3.11 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section provides information on hazardous materials and waste management in the County's Planning Area along with human-made hazards (e.g., wildland fires). Implementation of the Area Plan will provide policies that reduce potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials to the public or environment within the County's Planning Area to a less than significant level. Additionally, the proposed Area Plan policies will provide for improved emergency response and emergency evacuation plans throughout the One Valley One Vision (OVOV) Planning Area. The County's Planning Area consists of unincorporated land outside the City's boundaries and adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) but within the OVOV Planning Area boundaries. The City's Planning Area consists of its incorporated boundaries and adopted SOI. Both the County's and City's Planning Area comprise the OVOV Planning Area.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste

Hazardous materials include any substance or combination of substances which, because of quantity, concentration, or characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in death or serious injury, or pose substantial hazards to humans and/or the environment. These materials may include pesticides, herbicides, toxic metals and chemicals, liquefied natural gas, explosives, volatile chemicals, and nuclear fuels.

The County is one of the nation's largest industrial centers and is a major producer of a wide variety of toxic, flammable, and explosive materials. An assortment of toxic materials are stored and used in many small businesses and households throughout the County's Planning Area.

Sites with Known Contamination

Business practices and the laws that regulate them have changed dramatically over the years. Many businesses through intentional action, lack of awareness or accidental occurrences have caused contamination on and around their properties. The County's Planning Area contains properties that were once contaminated and are now clean as well as a few properties that are contaminated with a clean-up process underway. The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) maintains a list of all contaminated sites in the nation that are currently, or have in the past, undergoing clean-up activities. This list is known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability

Information System (CERCLIS) Database. There are currently no active sites listed on the CERCLIS Database within the County's Planning Area.[1] The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) also maintains a list of all contaminated sites in the State for which it is providing oversight and enforcement of clean-up activities. This list is known as the Cal-Sites Database. **Table 3.11-1, Hazardous Materials Sites in the County's Planning Area,** lists the sites in the County's Planning Area that are currently undergoing cleanup. This information was gathered using the aforementioned databases through the internet. **Figure 3.11-1, Hazardous Materials Sites in the County's Planning Area,** shows the location of these sites within the boundaries of the County's Planning Area. In addition to these sites, other contaminated commercial/industrial properties with current and/or past use of hazardous materials may be in existence in Santa Clarita Valley and require investigation and remediation.[2]

Table 3.11-1
Hazardous Materials Sites in the County's Planning Area

Company	Location/Address	Latest Completed Activities	Cleanup Status
Cal-Sites			
Space Ordnance Systems – Placerita Canyon	25977 Sand Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91351	Long Term Monitoring Report	Certified/Operation & Maintenance
Lubrication Company of America	12500 Lang Station Road Canyon Country, CA 91350	Remedial Design	Active

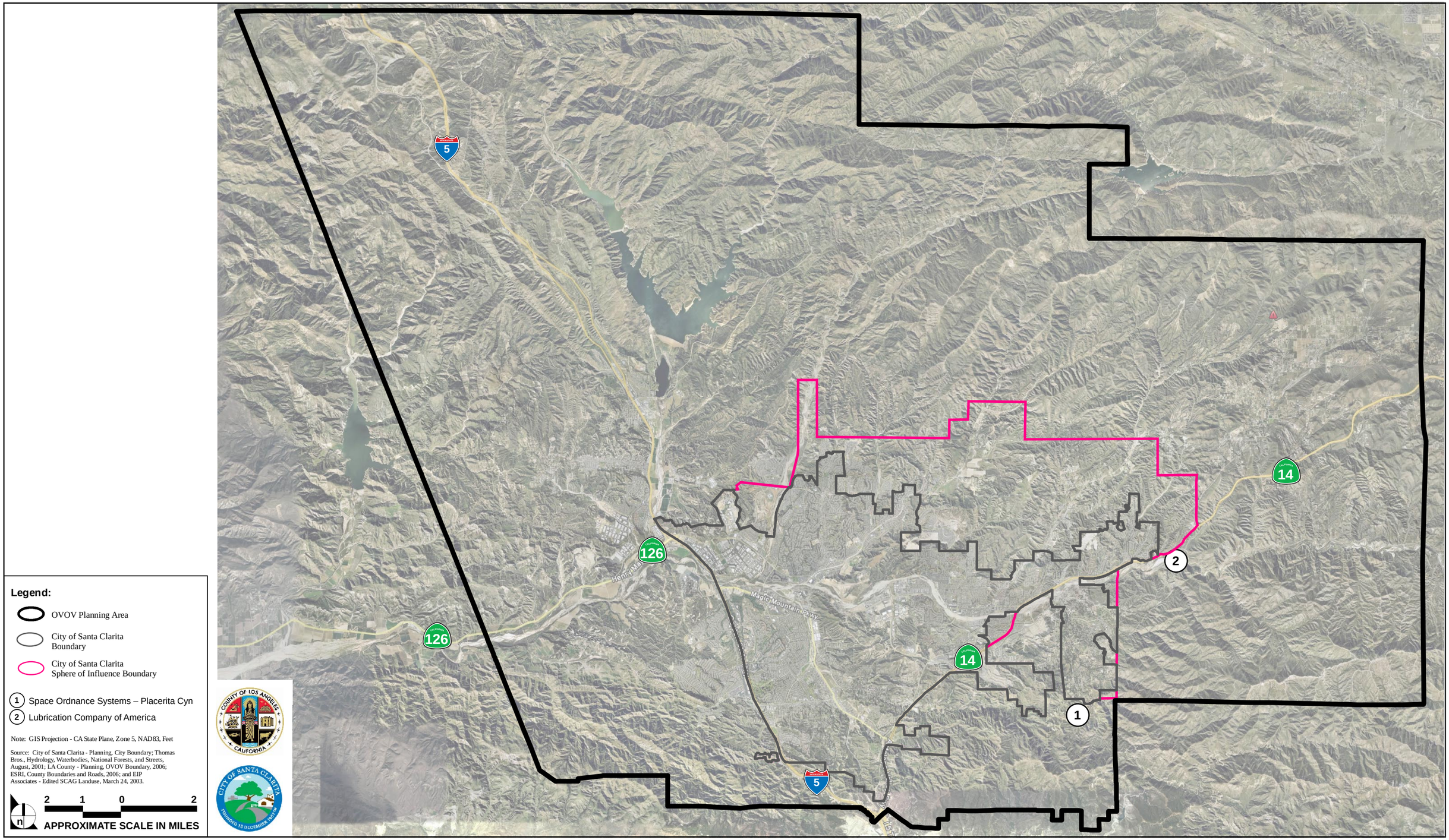
Source: California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor Database 2008 http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov /public/. Accessed November 2008.

Space Ordnance Systems – Placerita Canyon

This site was utilized from 1967 through 1990, by Space Ordnance Systems (SOS) and other tenants to manufacture specialty devices. Propellant explosive and pyrotechnic (PEP) waste was generated on site and treated on site. Solid waste contaminated with PEP materials, solvents, and organic contaminants, including acetone, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (TCB), and tri-chloroethylene (TCE) were also found on site.

