CITY OF
WEST HOLLYWOOD

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2024

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City of West Hollywood
California 1984

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Executive Summary

The City of West Hollywood has updated its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for 2024. Hazard mitigation plans are intended to serve as a guide for communities to reduce adverse impacts from natural and human-caused hazards. While not required under Federal law, preparation, adoption of an LHMP gives communities access to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs to help pay for mitigation actions specified in the LHMP.

FEMA requires that LHMPs be updated every five (5) years to remain active and eligible for funding projects. The City has updated its plans consistently with the last update in 2018. This present update of the LHMP has been thoroughly revised from earlier updates, with particular attention given to FEMA's recent guidance (as of April 2023) requiring a focus on climate impacts and equity.

The LHMP consists of the following sections:

- An overview of the purpose of hazard mitigation planning.
- A profile of West Hollywood, including its history, climate, demographics, infrastructure, and vulnerable communities.
- An examination of twelve hazards chosen in cooperation with the City:
    - Extreme Heat
    - Power Outages
    - Drought
    - Wildfire/Smoke
    - Hazardous Materials
    - Cyberattack
    - Terrorism/Armed Assailant
    - Earthquake
    - Infectious Disease
    - Flood
    - Heavy Rain
    - Severe Wind
- An assessment of West Hollywood's capabilities to mitigate these hazards.
- A list of potential mitigation actions to address these hazards, along with suggested strategies to prioritize mitigation efforts.
- A description of the planning process and how the LHMP will be maintained and updated in the future.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to the West Hollywood City Council on November 20, 2023. The update was concurrently submitted to California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for plan approval.

Copies of City Staff Reports to the West Hollywood City Council and City Council Resolutions in 2004, 2010, 2015, 2018, and 2023 are on file with the West Hollywood City Clerk's Office and available via the West Hollywood Community Safety Department.

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard mitigation is a proactive approach that helps to minimize the impact of natural disasters and other emergencies on individuals, communities, and businesses. It involves identifying and assessing potential hazards, developing strategies and plans to reduce their impact, and implementing measures to protect people and property from harm. This can include measures such as building codes and standards, zoning regulations, evacuation plans, early warning systems, and disaster-resistant infrastructure.

The goal of hazard mitigation is to reduce the frequency and severity of disasters, minimize their impact on communities, and promote resilience and sustainability in the face of future emergencies. By taking a proactive approach to disaster risk reduction, we can help to save lives, reduce the economic impact of disasters, and ensure that communities are better prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies.

Hazard mitigation planning improves a community's ability to effectively respond to natural disasters by establishing plans for maintaining continuity of operations for both government and community entities. The process involves identifying attainable goals to reduce the risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage from hazardous events, and developing strategies and activities to mitigate their effects.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is designed to be a participatory process that involves government agencies, stakeholders, and the public. The planning process includes scheduled events that encourage participation and ensure that a comprehensive approach is taken to address current and future hazards. By incorporating a systematic and inclusive approach, the Hazard Mitigation Plan helps to reduce the community's vulnerability to disasters and promote resilience.

As the impacts of global climate change have become increasingly apparent, explicitly integrating climate concerns into hazard mitigation planning has become necessary to most fully understanding a jurisdiction’s future risk and designing effective strategies to mitigate that risk. The most recent update of FEMA’s local hazard mitigation planning guidance, effective as of April 2023, includes a deeper focus on climate impacts and adaptation.

Purpose and Authority

The City of West Hollywood’s 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) outlines the potential natural and human-caused hazards that pose a threat to the citizens, resources, and property in the City. The plan also outlines the city's objectives and commitment to reducing the risks associated with these hazards.

The focus of this LHMP is on the hazards that pose the greatest risk to the city, as determined through a comprehensive hazard risk assessment and input from local officials. Hazards of lesser concern may still be evaluated but may not be fully addressed in this plan update. The updated risk assessment will help the city prioritize and update mitigation actions based on the hazards that pose the greatest risk to lives and property.

The LHMP has been developed in compliance with current federal and state regulations governing local hazard mitigation plans and has been adopted in accordance with standard local procedures. The plan will be monitored regularly and revised as necessary to maintain compliance with the provisions, rules, and legislation outlined in Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, FEMA's Final Rule published in the Federal Register, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 and 2012, and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act.

The U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), which amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and emphasized the need for state and local governments to closely coordinate their mitigation planning activities. The development of a hazard mitigation plan is a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant funds. These funds include Building Resilient Infrastructures in Communities (BRIC), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), all administered by FEMA.

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): To qualify for post-disaster mitigation funds, local jurisdictions must have an approved mitigation plan from FEMA. HMGP provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, local governments, and eligible private non-profit organizations (such as hospitals and special needs populations) following a presidential disaster declaration.
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA): A community must have an approved mitigation plan from FEMA to be eligible for FMA grants to implement flood mitigation, acquisition, or elevation of flood-prone homes. The community must also participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since one of the goals of FMA is to reduce or eliminate NFIP claims.
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM): PDM aids states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and local governments in implementing a sustained pre-disaster hazard mitigation program. To be eligible for PDM funding, communities must have an approved LHMP from FEMA. Although FEMA has discontinued the PDM program with the introduction of Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC), communities with projects currently funded by PDM through its most recent allocations must still be covered by a FEMA-approved LHMP.

SECTION 2 – COMMUNITY PROFILE

This is an overview of the City of West Hollywood with information about the community's physical setting, history, economy and demographics, current and future land uses, and key infrastructure. The Community Profile establishes the baseline conditions that informs the development of hazard mitigation actions described in Section 5.

2.1 Setting and Location

The City of West Hollywood is located in Los Angeles County along the southern edge of the Santa Monica Mountains, about 7 ½ miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The City is approximately 3 miles long in a west-east direction and 0.5 to 1.3 miles wide in a north-south direction.

The topography within the City is relatively flat and sloped to the south except at the extreme northern margin of the City, which is at the base of the mountains. The maximum elevation is about 500 feet, and the minimum elevation is about 160 feet. The average downslope gradient from north to south, not including the base of the mountains, is about 6 percent in the northern 1/3 of the City and about 2 percent in the southern 2/3 of the City.

West Hollywood is located largely on alluvial soil derived from the adjacent Santa Monica Mountains. The northernmost portion of the City is underlain by igneous and metamorphosed sedimentary bedrock. The alluvium consists of a mixture of sand, silt, clay, and gravel. The thickness of alluvium ranges from tens of feet in the vicinity of Sunset Boulevard to the north to hundreds of feet along the southern margin of the City.

Prior to development, a marsh existed within the alluvial plain currently incorporated as the City. The withdrawal of groundwater via pumping in the 1920's from the area contributed to the drying of the marsh. However, soft clays and organic-rich sediments were likely deposited along with sand and silt in this area while the marsh was present.

