To harness municipal, community, neighboring and regional resources to maximize public safety.

- SN-7.1 As appropriate, utilize urban design features to enhance public safety, to facilitate "eyes on the street" and to create defensible space in project design. As appropriate, utilize best practices in lighting, vegetation, active public spaces, and visual transparency in the urban landscape to achieve improved public safety in project design.
- SN-7.2 Continue to utilize community policing to improve public safety and involve the community in working to improve the overall safety of West Hollywood.
- SN-7.3 Provided that it serves the best interests of the community, continue to contract with Los Angeles County for the provision of police services and remain part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District of the County of Los Angeles for fire/emergency services, and annually review the services regarding the responsiveness to community needs, effectiveness, and efficient resource allocation.
- SN-7.4  Promote community-based programs in fire safety and emergency preparedness, including neighborhood-level programs and programs with businesses.
- SN-7.5 As feasible, require new development to incorporate appropriate safety monitoring features.

SN-8: Provide public safety services in a manner that reflects and is sensitive to the characteristics and needs of the West Hollywood community.

Intent: To ensure that public safety services meet the diverse needs of the community, and are sensitive to cultural preferences and expectations.

- SN-8.1 Coordinate the provision of law enforcement and fire protection/emergency medical services with all public safety service providers monitoring their adequacy and responsiveness to community needs.
- SN-8.2 Encourage, facilitate, and participate in, where appropriate, the establishment of methods of communication among the public safety and social service providers and the West Hollywood community to discuss and resolve issues of responsiveness and sensitivity which may arise.
- SN-8.3 Utilize the Public Safety Commission to facilitate communication among public safety service providers and the West Hollywood community.