1 United State Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund Information Site Information, http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/. Accessed March 11, 2009.

2 County of Los Angeles, Letter from Fire Department, Health Hazards Materials Division, to Mr. Mitch Glaser, Department of Regional Planning, June 17, 2009.



SOURCE: Impact Sciences, Inc., – November 2008

FIGURE **3.11-1**

Hazardous Materials Sites in the County's Planning Area

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A site assessment, completed in September 1984, focused on areas suspected to contain soil and groundwater (on site and downgradient off site) contamination. Groundwater contamination was identified in both the South Gorman and North Gorman Canyon areas. Contaminants present in the water include TCE, 1,1-DCE, benzene, and 1,2-DCA. A Consent Order (for a RCRA [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act] facility investigation imposition) was signed by SOS on November 1985[3] Drums were removed from the drum storage area between 1984 and 1985, and soil removal from the drum storage area was conducted in January 1988. One water tank and six sumps, along with underlying soil, were also removed in January 1988. Groundwater treatment and monitoring has been in operation soil, were also removed in January 1988. Groundwater treatment and monitoring has been in operation since July 1988. The final remedial groundwater measures were completed in June 1992.

Since groundwater remedial measures have been implemented, the monitoring wells located immediately down gradient of the site have continuously shown the levels of contaminants of concern to be decreasing. Remediation of the ground water consists of an activated carbon absorption plant, extraction wells, injection drains and extract- ion trenches. Possible receptors include homeowners located within one half mile of the site who may utilize private wells for human consumption. However, the DTSC knows of no private wells in Sand Canyon, which are currently being utilized for human consumption. The Homeowners in Sand Canyon are on the public water system. Other agencies involved with this site include the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW). The Responsible Party (RP) is required to submit a monthly waste discharge report to the RWQCB for the effluent discharged from the treatment system.

Manufacturing operations at the site have ceased since the business was purchased by the Universal Propulsion and transferred to Arizona. The site is now vacant. The completion of the final Remedial Action was certified on May 17, 1993 as well as the approval of the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The O&M for the site consists of the extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater through an activated carbon absorption plant.[4]

Lubrication Company of America

The Lubrication Company of America (LCA) facility was authorized to recycle used oil under an Interim Status Document (IRM). From 1969, the LCA facility was used primarily as an oil processing and recycling plant. Between 1968 and 1976, LCA recycled bunker fuels, used engine oil, jet fuels, and

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3 Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor Database 2008; U.S. EPA Web site, Superfund Cite Information http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/hwmp_profile_report.asp?global_id=CAD067776484.

4 California Department of Toxic Substances, Envirostor, http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile _report.asp?global_id=19340736. Retrieved November 7, 2008.

hydraulic oil. In addition, LCA handled wastes containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), sulfuric acid, sulfur monochloride, and heavy metals during operations. LCA also stored mixed oily wastes containing PCBs, acids, caustics, solvents & other potentially hazardous substances. LCA's operations resulted in releases of hazardous substances.

During the rainy season, the contaminated surface water runoff could potentially impact the Santa Clara River. Direct contact with the contaminated soil by inhalation and dermal absorption are other potential routes of exposure.

From June 1983 to September 1986, the DTSC inspected and found numerous violations at the LCA facility. On March 16, 1987, a Remedial Action Order (RAO) was issued to characterize and remediate the site. On October 22, 1987, the DTSC issued a notice of Final Determination of Non-compliance (FDNC) to LCA for not complying with the RAO. On February 11, 1988, LCA filed for bankruptcy.

The DTSC initiated characterization and remediation activities at LCA, and has phased its investigation and mitigation activities. Phase I activities, completed in 1990, consisted of (1) the characterization and disposal of 383 drums containing hazardous waste and removed friable asbestos that was disposed of on site, (2) a field investigation to characterize the extent of on-site contamination, and (3) repairing and adding new fencing to prevent unauthorized site access. In August 1990, the DTSC made a determination that the site posed an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment (I&SE) to the public health and environment.

During Phase II, the DTSC (1) removed wastes with low flash points into Baker tanks, (2) pumped wastes from identified deteriorated tanks into Baker tanks,[5] and (3) placed wastes containing PCBs into bulk containers to consolidate all PCB wastes for disposal purposes. These activities accumulated approximately 52,940 gallons of liquid wastes (180 cubic yards of hazardous and nonhazardous wastes), which has been stored in nine roll-off bins. Another 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil was contained and covered on site. These activities were completed in December 1990. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report which addresses the soil contamination was completed July 2, 1992.

During the RI, the DTSC's contractor collected and analyzed 188 surface and subsurface samples. Analytical results showed that the soils at the LCA site are contaminated by heavy fractions of petroleum hydrocarbons, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, volatile aromatic compounds (ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene), volatile halogenated organics (TCE and tetrachloroethylene), PCBs, lead, and acids. In general, petroleum

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5 Baker tanks are containment units used by the DTSC, produced by the Baker Corporation, in order to store wastes that are being removed by DTSC on Hazardous Waste-Sites.

hydrocarbon contaminated areas cover approximately half of the site's surface. TCE, tetrachloroethylene, ethylbenzene, toluene, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and xylenes were detected in the subsurface soils. PCBs and lead were generally limited to surface soils.

The DTSC has identified approximately 87 Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the site. The PRPs include owner/operators and various companies, including the Department of Defense, which had their wastes shipped to LCA. In March 1996, 19 PRPs settled their liability with DTSC. The RI/FS for the site was completed in 1998. The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was signed in 1999, in which the chosen remedy includes removal of all tanks & infrastructures) installation of an asphalt cap, soil vapor extraction/air sparing unit and placement of a deed restriction.[6] A remedial design for the site was completed on November 11, 2004.[7] In this specific remedial design, a Phase 3 (which is the final phase) was approved.[8] The Remedial Design includes vapor extractions and treatment with carbon and potassium permanganate.[9] Certification of the site is expected to be completed by 2010.[10]

Wildland Fire Protection

Wildland fire refers to a fire that occurs in a suburban or rural area that contains uncultivated lands, timber, range, watershed, brush, or grasslands, including areas in which there is a mingling of developed and undeveloped lands. For thousands of years, fires have been a natural part of the Southern California ecosystem. However, as urban development has spread throughout hillside areas of the region, wildland fires have come to represent a significant hazard to life and property.[11]

The classic "wildland/urban interface" exists where well-defined urban and suburban development presses up against open expanses of wildland areas. Certain conditions must be present for significant interface fires to occur, including hot, dry, windy weather; the inability of fire protection forces to contain or suppress the fire; the occurrence of multiple fires that overwhelm committed resources; and a large fuel load (dense vegetation). Once such a fire has started, several conditions influence its behavior,

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6 California Department of Toxic Substances, Envirostor, http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19340736. Retrieved November 7, 2008.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 County of Los Angeles, "Safety Element," County of Los Angeles Preliminary Draft Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan One Valley One Vision, 2008.

including fuel load, topography, weather, drought, and development patterns. Southern California has two distinct areas of risk for wildland fires:[12]

- the foothills and lower mountain areas typically covered with scrub brush or chaparral, and;
- the higher elevations of mountains, covered with heavily forested terrain.