Source: LA County GISNet (2023)

2.2 History

Before European settlers arrived, the region of West Hollywood was inhabited by the Tongva people, who were part of the larger indigenous Native American population in the Los Angeles Basin. The Tongva, also known as the Gabrielino-Tongva tribe, lived in villages throughout the area and had a rich cultural heritage.

In the late 18th century, Spanish colonization of California began. The Spanish explorers, including Gaspar de Portolà and Father Junípero Serra, established missions and settlements throughout the region. The area that would later become West Hollywood was part of the vast land holdings of the Spanish Crown.

With the Mexican War of Independence in 1821, California came under Mexican rule. The area remained largely rural until the mid-19th century when the Mexican government secularized the missions and began granting land to individuals. In 1852, the area encompassing West Hollywood was deeded to Maria Rita Valdez Villa, the widow of Spanish soldier Vicente Ferrer Villa.

In the late 19th century, the region experienced significant growth and development. In the 1880s, the Los Angeles Pacific Railroad was established, connecting downtown Los Angeles with Santa Monica. This rail line had a stop near the intersection of present-day Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights Boulevard, which spurred the growth of the area.

Real estate developers, such as Moses H. Sherman and his business partner Eli P. Clark, acquired large tracts of land in the area. They subdivided the land and sold parcels to

investors and settlers. The Sherman and Clark development, known as the Sherman and Clark Line, included portions of what is now West Hollywood. Other developers followed suit, and the area began to attract residents and businesses.

In 1903, the neighboring community of Hollywood incorporated as an independent city. As a result, the unincorporated areas surrounding Hollywood, including the area that would become West Hollywood, were left without local governance. This lack of municipal representation became a concern for the residents, leading to a desire for incorporation.

In the early 20th century, the area witnessed significant growth in the film industry. Many movie studios and production companies were established in and around Hollywood, making it a global hub for the entertainment industry. The proximity of West Hollywood to these developments further fueled the growth and demand for local governance.

On November 29, 1984, after several unsuccessful attempts, the residents of the area voted to incorporate as an independent city, officially establishing the City of West Hollywood. This incorporation provided the community with local government control, enabling it to address its specific needs and interests.

West Hollywood has played a crucial role in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and activism. The City quickly became known as a safe haven for the LGBTQ+ community, offering protections and resources. It became one of the first municipalities in the United States to enact laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. West Hollywood has continued to support LGBTQ+ initiatives, including the establishment of the LGBTQ+ Commission and various LGBTQ+ community centers.

West Hollywood has a notable population of Russian-speaking immigrants, particularly from countries such as Russia, Ukraine, and other former Soviet nations. This community contributes to the cultural fabric of the city and has established businesses, social organizations, and cultural events that cater to their needs.

West Hollywood's vibrant arts and culture scene have flourished since incorporation. The city is home to a plethora of commercial art galleries, theaters, music venues, and entertainment establishments. The world famous Sunset Strip, a stretch of Sunset Boulevard, is a renowned hotspot for nightlife, hosting numerous music venues, comedy clubs, and restaurants.

West Hollywood administers an Urban Art Program as a mechanism to integrate free and accessible art into the urban fabric of the City. Most new development in the city is required to install an artwork on-site or pay an in-lieu fee to the Public Art and Beautification Fund. The Urban Art Program Guidelines details procedures required to implement and fulfill the requirements of the Urban Art Program. The City of West Hollywood maintains a collection of 18 unique public artworks (as of August 2023) sited in its facilities, parks, parking structures, and traffic medians.

West Hollywood hosts several annual celebrations and events that have gained national and international recognition. One of the most prominent is the City of West Hollywood Halloween Carnaval, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. It features

extravagant costumes, live performances, and a vibrant display along Santa Monica Boulevard.

Another notable event is the WeHo Pride Parade and Festival, which celebrates LGBTQ+ pride and commemorates the Stonewall Riots. The festival attracts a diverse range of participants and features live music, entertainment, and a parade.

After incorporation, West Hollywood focused on urban development, aiming to create a pedestrian-friendly city with well-designed public spaces. The City implemented strict zoning regulations, promoting mixed-use developments that combine residential, commercial, and entertainment spaces. The Pacific Design Center, a landmark building complex of three buildings – Blue, Green, and Red - known for their original vibrant blue-green glass façade and red glass of aluminum frames with silicone became a symbol of West Hollywood's commitment to innovative design.

