



SAFETY ELEMENT

E L C E N T R O G E N E R A L P L A N

This Implementation Program provides actions to implement the adopted policies and plans identified in the Safety Element. The Safety Element Implementation Program is a series of actions, procedures and techniques which includes a description of the responsible agency/department, funding source, time frame and related policies in the Safety Element.

Seismicity

S-1: Seismic and Geologic Risk Reduction: Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to seismic activity and geologic hazards by requiring feasible mitigation of such impacts on existing, new development and redevelopment. Assess development proposals for potential hazards pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Require measures to mitigate all identified significant public safety hazards.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services, Public Works

Funding Source: Project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4

S-2: Open Space Easements for Seismic Hazards: Use open space easements and other regulatory techniques to prohibit development and avoid public safety hazards where seismic hazards are identified and cannot be mitigated.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.2

S-3: Structural Codes: Prevent injury loss of life, and substantial property damage by complying with the most recent Uniform Building Code, Uniform Mechanical Code, Uniform Fire Code, and the National Electric Code, which contain structural requirements for existing and new buildings. To protect public safety, all planned development in El Centro shall be subject to these structural codes.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services

Funding Source: Project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 1.1, 1.4

S-4: Seismic Retrofitting: Implement a program to identify and retrofit any unreinforced masonry buildings and other potentially hazardous buildings within the City. The program may include the following:

- Set a list of priorities and criteria by which strengthening of the buildings identified as hazardous will be established and conducted;
- Offer incentives to engender support among building owners, such as tax waivers, tax credits and waivers of zoning restrictions; and
- Adopt an educational program, such as informational mailings to encourage private owners to seismically upgrade their houses.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: 2003-2004

Related Policies: 1.4

Flooding

S-5: Flooding Risk Reduction: Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to flooding by requiring feasible mitigation of such impacts on existing, new development and redevelopment. Assess development proposals for potential hazards pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Require measures to mitigate all identified significant public safety hazards.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services, Public Works

Funding Source: Project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

S-6: Storm Drainage Facilities: Enforce the City's Public Works Standards, which give specific requirements for design of drainage facilities to ensure that they are properly sized to handle storm runoff and flash floods. Require new development to provide adequate flood control facilities, if needed, to control runoff generated by the project. Identify new public and private funding sources to fund needed improvements.

Responsible Agency/Department: Public Works

Funding Source: Project proponent, General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7

S-7: Flood Hazard Education: Promote programs and actions that educate the public about flood hazards and how to reduce the risks and losses associated with flooding.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services, Public Works

Funding Source: Project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Fire

S-8: Fire Risk Reduction: Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to brush and structural fires by requiring feasible mitigation of such impacts on existing development, new development and redevelopment. Assess development proposals for potential hazards pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Require measures to mitigate all identified significant public safety hazards.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services, Fire Department

Funding Source: Project proponent

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 3.2, 3.3

S-9: Promote Fire Prevention: Promote Fire Prevention in El Centro in the following ways:

Direct the El Centro Fire Department to implement fire hazard education and fire prevention programs, including weed abatement programs;

- Coordinate with the City’s Planning Department, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and the El Centro Fire Department to ensure that water pressure for existing developed areas and sites to be developed is adequate for fire fighting purposes;
- Adopt and implement the most recent Uniform Fire Code provisions and appropriate amendments to reflect the unique El Centro topography, vegetation and urban form; and
- Review and revise the Fire Department budget, as necessary, to ensure adequate protection.

Responsible Agency/Department: Fire Department, Community Services, IID

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 3.1, 3.4

S-10: Signal Preemption Program: Continue to implement the signal preemption program allowing emergency vehicles to preempt signalized traffic lights in order to reduce response time to emergencies.

Responsible Agency/Department: Public Works

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 3.4

Criminal Activities

S-11: Minimize Criminal Activity: Protect residents and businesses from criminal activity by providing substantive levels of police protection and educating the public about methods to reduce criminal activity. The specific actions to implement these goals are identified below:

- Ensure that El Centro Police Department staffing levels correspond to the population and geography of El Centro, and that sufficient emphasis is placed on staff and programs for crime prevention;
- Ensure that mutual aid agreements between the El Centro Police Department and the law enforcement agencies of surrounding jurisdictions are in place for emergency situations;
- Use defensible space and lighting concepts in development project designs to enhance public safety;
- Coordinate with the El Centro Police Department to increase public awareness about criminal activity and crime prevention activities. Maximize the use of after school programs, volunteer programs and Neighborhood Watch programs throughout the City; and
- Coordinate with the El Centro Police Department, the El Centro Elementary School District, and the Central Union High School District to provide periodic crime prevention programs in local schools.

Responsible Agency/Department: Police Department, El Centro Elementary School District, Central Union High School District

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 4.1, 4.2

Transportation Hazards

S-12: Transportation Safety: Minimize the potential for accidents involving railways, airplanes, automobiles, pedestrians, and cyclists by working closely with the El Centro Police Department, California Highway Patrol, U.S. Navy, Imperial County Transit, Imperial County Airport Land Use Commission, and railway operators to identify safety problems and implement corrective measures.

Responsible Agency/Department: Police Department, California Highway Patrol, U.S. Navy, Imperial County Transit, Imperial County Airport Land Use Commission, railway operators

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6

Disaster Preparedness

S-13: SEMS Multihazard Functional Plan: Continue to implement and update as necessary the City's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Multihazard Functional Plan (MHFP) to maximize efforts of emergency service

providers (e.g., fire, medical, and law enforcement) and minimize human suffering and property damage during disasters. Support high-level multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency planning and management. Solicit private individuals and organizations to enhance service provider communications and response with cellular telephones, ham radios, AM/FM radio and cable television.

Responsible Agency/Department: Development Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

S-14: Hazardous Materials: Minimize public health risks and environmental risks from the use, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials by:

- Cooperating with federal, state, and county agencies to effectively regulate the management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste;
- Cooperating with the County of Imperial to implement the applicable portions of the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Identifying roadway transportation routes for conveyance of hazardous materials (the City does not exercise jurisdictional over transportation of freight along railroad right-of-way or state highways);
- Implementing the City's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Multihazard Functional Plan for accidents involving hazardous materials; and
- Cooperating with the Certified Unified program Agency (CUPA) for El Centro and the El Centro Fire Department to administer Risk Management Plans for businesses within the City.

Responsible Agency/Department: Police Department, Fire Department, CUPA, County of Imperial

Funding Source: General Fund

Time Frame: Ongoing

Related Policies: 6.1, 6.2