Historical records kept by the US Department of Forestry indicate that wildland fires occur regularly within the County's Planning Area, with large fires occurring approximately every 10 years. Fire danger rises based on the age and amount of vegetation; therefore, fire incidents tend to be cyclical in an area as vegetation intensity increases with age, and dead vegetation accumulates. The fall of 2003 was the most destructive wildfire season in California history. In a 10-day period, 12 separate fires raged across Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties, burning almost 750,000 acres and resulting in the loss of 22 lives and 4,812 homes. The magnitude of the 2003 fires resulted from a combination of factors, including extended drought followed by thunderstorms, lightning strikes and windy conditions; an infestation of bark beetles that killed thousands of mature trees; and the practice of suppressing wildfires over the last century that has led to a buildup of brush and highly flammable fuel loads. [13]

Wildland fires can require evacuation of portions of the population, revised traffic patterns to accommodate emergency response vehicle operations, and restrictions on water usage during the emergency. Health hazard may exist for elderly or disabled persons who cannot evacuate or succumb to smoke and heat. The loss of utilities, and increased demand on medical services, can also be anticipated.[14]

The County's Planning Area is susceptible to wildland fires because of its hilly terrain, dry weather conditions and native vegetation. Steep slopes allow for the quick spread of flames during fires, and pose difficulty for fire suppression due to access problems for firefighting equipment. Late summer and fall months are critical times of the year when wildland fires typically occur, when the Santa Ana winds deliver hot, dry desert air into the region of the County's Planning Area. Highly flammable plant communities consisting of variable mixtures of woody shrubs and herbaceous species, such as chaparral and sage vegetation, allow fires to spread easily on hillsides and in canyons. According to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which serves the OVOV Planning Area, 80 to 90 percent of the

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12 County of Los Angeles, "Safety Element," County of Los Angeles Draft Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan One Valley One Vision, 2009.

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

planning area is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which is the highest classification for areas subject to wildfires.

The potential wildland fire hazard areas within the County's Planning Area are shown on **Figure 3.11-2, Wildfire Hazard Zone within the OVOV Planning Area**. Areas subject to wildland fire danger include portions of Newhall and Canyon Country, Sand Canyon, Pico Canyon, Placerita Canyon, Hasley Canyon, White's Canyon, Bouquet Canyon, and all the areas along the interface between urban development and natural vegetation in hillside areas. Fire hazards increase with any drought periods, and are highest for structures at the fringe of forested or wildland areas. In addition to the damage caused directly by a foothill fire, further damage may be caused by resulting mudslides during subsequent rains.[15]

In October 2007, wildfires again swept through southern California, including the County's Planning Area. Emergency response procedures put into place after the 2003 fires reduced losses through:[16]

- Better notification and evacuation procedures
- Quick action by the State and federal governments to declare an emergency and provide suppression support

Within the Area Plan, the location of the 2007 fires and acreage burned is as follows:[17]

- Buckweed Fire, 38,256 acres;
- Magic Fire, 1,750 acres;
- Newhall Fire, 40 acres; and the
- Ranch Fire, 55,756 acres, which started near Castaic and burned primarily wildland areas.

To respond to these fires the City set up a telephone bank that handled thousands of phone calls, and transformed Central Park into a Fire Department base camp for firefighters. Local Assistance Centers were set up to help residents file Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claims, and the nonprofit Santa Clarita Valley Disaster Coalition solicited and disbursed funds for fire victim relief.[18]

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15 County of Los Angeles, "Safety Element," County of Los Angeles Draft Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan One Valley One Vision, 2009.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

Twenty-one homes were destroyed and 15 homes damaged by the Buckweed fire, but no lives were lost. Local fire response sources include the:[19]

- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Fire services mutual aid system
- California Division of Forestry
- United States Forest Service

The combination of forces applied will depend upon the severity of the fire, other fires in progress, and the availability of resources. Suppression efforts can involve fire equipment, heavy construction equipment, and air fire bombardment aircraft, in addition to hand crews.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) operates six existing fire stations within the County's Planning Area, four of which are permanent fire stations. Of these four permanent fire stations, two stations house paramedic units and the other two are temporary fire stations. LACoFD operates 10 fire suppression camps assigned to the Air and Wildland Division of which four camps employ paid personal and six camps are staffed with inmate crews from detention facilities). Additionally, the LACoFD is proposing 11 new fire stations within the County's Planning Area. Wildland fire crews are used for fire protection, prevention, and suppression activities. They control wildland fires by cutting a control line around the perimeter of a fire, coordinating activities of bulldozers, and use of water-dropping helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, as deemed appropriate. The Fire Department also oversees vegetation management for fuel reduction, and provides response to other emergency incidents as required.

Under a mutual aid agreement covering federal forest lands, responsibility for non-structure fires within the National Forest belongs to the United States Forest Service (USFS), while the Fire Department has the responsibility for suppressing structure fires. In practice, each agency cooperates in fighting both wildland and structural fires during actual fire emergencies. There are five USFS fire stations located within the OVOV Planning area.[20]

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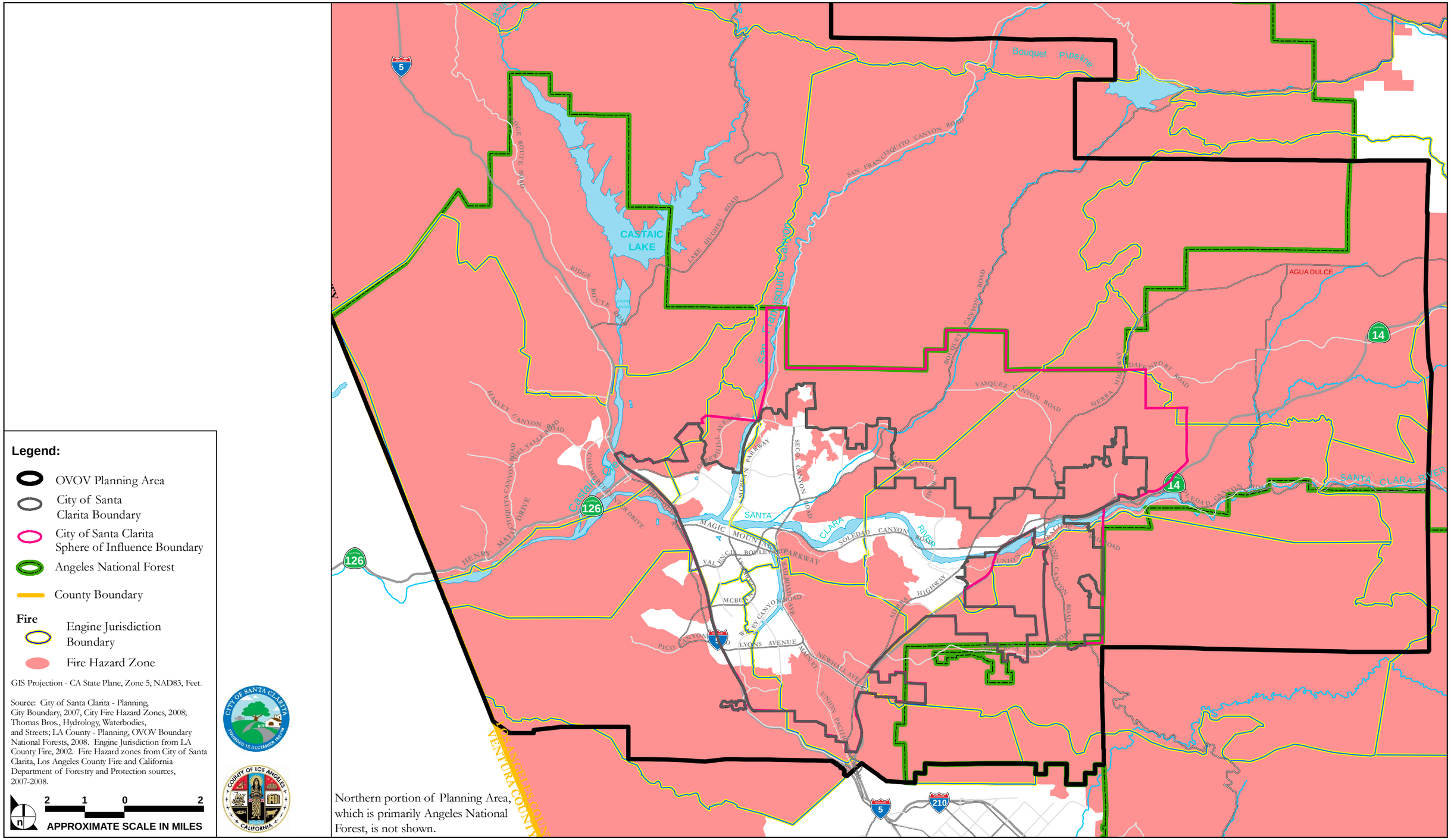
19 County of Los Angeles, "Safety Element," County of Los Angeles Draft Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan One Valley One Vision, 2009.