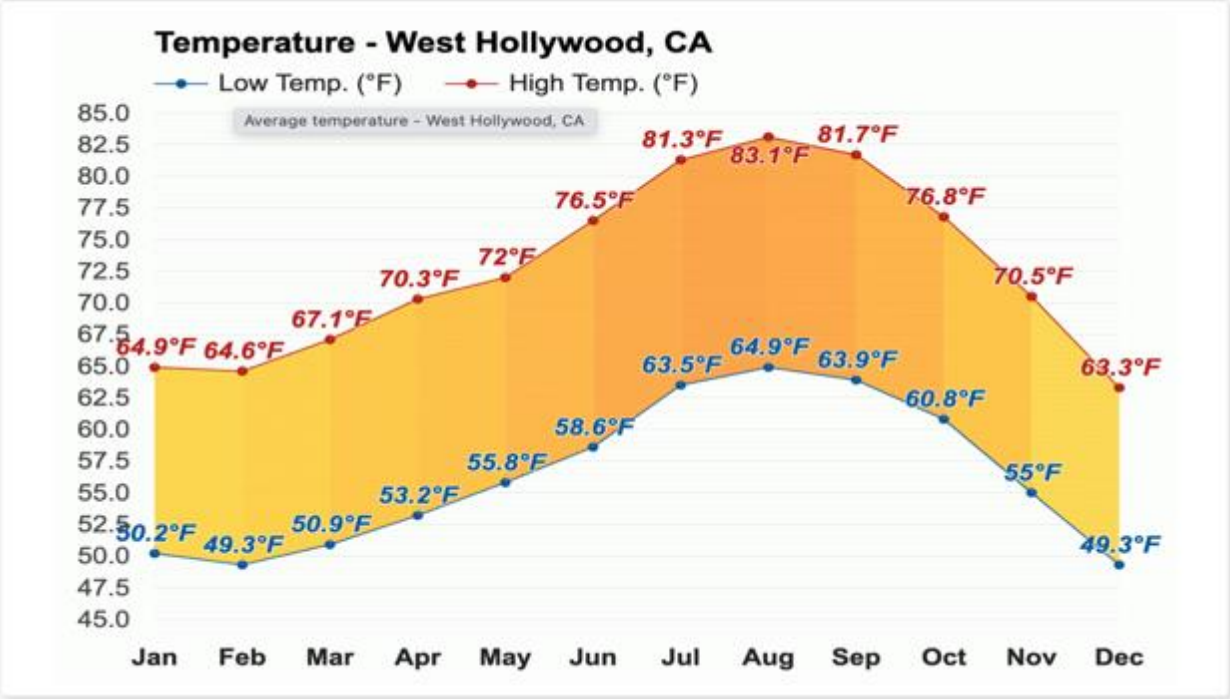
2.3 Climate

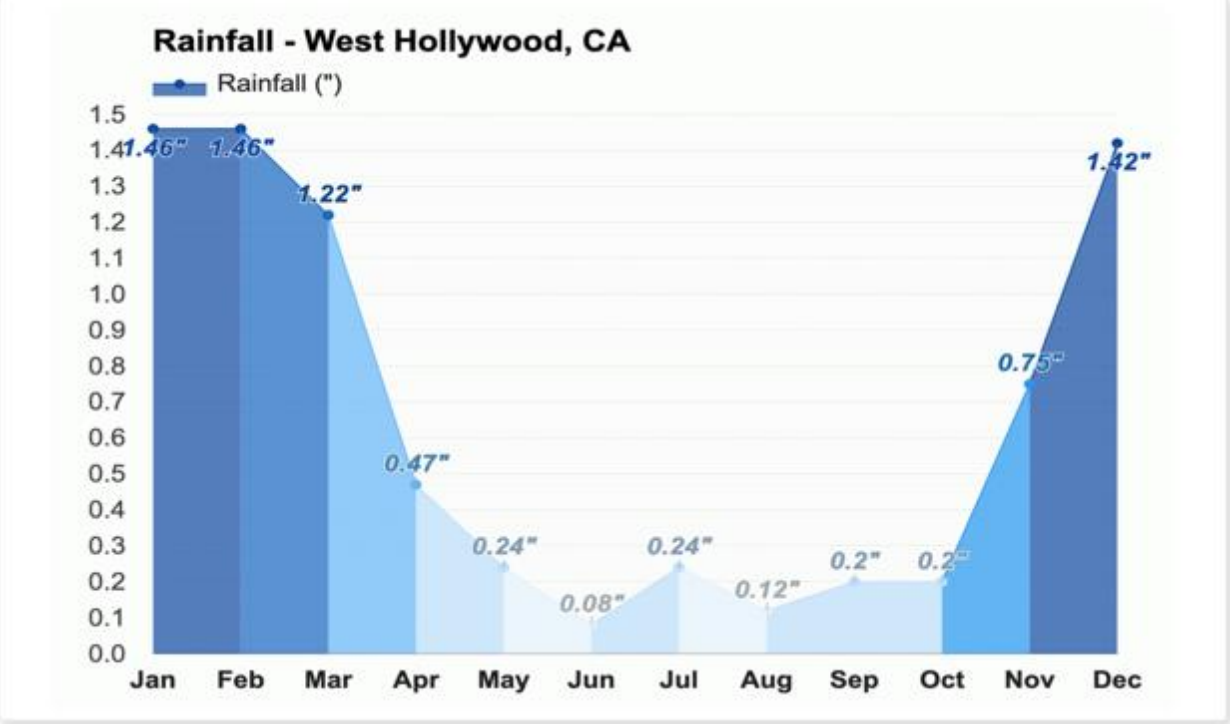
West Hollywood enjoys pleasant and mild temperatures throughout the year. Summers are warm, with average high temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to low 80s Fahrenheit (24-28°C). Heatwaves can occur, pushing temperatures into the 90s Fahrenheit (32-37°C). Winters are mild, with average high temperatures in the mid-60s to low 70s Fahrenheit (17-23°C). Frost and freezing temperatures are rare occurrences.

West Hollywood experiences most of its rainfall during the winter months. The rainy season typically starts in November and lasts through March. However, rainfall amounts are relatively low compared to other parts of the United States. The City receives an average annual precipitation of around 15 inches (380 mm). Showers are generally light to moderate, with occasional heavy downpours during winter storms. Sunshine is abundant in West Hollywood, with the City experiencing approximately 284 sunny days per year.

West Hollywood is also influenced by the Santa Ana winds, which are hot and dry winds that blow from the inland desert regions toward the coast. These winds typically occur in the fall and winter and can lead to warmer temperatures and increased fire risk. The Santa Ana winds are known for their gusty nature and low humidity levels.

West Hollywood is situated a few miles inland from the coast, but it can still experience the effects of the marine layer—a cool, foggy marine air mass that forms along the coast. The marine layer can occasionally drift inland, resulting in overcast mornings or even foggy conditions in West Hollywood. However, it usually burns off by mid-morning, giving way to sunny skies.





Source:: https://www.weather-us.com/en/california-usa/west-hollywood-climate (retrieved October 2023)

2.4 Climate Change

Like much of Southern California, the Los Angeles area, including West Hollywood, is projected to experience rising temperatures due to climate change. The National Climate Assessment notes that by the mid-century, the average annual temperature in California is expected to increase by 5-8°F (2.8-4.4°C) compared to the historical average. This is likely to result in an increased number of extreme heat events sustained over a longer period of time, which will increase heat stress on outdoor activities as well as increasing strain on the power grid to support air conditioning. A sustained power outage during an extreme heat event could be life-threatening.

The IPCC reports suggest that climate change could bring changes in precipitation patterns to the region. There is a possibility of more intense rainfall events, leading to an increased risk of flash floods in the Los Angeles area. At the same time, longer and more frequent droughts are projected, which could impact water availability, increase wildfire risks, and challenge water resource management.

As a coastal region, the Los Angeles area is vulnerable to sea-level rise. The IPCC reports state that global sea levels are projected to rise, and this could lead to increased coastal erosion and flooding risks. Although West Hollywood itself is inland, neighboring coastal areas, including Santa Monica and Venice Beach, may experience the impacts of sea-level rise, affecting infrastructure, ecosystems, and the economy.

The National Climate Assessment highlights that climate change can contribute to longer fire seasons and more frequent and intense wildfires in California. This poses risks to nearby areas such as the Santa Monica Mountains and can result in impacts like degraded air quality, property damage, and threats to public safety.

Climate change can affect water resources in the Los Angeles area. Reduced snowpack in the nearby Sierra Nevada mountains, combined with increased evaporation rates, can impact the availability of water supply, as California relies on snowmelt for its water sources. This may lead to increased competition for water resources and potential challenges for water management.

2.5 Demographics

As of the 2022 United States Census 1-year estimate, the population of West Hollywood, California was estimated to be 34,514. The racial and ethnic makeup of the City was predominantly Caucasian. 27.2% of the population speaks a language other than English at home.

Unless otherwise specified, all tables in Section 2 use data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Census and the American Community Survey's 1-Year Estimates.

