

7.0 SAFETY ELEMENT

7.1 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Objectives

- A. Reduce the potential for loss of life and property resulting from natural and manmade hazards to a minimum.
- B. Coordinate responses in the event of a local or regional natural or manmade disaster.

Policies, Standards

1. The City will maintain its emergency preparedness, including evacuation procedures, to address potential natural and manmade hazards. These procedures shall be developed in coordination with Kern County's emergency operations plans.
2. All new buildings shall conform to state standards set forth in the Dangerous Building Code contained in the most current edition of the Uniform Building Code.
3. The City of Wasco shall conduct joint training exercises between local fire and law enforcement personnel to develop coordinated action in fire suppression, traffic and crowd control.
4. The City shall coordinate fire protection services with Kern County and neighboring communities, including consideration of mutual aid and instant aid agreements.
5. During major disasters, the primary coordinating official on behalf of the City shall be the City Manager.
6. The City shall establish a network of streets that permits emergency vehicle access to any individual property that is no more than one minute from designated Arterial, Collector or Minor Collection roadway.

7.2 FIRE PROTECTION

Objective

- A. An effective and well-trained Fire Department that will protect the community from fire dangers.

Policies, Standards

1. The standard of one fire company for every 10,000 residents shall be used to evaluate fire protection services.
2. The City's fire service response goal shall be six minutes from "tone-out" to arrival on scene.
3. The City shall maintain a reliable water supply system that meets the fire protection needs of the community.
4. The City shall enforce the municipal code as it pertains to the abatement of fire hazards related to existing buildings, structures, and weed control.
5. The City shall support local, state and federal programs designed to inform and educate the public concerning fire prevention and suppression.
6. The City will coordinate with Kern County in the provision of fire protection services to ensure the maximum level of protection for all residences, commercial establishments and industries within the planning area.
7. The City will encourage the installation of private fire alarms and fire suppression systems.
8. The City will encourage local and regional educational institutions to develop fire prevention and suppression.
9. The City will encourage the community to become involved in promoting state and federal fire protection programs in school and civic functions.

7.3 FLOODING

Objective

- A. Protect the lives and property of residents from the hazards of flooding.

Policies, Standards

1. Consistent with Federal standards, the City shall plan for storm drainage facilities sufficient to address a 100-year flood event and require adequate storm drainage facilities to prevent flooding within the community.
2. The City will maintain the storm drain master plan for the City, including planned growth areas and require that development conform to it.

3. Development proposals shall be analyzed according to the *Storm Drain Collection System Study and Master Plan*. Development not within an existing *Master Plan* watershed area may be included in the boundaries of an adjacent area and subject to a revision of facilities and cost allocation thereof.

7.4 PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARD

Objective

- A. Adopt and implement safety standards for varying hazards.
- B. The standard of one officer per 1,000 residents shall be used to evaluate police protection services. (*Amended 12/20/05; Reso. 2005-2288*)

Policies, Standards

1. Any new residential subdivision or residential project that requires discretionary approval shall participate in the provision of funding to maintain police services as established by the City Council. The election to implement the Police Services Tax shall be completed prior to the transfer of any of the parcels in the subdivision from the subdivider to any person. (*Amended 12/20/05; Reso. 2005-2288*)
2. Environmental Impact Reports should be required on all projects in areas of extreme hazard as defined herein (a project is defined within the California Environmental Quality Act).
3. It is the policy of the City to require that water supply systems be related to the size and configuration of land developments. Standards as set forth in the current subdivision ordinance shall be maintained and improved as necessary.
4. Development proposals shall take into consideration required fire standards, particularly in regard to critical facilities.
5. It is the policy of the City to enforce policies and objectives of the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act in order to insure safe and decent housing for low- and moderate-income families.
6. It is the policy of the City to maintain adequate street width and connectivity in the circulation system to enable prompt response to calls for services.
7. The street network shall be designed so that it does not pose undue hazards due to excessive vehicle speeds, excessive through traffic in residential neighborhoods or street design on substantial excess of future needs.