20 Ibid.



SOURCE: City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles, Valleywide General Plan - March 2008

FIGURE **3.11-2**

Wildfire Hazard Zone within the OVOV Planning Area

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In addition to suppression activities, the Fire Department has adopted programs directed at wildland fire prevention, including adoption of the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. In addition, proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas. The Fire Department also provides fire safety training to County residents and youth education programs on fire safety and prevention. The City teams with the County to provide training to residents on fire prevention and response, through the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, and other educational programs.

Residents with homes located in urban/wildland interface areas must bear some of the responsibility for preventing the spread of wildland fires. Houses surrounded by brushy growth rather than cleared space allow for greater continuity of fuel and increase the fire's ability to spread. Homeowners should also consider whether their home is located near a fire station, has adequate access for fire suppression vehicles, has adequate water supply for fire flow, is located away from slopes or canyons which act to draw fires upward, and is constructed with fire-resistant materials and design features, such as non-combustible roofing and boxed eaves. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has issued guidelines for fuel reduction and other fire safety measures in urban/wildland interface areas. These guidelines were issued in response to recent changes to Public Resources Code Section 4291 that increased space clearance requirement from 30 feet to 100 feet around structures. For fire protection purposes, "defensible space" means the area within the perimeter or a parcel where basic wildfire protection practices are implemented. This area is characterized by adequate emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures. Fuel reduction through vegetation management around homes is the key to saving homes in hillside areas. The Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Prevention Division will continue to provide public education programs about fire prevention strategies for residents in interface areas.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. The OEM is the day-to-day Los Angeles County Operational Area coordinator for the entire geographic area of the County, including the County portion of the OVOV Planning Area. OEM's broad responsibilities include:

- Planning and Coordination:
  - Maintaining an approved Operational Area Emergency Response Plan; and,
  - Providing ongoing leadership and coordinating disaster plans and exercises with the 88 cities, 137 unincorporated communities, and 288 special districts within the county.
- Operations:
  - Maintaining the County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) in a state of operational readiness, in partnership with the Sherriff's Emergency Operations Bureau;
  - Serving as on-call CEOC first responders on a 24-hour basis;
  - Providing an OEM duty officer on a 24-hour basis to address inquiries and concerns from County, local and state officials regarding potential or escalating emergency conditions; and,
  - Training and technical operations.
- Public Education and Grants Administration
  - Maintaining a cadre of CEOC team members trained in section and position responsibilities and use of the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS); and,
  - Providing ongoing training for County Department Emergency Coordinators (DECs) and Building Emergency Coordinators (BECs).

Operational Area Emergency Response Plan

The most crucial emergency response plan in the unincorporated areas of the County is the *Operational Emergency Response Plan* (OAERP), which is prepared by the OEM. The OAERP strengthens short and long-term emergency response and recovery capabilities, and identifies emergency procedures and emergency management routes in the County. The OAERP, along with more information on the OEM, can be found at the County's Chief Executive Office (CEO).

Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD)

The LACoFD is organized into nine divisions throughout the unincorporated County. The LACoFD currently operates six fire stations within the County's Planning Area. Four of these fire stations are permanent and two of the four stations currently house paramedic units. The remaining two fire stations are temporary. The LACoFD is currently proposing the development of up to 11 new fire stations within the County's Planning Area. In 2005, the LACoFD had 4,547 personnel, which includes 639 administrative personnel, and an extensive reserve of safety and firefighting equipment. Out of the 282,091 emergency operations in 2005, over 68 percent were rescues, with the other incidents being fires or classified as others. The LACoFD operates other divisions including Emergency Services, Forestry, and a Health Hazard Material Division, whose mission is to "protect the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental releases and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes through coordinated efforts of inspections, emergency response enforcement, and site mitigation oversight."[21]

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)

The LASD is the largest sheriff's department in the world. There are currently no sheriff's stations located within the County's Planning Area. In addition to specialized services, the LASD is divided into 10 divisions, each headed by a Division Chief. One of the newest divisions at LASD is the Office of Homeland Security, a proactive effort to enhance the Department's response to potential threats related to local homeland security issues, such as terrorism and bio-terrorism.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The County, in conjunction with its many emergency services partners, has prepared a *Local All-Hazards Mitigation Plan* that sets strategies for coping with the natural and man-made hazards faced by residents. The plan is a compilation of information from County departments correlated with known and projected hazards that face southern California. The plan complies with, and has been approved by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). The plan has been formally adopted by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) for use in the development of specific hazard mitigation proposals.

The County *Local All-Hazards Mitigation Plan* addresses potential damages in the unincorporated portions of the County, as well as to County facilities. Cities, schools, special districts, and eligible non-profit

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21 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, "2009 Draft General Plan Safety Element," p. 177.

organizations within the County must prepare and submit separate Hazard Mitigation Plans to FEMA for approval.

Community Preparedness and Training

The County of Los Angeles has implemented comprehensive programs for emergency preparedness, including community involvement and training. To educate the public about emergency response, the County of Los Angeles offers residents training through the CERT program, which focuses on effective disaster/emergency response techniques. The CERT program is designed to:

- help families with disaster and emergency response techniques,
- help families neighborhoods, schools and businesses prepare for effective disaster and emergency response through training and pre-planning.