Population and Racial/Ethnic Composition

Population Data	Estimate
Total population (estimate as of July 1, 2022)	34,514
SEX	
Male	55.6%
Female	44.4%
AGE	
Under 18 years	3.8%
65 years and over	15.1%
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	
Two or more races	9.6%
One race	90.4%
Caucasian	75.9%
Black or African American	4.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%
Asian	5.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	13.4%

Education

Label	Estimate
High school graduate or higher; percentage of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	96.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher; percentage of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	61.1%

Income

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the estimated median household income in 2021 was $78,719. Per capita income in West Hollywood as of 2021 was estimated to be $72,926.

2.6 Housing and Development

The development of West Hollywood reflects its transition from a workers' village for the railroad lines at the turn of the 20th century to the increasingly dense urban town of today. Characterized by the adjacency of residential districts to main regional thoroughfares such as Sunset Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, the City's commercial buildings are frequently adjacent to residential neighbors. Development is comprised of various building

types, including low-rise commercial structures and multifamily structures (generally 1-2 stories) and some 7-8 story apartments dating from the 1920-30s, of wood-frame and/or masonry construction. All masonry buildings have undergone a systematic retrofitting program to bring them into compliance with recent building codes.

Only a few residential buildings remain from the original turn-of-the-century community. Most of the City's single-family homes and duplexes are small and date from the 1920s. Development in the 1950s notably changed the scale of some sections of West Hollywood, placing larger apartment buildings in existing neighborhoods and office towers along the Sunset Strip.

Approximately 66% of the City's property is residential, 23% is commercial, 6% is public/quasi-public, 5% vacant or surface parking lot, and less than 1% industrial. Business types include restaurants, clubs, fast food, retail, service and repair, hotels, and various small shops. The City of West Hollywood is nearly "built out". Any development involves demolishing or renovating existing structures to build new facilities. Future development is limited to existing parcels.

West Hollywood's overall density of 18,998 persons per square mile is almost twice as much as any other local city and one of the densest in all of California. Its residential character is a blend of architectural richness and historic landmarks co-existing with the City's eclectic businesses.

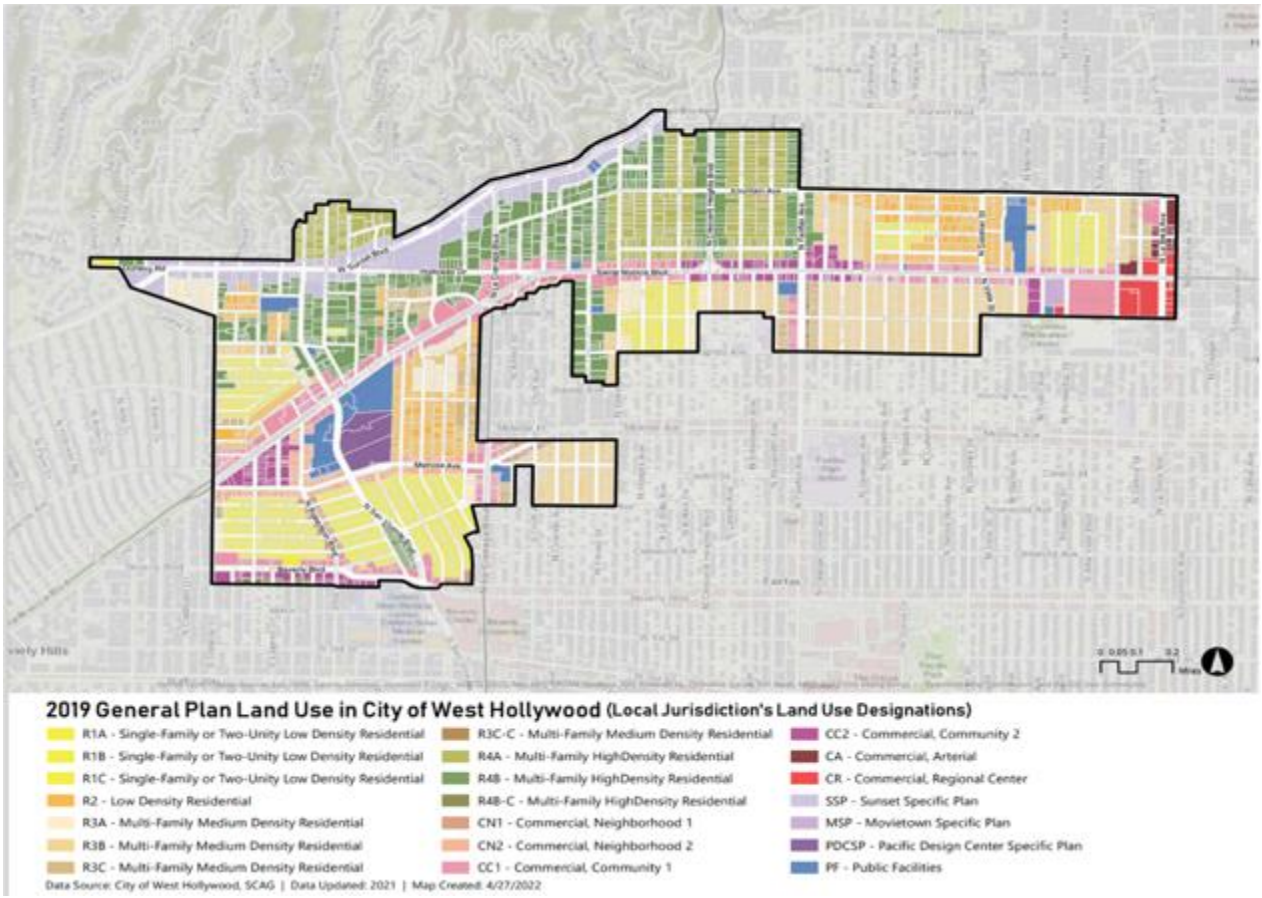
West Hollywood remains committed to providing market-rate and affordable housing for residents who face displacement due to rising housing costs. The West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation develops, owns, and operates more than 400 affordable housing units in the City financed, in part, by the City's Housing Trust Fund. The West Hollywood Inclusionary Housing Program requires new residential developments to reserve a specific percentage of housing units for low and moderate-income persons. In future development, mitigation measures are planned for and are in collaboration with the City's General Plan, building and safety codes, state-mandated programs, and traffic circulation requirements.

Housing affordability remains a significant issue for West Hollywood. In a major disaster, replacing damaged or destroyed housing will be more difficult than in many other areas, possibly leading to many current lower-income residents being displaced. The age of housing stock is another. The Los Angeles area historically has had a very moderate climate compared to many other parts of the United States, and both older homes and apartment buildings were not built for the kinds of extreme events already occurring. Some public buildings also are likely to show strain. As time passes, maintenance and upgrade costs will grow – again, borne with more significant strain by vulnerable and lower-income populations.

Finally, West Hollywood is home to many high-end hotels – many of which could be designated as unsafe for habitation or even repair in the event of a major earthquake. Given how built-out the City is, this would pose a major problem for reconstruction – and since the economy of the City is so dependent on their revenues, it could cause major problems going forward for tax revenues and the budget to make other improvements.