Program material covers earthquakes, fires, floods, hazardous materials incidents, and other life-threatening situations. Participants attend seven weekly classes designed to:

- help them recognize potential hazards and take appropriate actions,
- identify, organize and utilize available resources and people; and
- treat victims of life-threatening conditions through Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START).

A second class is also offered to graduates of the basic CERT course, which provides more in-depth training on critical incident stress management, handling animals during disasters, community traffic safety, and the Incident Command System.

In 2001, the CERT program was expanded with another level of training, the CERT II. The training provided in the CERT II program was developed and implemented based on the emergency response issues of the County of Los Angeles, and includes classes on Community Traffic Safety; Psychological First Aid (Critical Incident Stress Management); SEMS, NIMS; and Incident Command; and Animal Preparedness.

Once a year the County of Los Angeles in conjunction with the City of Santa Clarita presents an Emergency Expo, attended by several thousand residents, at which residents are provided with information materials on emergency preparedness. Over 60 agencies and vendors participate in this event, in an effort to provide relevant information with an interactive approach. The County and City promotes the CERT program at the Emergency Expo by using CERT-Trained volunteers to provide information at various booths and activities. Through its emergency management program, the County

also provides ongoing training and outreach to schools, businesses, faith-based institutions, seniors, and the special needs community.

In spite of these programs and the outreach efforts by the County, many residents within the County's Planning Area are not adequately prepared for emergencies. In a major disaster each household may need to survive on its own resources for several days before help arrives. It is necessary for each family and head of household to proactively prepare for emergencies by developing a plan and stockpiling adequate supplies.

Emergency Response

Emergency response to accidents in the County's Planning Area associated with hazardous waste material is usually undertaken by the LACoFD and its Health Hazardous Materials Division. Fire stations serving the area are responsible for cleanup and evacuation procedures.

Depending on the situation and location of a hazardous waste incident, agencies other than the LACoFD would also help provide emergency response. The agencies may include, but are not limited to the following:

- California Department of Fish and Game
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Transportation
- California Department of Transportation
- California Highway Patrol
- Southern California Air Quality Management District
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- City of Santa Clarita

As the OVOV Planning Area continues to undergo further urbanization and industrialization, the risks associated with hazardous waste/materials transportation through populated areas would also increase due to the establishment of new facilities. Therefore, the agencies listed above would also help provide emergency response to the OVOV Planning Area when their services are required by the LACoFD and its Health Hazardous Materials Division.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

California law provides the general framework for regulation of hazardous wastes by the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) passed in 1972. The DTSC is the State's leading agency in implementing the HWCL. The HWCL provides for state regulation of existing hazardous waste facilities, which include "any structure, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land, used for treatment, transfer, storage, resource recovery, disposal, or recycling of hazardous wastes," and requires permits for, and inspections of, facilities involved in generation and/or treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes.

Although there are numerous state policies dealing with hazardous waste materials, the most comprehensive is the Tanner Act (AB 2948) that was adopted in 1986. The Tanner Act governs the preparation of hazardous waste management plans and the siting of hazardous waste facilities in the State of California. The act also mandates that each county adopt a Hazardous Waste Management Plan. To be in compliance with the Tanner Act, local or regional hazardous waste management plans need to include provisions that define the:

- planning process for waste management,
- permit process for new and expanded facilities, and
- appeal process to the State available for certain local decision.

Agency with Regulatory Responsibility

The regulatory responsibility of hazardous waste in the Planning Area belongs primarily to the LACoFD. LACoFD's Health Hazardous Material Division (HHMD) has authority as the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in the County's Planning Area. As the CUPA, HHMD directly administers programs related to waste generation, hazardous materials inventories, and risk management. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is a participating agency under the LACoFD CUPA and implements the underground storage tank program.

There are three Los Angeles County fire stations that handle hazardous materials incidents (known as Haz Mat stations), one of which, Station 76, is located in Valencia and serves the Santa Clarita Valley. In addition, HHMD's mission is to protect the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental release and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous material and wastes through coordinated efforts of inspections, emergency response, enforcement, and site mitigation oversight. Furthermore, depending on the issue, situation, or conditions, there are also other federal, State, and local regulatory authorities that are involved with hazardous

waste. Additionally, existing policies and regulations issued by federal and state governments regarding hazardous materials are described below:

Federal

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Discovery of environmental health damage from disposal sites, prompted the U.S. Congress to pass the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund). The purpose of CERCLA is to identify and clean up chemically contaminated sites that pose a significant environmental health threat. The Hazard Ranking System is used to determine whether a site should be placed on the National Priorities List for cleanup activities.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) pertains primarily to emergency management of accidental releases. It requires formation of state and local emergency planning committees, which are responsible for collecting material handling and transportation data for use as a basis for planning. Chemical inventory data is made available to the community at large under the "right-to-know" provision of the law. In addition, SARA also requires annual reporting of continuous emissions and accidental release of specified compounds. These annual submissions are compiled into a nationwide Toxics Release Inventory.

Hazardous Materials Transportation Act

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act is the statutory basis for the extensive body of regulations aimed at ensuring the safe transport of hazardous materials on water, rail, highways, through air, or in pipelines. It includes provisions for material classification, packaging, marking, labeling, placecarding, and shipping documentation.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C addresses hazardous waste generation, handling, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal. It includes requirements for a system that uses

hazardous waste manifests to track the movement of waste from its site of generation to its ultimate disposition. The 1984 amendments to RCRA created a national priority for waste minimization. Subtitle D establishes national minimum requirements for solid waste disposal sites and practices. It requires states to develop plans for the management of wastes within their jurisdictions. Subtitle I requires monitoring and containment systems for underground storage tanks that hold hazardous materials. Owners of tanks must demonstrate financial assurance for the cleanup of a potential leaking tank.

State

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)
- California Air Resources Board (ARB)
- State Board of Equalization (BOE)

The California Hazardous Waste Control Law

The Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) is the primary hazardous waste statute in the State of California. The HWCL implements RCRA as a "cradle-to-grave" waste management system in the State of California. HWCL specifies that generators have the primary duty to determine whether their wastes are hazardous and to ensure their proper management. The HWCL also establishes criteria for the reuse and recycling of hazardous wastes used or reused as raw materials. The HWCL exceeds federal requirements by mandating source reduction planning, and a much broader requirement for permitting facilities that treat hazardous waste. It also regulates a number of types of wastes and waste management activities that are not covered by federal law with RCRA.

California Code of Regulations

Most state and federal regulations and requirements that apply to hazardous waste are spelled out in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Title 22 contains the detailed compliance requirements for hazardous waste generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Because California is a fully authorized state according to RCRA, most RCRA regulations (those contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 260 et seq.) have been duplicated and integrated into Title 22. However, because the DTSC regulates hazardous waste more stringently than the U.S. EPA, the integration of California and federal hazardous waste regulations that make up Title 22 do not contain as

many exemptions or exclusions as does 40 CFR 260. As with the California Health and Safety Code, Title 22 also regulates a wider range of waste types and waste management activities than does the RCRA regulations in 40 CFR 260. To aid the regulated community, California compiled hazardous materials, waste and toxics-related regulations contained in CCR, Titles 3, 8. 13, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, and 27 into one consolidated CCR Title 26 'Toxics.' However, the California Hazardous waste regulations are still commonly referred to as Title 22.

Department of Toxic Substance Control

The role of the DTSC, a Division of CalEPA, is to protect California and Californians from exposures to hazardous wastes by regulating hazardous waste, cleaning up existing contamination, and looking for ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. The DTSC regulates hazardous waste in California primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, and the California Health and Safety Code. Other laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning. In addition, DTSC reviews and monitors legislation to ensure that the position reflects the DTSC's goals. From these laws, DTSC's major program areas develop regulations and consistent program policies and procedures. The regulations spell out what those who handle hazardous waste must do to comply with the laws. Under RCRA, DTSC has the authority to implement permitting, inspection, compliance, and corrective action programs to ensure that people who manage hazardous waste follow state and federal requirements. As such, the management of hazardous waste in the Planning Area would be under regulation by the DTSC to ensure that state and federal requirements pertaining to hazardous waste are complied with.

Transportation of Hazardous Materials

The transport of hazardous materials and explosives through the County's Planning Area is regulated by the State Department of Transportation. Hazardous materials are transported to and through the OVOV Planning Area by vehicles using I-5, SR-14, and SR-126, and the Union Pacific Railroad. The risk of hazardous material spills during transport exists and may increase with continued industrial development in the Planning Area.

Local

- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Los Angeles County Flood Control

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

Local Hazardous Waste Management Plan

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, untreated hazardous waste is shipped to distant disposal facilities in other counties and states. However, federal and state restrictions/regulations may preclude the County's continued reliance on distant disposal as its principal waste management method. As of January 1, 2003, there are no known hazardous waste treatment facilities located in the County's Planning Area.

Currently, Los Angeles County has a Hazardous Waste Management Plan describing and defining existing and future hazardous waste conditions, needed off-site management facilities, and recommended action programs on a countywide basis. It pertains to all of Los Angeles County, which includes the City of Santa Clarita Planning Area. Specific components of the plan include the following:

- Data regarding current hazardous waste generation
- Descriptions of current hazardous waste treatment facilities
- Feasibility of recycling or reducing hazardous waste generation
- Consideration of household and small generator hazardous waste
- Determination of the need for additional off-site hazardous waste treatment facilities
- Identification of facilities that can be expanded and general areas for future disposal of hazardous wastes or criteria for selecting sites
- A schedule to implement the County Hazardous Waste Management Plans

The plan also establishes siting criteria for development of needed off-site hazardous waste management facilities and designates general geographic areas within the unincorporated County and City areas where the siting criteria might be met. However, specific sites for hazardous waste management facilities are not identified because any future proponents of off-site hazardous waste management facilities must show a proposed project to be consistent with the plan. In addition, each off-site hazardous waste management project must undergo a rigorous site-specific assessment and permitting process at local, state, and federal levels, including addressing all environmental concerns as mandated by the CEQA.

The following objectives must be taken into consideration when deciding the location for a new hazardous waste management facility:

- Protect the residents
- Ensure the structural stability and safety of the facility
- Protect surface water
- Protect groundwater
- Protect air quality
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Ensure safe transportation of hazardous waste
- Protect the social and economic development goals of the community

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the *State CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G identifies criteria for conditions that may be deemed to constitute a substantial or potentially adverse change in physical conditions.

Significant impacts resulting from human made hazards would occur if:

- The project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- The project would 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
- The project would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school
- The project is 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
- The project is 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, that the project would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- The project is within the vicinity of a private airstrip, which would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working the project area

- The project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan
- The project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following text discusses the potential impacts from human made hazards per the County's Area Plan policies and the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance criteria.

Impact 3.11-1 **The project would create a potentially significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.**

Hazardous materials include any substances or combination of substances which, because of quantity, concentration, or characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in death or serious injury, or pose substantial hazards to humans and/or the environment. These materials typically include nuclear fuels, explosives, volatile chemicals, liquefied natural gas (LNG), toxic metals and chemicals, herbicides and pesticides. Within the County's Planning Area, a hazardous materials release or spill would most likely involve either transportation of materials by railroad or truck, use of hazardous materials at a business, or illegal dumping of hazardous wastes. The County's Planning Area currently contains two of the busiest roadways for truck transportation in the state, Interstate 5 (the Golden State Freeway) and California Highway 14 (the Antelope Valley Freeway). The Golden State Freeway connects the southern California area with the northern California area, and is a popular route for truck transportation that transports hazardous materials. The Antelope Valley Freeway connects the Los Angeles area to eastern California desert areas and is a popular route for truck transportation that includes hazardous materials. The transport of hazardous materials and explosives through the County Planning Area on state highways and freeways is regulated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The County of Los Angeles adopted the Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, which provides for the proper management of all hazardous waste in the County's Planning Area, including data on hazardous waste generation, existing treatment facilities, and siting criteria for hazardous waste management facilities (**Policy S 4.1.2**).

During the development review process of any developments planned within the County's Planning Area it will be required that proper adequately designed setbacks, and buffers be developed to separate any use that stores or generates large amounts of hazardous materials next to new development (**Policy S 4.2.2**). The public and environment within the County's Planning Area will be protected from

businesses that use hazardous materials; because these businesses will be required to verify their procedures for storage, use and the disposal of any hazardous materials they may be using (**Policy S 4.2.3**). In order to promote the correct disposal techniques for any hazardous materials within the County's Planning Area, the County of Los Angeles, along with other agencies will hold regular events to promote safe disposal of household hazardous waste, including e-waste (**Policy S 4.2.4**).

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy S 4.1.2: Coordinate with other agencies to address contamination of soil and groundwater from hazardous materials on various sites, and require that contamination be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the County and other responsible agencies prior to issuance of any permits for new development.

Policy S 4.2.2: Through the development review process, ensure that any new development proposed in the vicinity of a use that stores or generates large amounts of hazardous materials provides adequate design features, setbacks, and buffers to mitigate impacts to sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

Policy S 4.2.3: Require businesses to verify procedures for storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Policy S 4.2.4: Cooperate with other agencies to hold regular events to promote safe disposal of small amounts of household hazardous waste, including e-waste, by Santa Clarita Valley residents.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The above discussed policies are designed to reduce any significant hazards to residents or the environment within the County's Planning Area due to the transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Freeways within the County's Planning Area are protected in regards to hazardous materials transportation through guidelines and policies of Caltrans, the agency responsible for transportation of hazardous waste on the state's freeway system. Any new development that would be located in an area where businesses would use hazardous materials would be required to go through a review process ensuring that adequate setback and buffer features are established to protect residents and the environment from possible contamination. All new development that includes businesses that use hazardous waste will be required to verify their procedures for storage, use and disposal of hazardous waste materials to reduce exposure to residents and the environment. Additionally, the County of Los

Angeles will promote events to provide a correct means of disposing household hazardous waste and to prevent exposure to residents and the environment within the County's Planning Area. Implementation of these policies will therefore, reduce the possibility of exposure of hazardous materials to the public or environment through transportation, use and disposal, and impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 3.11-2 **The project would create a potentially significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment**