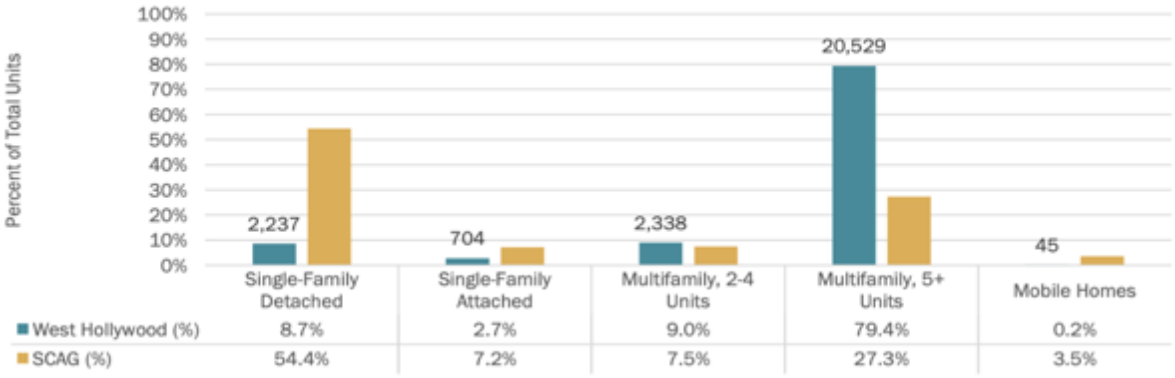
As of U.S. Census Bureau data from July 2021:

- Owner-occupied housing rate – 19.9%
- Median value of owner-occupied housing units – $782,500
- Median selected monthly owner costs with a mortgage – $3,305
- Median gross rent – $1,831
- Number of households – 22,984
- Persons per household – 1.55



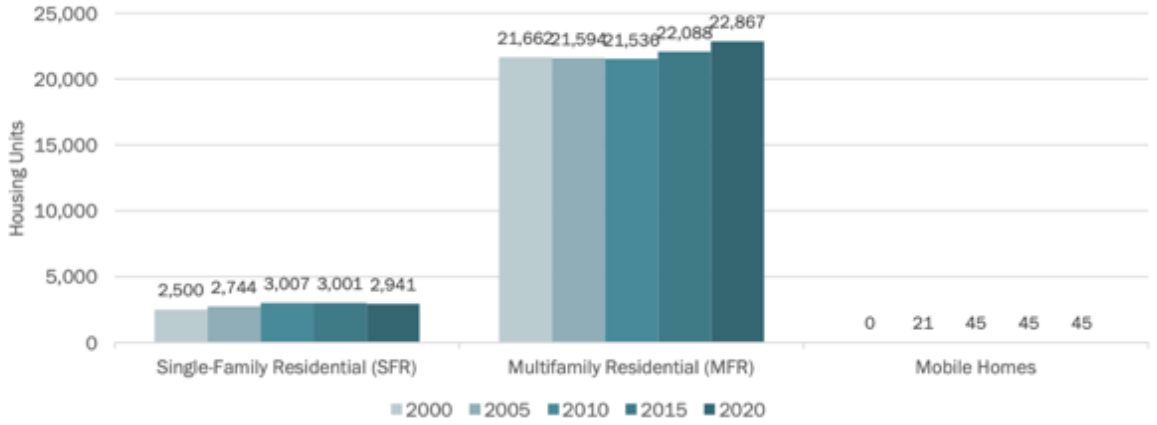
Source: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/p0222-west-hollywood.pdf?1655314251

Housing Type



Source *https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/west-hollywood-he0421.pdf?1620755968*

Housing Type Trend



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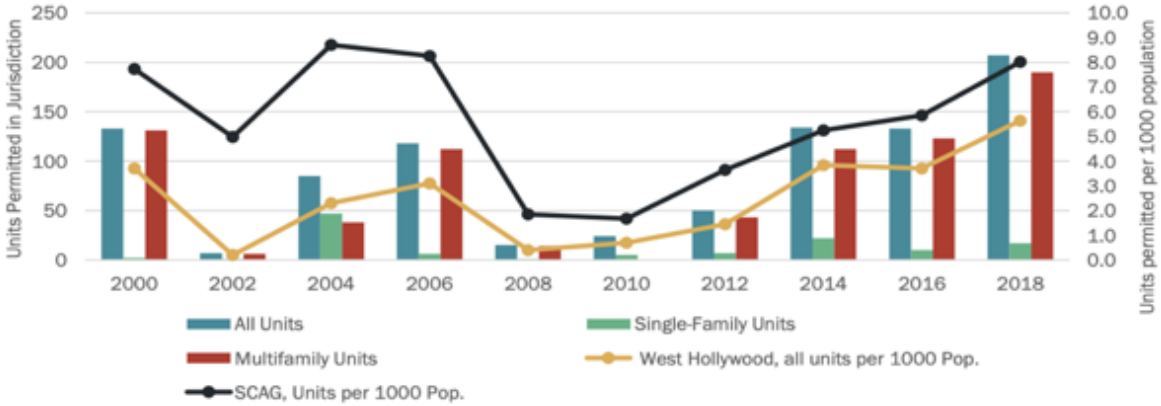
Housing Units Permitted



Source *https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/west-hollywood-he0421.pdf?1620755968*

2.7 Economy

The West Hollywood business community is a diverse blend of commercial venues. The City of West Hollywood receives revenue from property taxes, sales and use taxes, transient occupancy taxes, business license taxes, parking fines, photo safety citations, parking meters, motor vehicle in lieu fees, and other funds.

The businesses that populate West Hollywood are diverse. "Mom and Pop" stores co-exist with boutiques. Russian specialty stores and markets co-exist with posh hotels, popular avant-garde nightclubs, restaurants, florists, pet emporiums, and medical and legal professional services.

Santa Monica Boulevard is considered the City's main street and is home to neighborhood businesses, including those serving the Russian-speaking community, restaurants, bars, and markets. The City works collaboratively with the Visit West Hollywood Travel + Tourism Board and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to promote the City as a destination and to advocate for a community environment where businesses can flourish.

An important characteristic of West Hollywood's economy to note is its dependence on services and tourism. Restaurants, high-end shopping, and hotels are the backbone of the economy. The population of the City can shift dramatically by the time of day or week. This makes the economy that much more vulnerable to disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on commerce and movement is a good example.

2.8 Infrastructure

Electricity and Natural Gas: The City is served by Southern California Edison (SCE), which is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States. SCE provides electricity to over 15 million people across Southern California, including West Hollywood. West Hollywood also has a growing electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, with 84 public charging stations located throughout the City. These charging stations are part of SCE's Charge Ready program, which aims to install more than 38,000 EV charging ports across Southern California by 2025.