The County's Planning Area is governed by the Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, which deals with foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment (**Policy S 4.1.2)**. The Los Angeles County Hazardous Waste Management Plan provides direction for the proper management of all hazardous waste in the County of Los Angeles and 38 contract cities including data on hazardous waste generation, existing treatment facilities, household and other small generator waste, and siting criteria for hazardous waste management facilities (**Policy S 4.1.2, Policies S 4.2.1 through S 4.2.4**). The potential for future residents and employees of the County's Planning Area to encounter accidental exposure from hazardous materials would increase with the expected buildout described in the Area Plan. The addition of new residential housing and commercial/industrial businesses would involve development on land that is currently vacant, or that has had existing residential or commercial/industrial businesses on site in the past. There is the potential for some of this land to contain hazardous materials. The Area Plan's policies require the identification of hazardous wastes and remediation of contamination (**Policy S 4.1.2**) as well as the proper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials, which will protect residents and employees from increased exposure of hazardous materials. The potential for hazardous impacts from future projects implemented as a result of the Area Plan will be evaluated on a project by project basis (**Policies S 4.2.2 and S 4.2.3**).

Implementation of **Policy S 4.2.3** and **Policy S 4.2.4** will provide direction for businesses and households within the County's Planning Area in developing efficient ways to store, use and dispose of hazardous materials, along with providing educational opportunities on why hazardous wastes are dangerous, and how to dispose of small quantities and amounts of these wastes. **Policy S 4.2.1** and **Policy S 4.2.2**, will provide decision makers, and developers with the ability to restrict future locations of industries or businesses using hazardous materials to minimize impacts on residents and other sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident, and to provide guidance on what types of buffers and setbacks could be used to reduce possible hazardous waste exposure to residents.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Refer to **Impact 3.11-1** for a listing of Policies **S 4.1.2,** and **S 4.2.2** through **S 4.2.4.** Additionally, the following policy shall be implemented:

Policy S 4.2.1: On the Land Use Map, restrict the areas in which activities that use or generate large amounts of hazardous materials may locate, to minimize impacts to residents and other sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The above polices, are designed to reduce potentially significant impacts from hazards and hazardous materials to the public or the environment from the accidental release of hazardous materials. The policies will help guide future development and provide protection of public safety and property by identifying sites within the County's Planning Area that may contain hazardous materials, and require their cleanup. They also provide guidance on handling hazardous waste by local citizens and businesses. There will be guidance for the development of residential and business areas near known hazardous waste sites, by promoting design buffers to separate sensitive areas from known hazardous materials sites, and by providing restriction to the area where activities that produce large amounts of hazardous waste can be located. Implementation of these policies will minimize the potential impacts involving the release of hazardous impacts into the environment to a less than significant level.

Impact 3.11-3 **The project would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school**

The County's Planning Area will incorporate land uses within its boundaries that may include the development of new schools to serve the public. The possibility exists that development of schools within the County's Planning Area could be placed within 0.25 mile of a site specific project that could emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste. However, individual site specific review will be required to determine if a site specific project using hazardous substances within the County Planning Area will be developed within a 0.25 mile of a existing or proposed school. The potential for hazardous impacts from future projects implemented as a result of the Area Plan will be evaluated on a project by project basis (**Policies S 4.2.2 and S 4.2.3**).

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Refer to **Impact 3.11-2** for a listing of **Policies S 4.2.2 and S 4.2.3**.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The build-out of the County's Area Plan has the potential to locate existing or proposed schools within a quarter mile of a site specific project that could use and release hazardous materials. However, each site specific project will be required to properly use and store any hazardous materials. Implementation of the above policies will minimize the potential of locating site specific projects that use hazardous materials within a quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 3.11-4 **The project is 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**

Government Code Section 65962.5 states that the DTSC shall compile and update, on an annual basis, (1) hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action, (2) land designated as hazardous waste property, (3) waste disposal sites, and, (4) sites included in the Abandoned Site Assessment Program. As described above in **Table 3.11-1** the County's Planning Area contains two sites that have been identified as containing hazardous materials that could potentially impact residents and employees (**Policy S 4.1.2**). These sites are currently undergoing remediation (**Policy S 4.1.2**). Although the County is actively pursuing clean-up efforts on these above described sites, the potential for more hazardous materials sites to be identified could increase with buildout of the County's Planning Area. **Policy 4.2.1**, above, enables decision makers to restrict the locations of business or industries that would use or generate large amounts of hazardous waste, and **Policy 4.2.2** ensures that the development review process provides adequate design features, setbacks, and buffers to mitigate impacts on sensitive receptors in the event of a hazardous materials incident from any new development.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Refer to I**mpact 3.11-2** for a listing of **Policies S 4.2.1** through **S 4.2.3**.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The build-out of the County's Planning Area has the potential to uncover sites containing hazardous materials. **Policy S 4.1.2** and **Policies S 4.2.1** through **S 4.2.3** require the County to identify other sites potentially containing hazardous materials and to evaluate potential hazardous waste impacts on a project by project basis following implementation of the Area Plan. **Policy S 4.1.2** requires that

contaminants be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the agency having jurisdiction prior to issuance of any permits for new development. Implementation of these policies, would reduce potential impacts from a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or a newly identified site from creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Implementation of these policies will reduce these potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Impact 3.11-5 **The project is located within 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, that the project would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.**

The County's Planning Area currently contains one privately owned public airport within its boundaries, to the northeast of the community of Agua Dulce. The Agua Dulce Airpark is a privately owned airport serving general aviation needs with one runway, aircraft parking, fuel, and basic passenger services. The Airpark averages about 28 operations per week and stores about 35 aircraft on site. Most of the Airpark's activity involves local operations. The Airpark is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, and the County has adopted an Airport Land Use Plan to protect the clear zones and ensure land use compatibility with airport operations (**Policy C 1.3.5**). In 2006, the County approved continued operation and expansion of the Airpark services, including allowing up to 200 airplanes and adding helicopter operations. The Airport Land Use Plan currently has goals and polices that will reduce the impact with development occurring around the airport. Any development within the County's Planning Area that will be proposed to be developed near the Airpark, will be required to abide to the County's adopted Airport Land Use Plan as it pertains to the Agua Dulce Airport in order to mitigate aviation-related hazards and protect airport operations from encroachment by incompatible uses (**Policy C 1.3.5)**.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy C 1.3.5: Ensure consistency with the County's adopted Airport Land Use Plan as it pertains to the Agua Dulce Airport, in order to mitigate aviation-related hazards and protect airport operations from encroachment by incompatible uses.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

Implementation of Policy S 6.3.1 would reduce any hazard that the Airpark may pose on future development within the area, including people residing or working close to the Airpark. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 3.11-6 **The project is within the vicinity of a private airstrip, which would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working the project area**

There may be private airstrips within the boundaries of the County's Planning Area. However, those locations were not identified during this analysis and should be considered during project-level analysis. Therefore, this criterion was not considered in the analysis, and is further discussed in **Section 5.0, Effects Found Not to be Significant.**

Impact 3.11-7 **The project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan**

The OVOV Planning Area is located in an area of Southern California that has the potential for residents and employees to encounter human made hazards and natural hazards. These hazards could have the potential to cause undo hardship to residents and employees. Human made hazards include the potential release of hazardous materials, the potential inundation of areas within the County's Planning Area from ruptured man-made dams, the potential for biological, nuclear and chemical attacks from foreign and domestic terrorism, and the potential for fires started by humans. Natural hazards include flooding, seismic activity, extreme weather conditions and fires that are started naturally.