The City is also served by Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), which is one of the largest natural gas utilities in the United States. SoCalGas provides natural gas to over 21 million customers across Southern California, including West Hollywood.

Water Infrastructure: The water that West Hollywood receives comes from a combination of local sources, imported water from the Colorado River and Northern California, and groundwater supplies. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) is a regional wholesaler that imports water to the greater Los Angeles area and provides water to its member agencies, including the City of West Hollywood. MWD delivers imported water to West Hollywood through a network of pipelines and reservoirs. The City of Los Angeles

Department of Water and Power (LADWP) manages the distribution of water within most of the City, with Beverly Hills water serving some areas in the west.

Water conservation is a significant focus in Southern California due to the region's semi-arid climate and water scarcity concerns. Both MWD and LADWP promote water conservation efforts, including public education campaigns, incentives for water-efficient appliances, and water-efficient landscaping programs.

Wastewater Infrastructure: West Hollywood's sewer system consists of a network of underground pipes that collect and transport wastewater (including sanitary sewage and stormwater) from homes and businesses to treatment facilities. The sewer system helps prevent contamination of water bodies and ensures the safe disposal of wastewater. Wastewater from West Hollywood is typically conveyed to larger treatment facilities operated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD). LACSD is responsible for the treatment of wastewater from various municipalities in Los Angeles County, including West Hollywood.

Transportation: There are no freeways within the city limits of West Hollywood. West Hollywood is connected to the surrounding areas through a network of major streets and arterials. Some of the notable streets and roads in and around West Hollywood include:

- **Santa Monica Boulevard**: A prominent east-west thoroughfare that runs through West Hollywood and connects it to communities like Beverly Hills to the west and Silver Lake to the east.
- **Sunset Strip**: This iconic stretch of Sunset Boulevard is known for its entertainment venues, restaurants, and nightlife. It's a major artery running through West Hollywood.
- **La Cienega Boulevard**: Connecting West Hollywood to Beverly Hills and Culver City, La Cienega Boulevard is an important north-south thoroughfare.
- **Melrose Avenue**: A popular street known for its shopping, dining, and cultural attractions, Melrose Avenue runs through West Hollywood and connects to Hollywood and Beverly Grove.

Traffic on these streets can be heavy during certain times of the day, slowing both individual automobiles and public bus transit. This is a major vulnerability in the face of disasters or other adverse events – getting people evacuated or getting assistance into the City could be very difficult. Even during recovery, it may be difficult for contractors to enter the City.

Public Transit and Sidewalks: West Hollywood is served by various public transit options, which are part of the broader Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) system:

- **Bus Services**: Metro operates several bus routes that serve West Hollywood, providing connections to other parts of Los Angeles County. The City is well-connected to the regional bus network, allowing residents to access destinations across the area.

- **Metro Rail**: West Hollywood does not have its own Metro Rail station, but the City is relatively close to the Hollywood/Highland and Hollywood/Vine Metro Red Line stations, which provide access to rapid transit services.
- **CityLine**: West Hollywood operates a free shuttle service Monday through Saturday during the day. The CityLine Commutr service operates during rush hour and Saturday evening (until 8 pm) to and from Hollywood and Highland and the Metro B line every 15 minutes.
- **WeHo Pickup**: A free trolley runs on Santa Monica Boulevard between La Brea Avenue and Robertson Boulevard on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as Sunday.

Most West Hollywood streets are served by sidewalks. However, as with much infrastructure, many sidewalks are showing their age, with increasing cracks and other uneven surfaces. While this may seem minor, sidewalks provide an alternate means of transportation than motorized transportation, which may be very valuable after a large-scale event that clogs auto-centric streets into and out of the City.

2.9 Historically Vulnerable Populations

Please note that the following populations are not necessarily "at-risk" – they are populations identified as having special consideration for a variety of reasons. Outreach to several of the identified populations – the unhoused and the mentally ill – are particularly problematic due to their dispersed nature and reluctance to engage with government representatives.

2.9.1 Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+ (Major Hazards: Terrorism/Active Assailant): The City of West Hollywood is well-known for having a prominent LGBTQ+ community and attracts huge numbers of visitors for events such as WeHo Pride in June and Halloween. This puts the City and its population at risk for terrorist incidents, either from organizations or, more commonly, from individuals or diffuse networks, who find the existence of LGBTQ+ people objectionable. Anonymous threats made to the City are not uncommon but have not yet resulted in mass casualty events. Section 3.4.9, Terrorism/Active Assailant, describes this hazard in more detail as well as the kinds of events that have happened elsewhere. Working through existing LGBTQ+ community networks to both keep aware of threats and build individual and network resilience in cooperation with the City will be necessary to meet the kind of distributed threats modern anti-LGBTQ+ terrorism poses.

Russian-speaking Populations (Major Hazards: Terrorism/Active Assailant): The City of West Hollywood has a large Russian-speaking immigrant population, many of them Jewish. The City employs Russian-speaking employees and is conscious of the need for outreach in the Russian language, but there is still the potential for miscommunication or other issues stemming from being a linguistic minority in a largely English and Spanish speaking metropolitan area. The Jewish population in this community has an additional

vulnerability, as anti-Semitic incidents have happened over the past decade in San Diego, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Overland Park, Kansas, and other areas. Outreach to institutions in the community, both religious and otherwise, is very important to increasing the population's resilience to disasters.

Unhoused (Major Hazards: Extreme Heat, Wildfire, Severe Rain): The overall numbers of people experiencing homelessness have grown dramatically over the past decade, and especially in Southern California with its associated housing affordability crisis. Tents lining sidewalks are a common sight in many areas adjacent to the City of West Hollywood.

Unhoused populations are uniquely vulnerable to many of the natural hazards mentioned in this Plan, most notably extreme heat and wildfire. The City works cooperatively with its neighboring cities, Los Angeles County, and the state to find ways to provide services and housing to this population. The Planning Team consulted with Strategic Initiatives and Social Services within city government to understand risks to unhoused populations – these departments have contracts with local organizations to provide services and to maintain databases for the unhoused population.

Behavioral Health (Major Hazards: Extreme Heat): Anecdotally, there has been a rise in reports of behavior (not exclusively from unhoused people) that may indicate an increase in mental health needs. The City of West Hollywood has several outreach teams that address mental health issues, and the responsible department was consulted during preparation of the LHMP.

- Healthcare in Action: Provides physical health, mental health and substance abuse treatment services from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM every day. The City's Social Services department works closely with the HIA team.
- Care Team: The City's newly launched behavioral health team provides mental health support and referrals to both housed and unhoused community members. The City has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to support 988 calls requiring a behavioral health response in certain situations.

Older Adults (Major Hazards: Extreme Heat, Wildfire): In West Hollywood, the population of older adults, those aged 65 years and over, constitutes approximately 15.1% of the city's population, according to recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

Older adults are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change and natural disasters due to factors such as existing health conditions (heart disease, diabetes, dementia), reliance on caregivers, decreased physical mobility, and dependence on medications and medical equipment. These conditions can complicate their ability to respond to emergencies, making them more susceptible to injury, illness, and even death during extreme weather events. Additionally, climate change can exacerbate air quality issues, increase exposure to heatwaves, and lead to the spread of infectious diseases, all of which pose significant risks to older populations .

Economically, the increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events results in higher living costs, especially for insurance, potentially leaving many older adults uninsured or financially strained. Housing challenges also arise as the aging infrastructure may not be resilient to the effects of climate change, and many older adults live in areas more susceptible to these events. Social isolation, which is more common in older age, further increases risk during disasters .

SECTION 3 – HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Element B: Risk Assessment Requirements
B1. Does the plan include a description of the type, location and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction? Does the plan also include information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(2)(i))

This section discusses the types of hazards that might reasonably impact the City of West Hollywood. It describes how they are measured, a history of these hazards and the future risk they pose. This chapter also discusses how hazards in the plan were selected and prioritized.

3.1 Historic Disaster Declarations

Since 1969, Los Angeles County has received 80 total Federal disaster declarations. The following data comes from FEMA's Disaster Declarations for States and Counties (https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties; retrieved November 18, 2023).

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-253-CA	1969	January	1/26/1969	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-295-CA	1970	September	9/29/1970	FOREST & BRUSH FIRES	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-299-CA	1971	February	2/9/1971	SAN FERNANDO EARTHQUAKE	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-547-CA	1978	February	2/15/1978	COASTAL STORMS, MUDSLIDES & FLOODING	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3067-CA	1978	October	10/29/1978	BRUSH FIRES	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-615-CA	1980	February	2/21/1980	SEVERE STORMS, MUDSLIDES & FLOODING	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-635-CA	1980	November	11/27/1980	BRUSH & TIMBER FIRES	CA
Tropical Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-677-CA	1983	February	2/9/1983	COASTAL STORMS, FLOODS, SLIDES & TORNADOES	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-799-CA	1987	October	10/7/1987	EARTHQUAKE & AFTERSHOCKS	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-812-CA	1988	February	2/5/1988	SEVERE STORMS, HIGH TIDES & FLOODING	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-872-CA	1990	June	6/30/1990	FIRES	CA
Freezing Temperature	Los Angeles County	DR-894-CA	1991	February	2/11/1991	SEVERE FREEZE	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-935-CA	1992	February	2/25/1992	RAIN/SNOW/WIND STORMS, FLOODING, MUDSLIDES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-942-CA	1992	May	5/2/1992	FIRE DURING A PERIOD OF CIVIL UNREST	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-979-CA	1993	February	2/3/1993	SEVERE WINTER STORM, MUD & LAND SLIDES, & FLOODING	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1005-CA	1993	October	10/28/1993	FIRES, MUD/LANDSLIDES, FLOODING, SOIL EROSION	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-1008-CA	1994	January	1/17/1994	NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1046-CA	1995	March	3/12/1995	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING LANDSLIDES, MUD FLOW	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1044-CA	1995	January	1/10/1995	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, MUD FLOWS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3120-CA	1996	October	10/23/1996	SEVERE FIRESTORMS	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1203-CA	1998	February	2/9/1998	SEVERE WINTER STORMS AND FLOODING	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2417-CA	2002	June	6/6/2002	CA - COPPER FIRE - 06-06-2002	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2464-CA	2002	September	9/24/2002	WILLIAMS FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2462-CA	2002	September	9/4/2002	LEONA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1498-CA	2003	October	10/27/2003	WILDFIRES, FLOODING, MUDFLOW AND DEBRIS FLOW DIRECTLY RELATED T	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2502-CA	2003	October	10/25/2003	CA-VERDALE FIRE 10-25-2003	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2466-CA	2003	January	1/7/2003	CA - WILDFIRE (PACIFIC FIRE) - 01-06-2003	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2534-CA	2004	July	7/18/2004	CA-FOOTHILL WILDFIRE-07-18-2004	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2535-CA	2004	July	7/21/2004	CA-CROWN WILDFIRE-07-21-2004	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2528-CA	2004	July	7/14/2004	CA - PINE FIRE - 7-13-2004	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2583-CA	2005	September	9/28/2005	TOPANGA FIRE	CA
Tropical Storm	Los Angeles County	EM-3248-CA	2005	September	9/13/2005	HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUATION	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1577-CA	2005	February	2/4/2005	SEVERE STORMS, FLOODING, DEBRIS FLOWS, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1585-CA	2005	April	4/14/2005	SEVERE STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUD AND DEBRIS FLOWS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1731-CA	2007	October	10/24/2007	WILDFIRES, FLOODING, MUD FLOWS, AND DEBRIS FLOWS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2736-CA	2007	October	10/22/2007	RANCH FIRE	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2732-CA	2007	October	10/21/2007	CANYON FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2733-CA	2007	October	10/21/2007	BUCKWEED FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2708-CA	2007	July	7/8/2007	CANYON FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2694-CA	2007	May	5/10/2007	ISLAND FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2691-CA	2007	May	5/9/2007	GRIFFITH PARK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3279-CA	2007	October	10/23/2007	WILDFIRES	CA
Freezing Temperature	Los Angeles County	DR-1689-CA	2007	March	3/13/2007	SEVERE FREEZE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1810-CA	2008	November	11/18/2008	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2788-CA	2008	October	10/12/2008	MAREK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2792-CA	2008	November	11/15/2008	FREEWAY FIRE COMPLEX	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2789-CA	2008	October	10/13/2008	SESNON FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2791-CA	2008	November	11/15/2008	SAYRE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2763-CA	2008	April	4/27/2008	SANTA ANITA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2828-CA	2009	August	8/28/2009	PV FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2830-CA	2009	August	8/28/2009	STATION FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2851-CA	2010	July	7/30/2010	CROWN FIRE	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1884-CA	2010	March	3/8/2010	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, AND DEBRIS AND MUD FLOWS	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5025-CA	2013	June	6/2/2013	POWERHOUSE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5051-CA	2014	January	1/16/2014	COLBY FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5124-CA	2016	June	6/5/2016	OLD FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5129-CA	2016	June	6/21/2016	FISH FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5132-CA	2016	July	7/9/2016	SAGE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5135-CA	2016	July	7/23/2016	SAND FIRE	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-4305-CA	2017	March	3/16/2017	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3396-CA	2017	December	12/8/2017	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5201-CA	2017	September	9/2/2017	LA TUNA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5225-CA	2017	December	12/5/2017	CREEK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5226-CA	2017	December	12/5/2017	RYE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5227-CA	2017	December	12/6/2017	SKIRBALL FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-4407-CA	2018	November	11/12/2018	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-4353-CA	2018	January	1/2/2018	WILDFIRES, FLOODING, MUDFLOWS, AND DEBRIS FLOWS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3409-CA	2018	November	11/9/2018	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5280-CA	2018	November	11/9/2018	WOOLSEY FIRE	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5293-CA	2019	October	10/11/2019	SADDLE RIDGE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5296-CA	2019	October	10/24/2019	TICK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5297-CA	2019	October	10/28/2019	GETTY FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-4569-CA	2020	October	10/16/2020	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5374-CA	2020	September	9/13/2020	BOBCAT FIRE	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-4482-CA	2020	March	3/22/2020	COVID-19 PANDEMIC	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	EM-3428-CA	2020	March	3/13/2020	COVID-19	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	EM-3592-CA	2023	March	3/10/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	EM-3591-CA	2023	January	1/9/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-4683-CA	2023	January	1/14/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-4699-CA	2023	April	4/3/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	CA