During development review process, emergency access is evaluated for all pending development projects within the County's Planning Area. Two means of ingress and egress are required for all major development projects, including subdivisions and commercial/industrial sites. Adequate road and driveway widths are required to provide access to fire trucks, along with turnouts and turnaround areas where deemed necessary. Traffic control during evacuation procedures will be based upon the nature of the emergency and the condition of the roads within the County's Planning Area. Temporary signage will be placed by the County of Los Angeles Public Works Department to ensure evacuation routes are clearly marked for motorists.

Although the County provides a number of emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans as described above, the build-out of the County's Planning Area will increase the amount of residents and employees within the area. With this increase in population, there is potential for increased interference with the above discussed adopted emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plan. Implementation of **Policies S 7.1.1** through **S 7.1.4** will provide further standards to help better implement the County's existing emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans.

Implementation of **Policies S 3.3.1** to **S 3.3.3** requires specific response times, installation and maintenance of street name signs on all new development and posting of address numbers on all homes and businesses so they are clearly visible from adjacent streets.

Policies S 7.2.1 through **7.2.4** promote agency cooperation in planning for temporary shelters, expedited plan check, permitting and inspection programs to aid in rebuilding damaged structures; proper record-keeping procedures, and the purchasing of disaster and recovery supplies locally to assist local businesses in their recovery efforts within the OVOV Planning Area.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy S 3.3.1: Plan for fire response times of five minutes in urban areas, eight minutes in suburban areas, and 12 minutes in rural areas.

Policy S 3.3.2: Require the installation and maintenance of street name signs on all new development.

Policy S 3.3.3: Require the posting of address numbers on all homes and businesses that are clearly visible from adjacent streets.

Policy S 7.1.1: Regularly update emergency preparedness and response plans that are consistent with State plans.

Policy S 7.1.2: Continue to provide regular training to public officials and the public on emergency procedures.

Policy S 7.1.3: Ensure that evacuation routes are clearly posted throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.

Policy S 7.1.4: Strengthen communication and cooperation between agencies, citizens and non-profit groups to plan for disaster response.

Policy S 7.2.1: In cooperation with other agencies, plan for temporary shelters for residents displaced by disasters and emergency incidents.

Policy S 7.2.2: Plan for expedited plan check, permitting, and inspection programs to aid recovery efforts involving the rebuilding of damaged structures.

Policy S 7.2.3: Ensure that proper record-keeping procedures are33 in place for purposes of obtaining reimbursement from State and Federal agencies.

Policy S 7.2.4: Purchase disaster and recovery supplies locally to assist local businesses in their recovery efforts.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The proposed policies discussed above are designed to provide guidance on adopting any future emergency response plans or evacuation plans that will be complementary to the proposed Area Plan. Additionally, these goals, objectives and policies provide additional direction and strengthen the County's existing emergency response plans or evacuation plans. Since the above policies would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, but strengthen these plans and any future adopted plans, potential impacts on emergency or evacuation plans from implementation of the proposed Area Plan would be less than significant.

Impact 3.11-8 **The project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.**

The County's Planning Area currently has four fire stations within its boundaries as further described in **Section 3.14, Public Services** of this programmatic EIR. Some fire stations in the County's Planning Area are geared toward providing urban fire protection services, while others in outlying areas respond to brush fires along the urban-wildland interface. The County's Planning Area is susceptible to wildland fires because of its hilly terrain, dry weather conditions, native vegetation, and urban/wildland interface areas along its boundaries. Historical records kept by the USFS indicate that wildland fires occur regularly within the County's Planning Area, with large fires occurring approximately every 10 years.

The combination of local fire forces applied to a wildland fire will depend upon the severity of the fire, other fires in progress, and the availability of resources. Suppression efforts can involve fire equipment, heavy construction equipment, and air fire bombardment aircraft, in addition to hand crews. The LACoFD which serves the existing OVOV Planning Area, has adopted programs directed at wildland fire prevention, including adoption of the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road widths, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas within the County's Planning Area. In addition, proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas.

The County provides training to residents on fire prevention and response, through the CERT program, and other educational programs (**Policy S 3.2.7**). Although the County provides these safety measures, and the associated fire departments are specialized in regards to battling fires in a wildland/urbanized

interface region, the implementation of the proposed Area Plan will increase the population and employee count within the County's Planning Area, as full build-out approaches. This could cause an increase in encroachment into wildland areas that are currently uninhabited. With the encroachment of residents and businesses into wildland areas, the potential for risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires will increase.

Implementation of **Policies S 3.2.1** through **S 3.2.7** provide for the identification of areas prone to wildland fire hazards and their inclusion in fire safety plans (**Policy 3.2.1**), address defensible spacing of vegetation around structures through clearing of dry brush and vegetation (**Policy S 3.3.3**), establish landscape guidelines (**Policy S 3.2.3**), require sprinkler systems, fire resistant building materials and other construction materials and provide this information to builders and the public (**Policy S 3.2.4**), and ensure adequate secondary and emergency access for fire apparatus (**Policy S 3.2.5**). Additionally, implementation of **Policy S 3.2.7** will act as a first line of defense, to allow residents within the urban/wildland interface to prepare their residences and business to help reduce the spread of wildfires into the OVOV Planning Area.

Proposed Area Plan Policies

Policy S 3.2.1: Identify areas of the Santa Clarita Valley that are prone to wildland fire hazards and address these areas in fire safety plans.

Policy S 3.2.2: Enforce standards for maintaining defensible space around structures through clearing of dry brush and vegetation.

Policy S 3.2.3: Establish landscape guidelines for fire-prone areas with recommended plant materials, and provide this information to builders and members of the public.

Policy S 3.2.4: Require sprinkler systems, fire resistant building materials, and other construction measures deemed necessary to prevent loss of life and property from wildland fires.

Policy S 3.2.5: Ensure adequate secondary and emergency access for fire apparatus, which includes minimum requirements for road width, surface material, grade, and staging areas.

Policy S 3.2.7: Continue to provide information and training to the public on fire safety in wildland interface areas.

Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies

The proposed policies are designed to guide the County in taking preventive measures against wildland fires. Since the County's Planning Area contains and is adjacent to high hazard wildland fires areas appropriate measures must be taken to avoid the risk of a conflagration spreading into the OVOV Planning Area. The above policies offers ways in which to address the problems associated with the possibility of wildland fires occurring within the County's Planning Area. With their implementation, potential impacts from wildland fires would be reduced to a less than significant level

MITIGATION FRAMEWORK

No mitigation measures are required.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Potential impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required.