3.1.1 Hazard Selection

Hazards for the 2024 LHMP were determined by examining hazards previously analyzed in the most recent LHMP revision as of 2018 as well as additional hazards identified by the City through internal solicitation from participants in the internal interview process for the LHMP. This series of interviews allowed participants from a variety of City departments to directly inform the Planning Team of their individual perceptions of hazards, vulnerabilities, and desirable mitigation actions.

Date	Department
April 10, 2023	City Manager's Office
April 10, 2023	Planning and Development Services Department
April 12, 2023	Public Works Department
April 20, 2023	Human Services and Rent Stabilization Department
April 24, 2023	Finance & Technology Department
May 4, 2023	Community Safety Department
May 4, 2023	Administrative Services Department
May 8, 2023	Community Services Department
May 9, 2023	Los Angeles County Sheriff, West Hollywood Station & Los Angeles County Fire Department (West Hollywood Station 7and 8)
May 11, 2023	Communications Department

The National Risk Index identifies 18 specific hazards that may affect communities across the United States. Not all of these hazards were included in the 2023 LHMP. Each hazard is addressed below along with justifications as to why they may not have been included.

Hazard	Included	Explanation
Avalanche	No	Neither the City of West Hollywood nor the adjacent Hollywood Hills experience significant snowfall; therefore, this hazard Is not applicable to the City.
Coastal Flooding	No	The City of West Hollywood does not have any coastline; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Cold Wave	No	Southern California is known for its temperate and warm climate; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Drought	Yes	This hazard is included in the LHMP.
Earthquake	Yes	This hazard is included in the LHMP.
Hail	No	This hazard was not identified through any of the interviews with City staff; therefore, this hazard was not determined to be significant enough to include in the LHMP. Related hazards are included as “Heavy Rain” and “Severe Wind”.
Heat Wave	Yes	This hazard is included under “Extreme Heat”.
Hurricane	No	Hurricanes rarely impact Southern California; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City. Similar impacts are examined under “Heavy Rain” and “Extreme Wind”.
Ice Storm	No	Southern California is known for its temperate and warm climate; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Landslide	No	Due to its topography, the City of West Hollywood does not face significant threats from landslide; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Lightning	No	This hazard was not identified through any of the interviews with City staff; therefore, this hazard was not determined to be significant enough to include in the LHMP. Related hazards are included as “Heavy Rain” and “Severe Wind”.
Riverine Flooding	No	There are no significant waterways within the boundaries of the City of West Hollywood; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Strong Wind	Yes	This hazard is included as “Severe Wind”.
Tornado	No	Tornadoes are extremely rare in Southern California; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Tsunami	No	The City of West Hollywood does not border a major body of water and is sufficiently inland to be insulated from immediate tsunami impacts; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.
Volcanic Activity	No	There are no active volcanos in Southern California; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.

Wildfire	Yes	This hazard is included in the LHMP.
Winter Weather	No	Southern California is known for its temperate and warm climate; therefore, this hazard is not applicable to the City.

3.2 Hazard Scoring, Prioritization and Probability

On May 24, 2023, a hazards and vulnerability assessment workshop was conducted with the City of West Hollywood. During the workshop, attendees evaluated the risk of hazards included in previous LHMP documents as well as additional hazards suggested by attendees.

The City requested that the following hazards be evaluated in its hazard mitigation plan:

- Extreme Heat
- Power Outages
- Drought
- Wildfire/Smoke
- Hazardous Materials
- Cyberattack
- Terrorism/Armed Assailant
- Earthquake
- Infectious Disease
- Flood
- Heavy Rain
- Severe Wind

The May 24 workshop was conducted virtually and utilized Kahoot, an online survey tool, to gain information in real time about participant hazard awareness and risk assessment. Based in part on elements of the Critical Priority Risk Index, modified for an increased emphasis on future risks using standard climate risk assessment categorization, participants were asked to score the above list of hazards on a scale of 0-5 using four categories for each, for a total of 48 questions:

- Severity at present
- Probability at present
- Severity in the future
- Probability in the future

This information was used to calculate the Modified Calculated Probability Risk Index score. The CPRI is a common methodology used in hazard mitigation plans to quantify risk. However, it does not give sufficient weight to risks from climate change or other future events.

The Modified CPRI is calculated in the following manner:

*((Severity (Present)*0.3)+(Probability (Present)*0.45)+(Severity (Future)*0.3)+(Probability (Future)*0.45))*

The highest possible score is 7.5. After choosing as each value the most frequently chosen response for each question, the following hazard ranking was developed:

Modified Calculated Probability Risk Index Score (Max = 7.5)	Hazard
7.2	Cyberattack
6.9	Earthquake
6.45	Extreme Heat
6.3	Infectious Disease
6.3	Wildfire
6	Drought
5.55	Power Outages
5.4	Heavy Rain
5.1	Terrorism/Armed Assailant
4.5	Floods
3.75	Severe Wind
3.75	Hazardous Materials

This hazard ranking is necessarily to some degree subjective in nature because it is based on assigning quantitative scores to informed judgements of City stakeholders. As such, it is an accurate reflection not only of hazards that the City perceives as major concerns, but of how the City prioritizes hazards and actions intended to mitigate those hazards. It is also a snapshot in time with participants rating hazards with a future-risk oriented perspective.

The probability of a hazard occurring varies significantly by the individual hazard as well as by timescale. This LHMP will use the following definitions throughout Section 3 to allow policymakers and planners to use the LHMP to inform City priorities and planning decisions.

Probability	Definition
Very Unlikely	Less than 5% probability of occurrence
Unlikely	Greater than 5% and less than 30% probability of occurrence
Moderate	Greater than 30% and less than 60% probability of occurrence
Likely	Greater than 60% and less than 95% probability of occurrence
Very Likely	Greater than 95% probability of occurrence

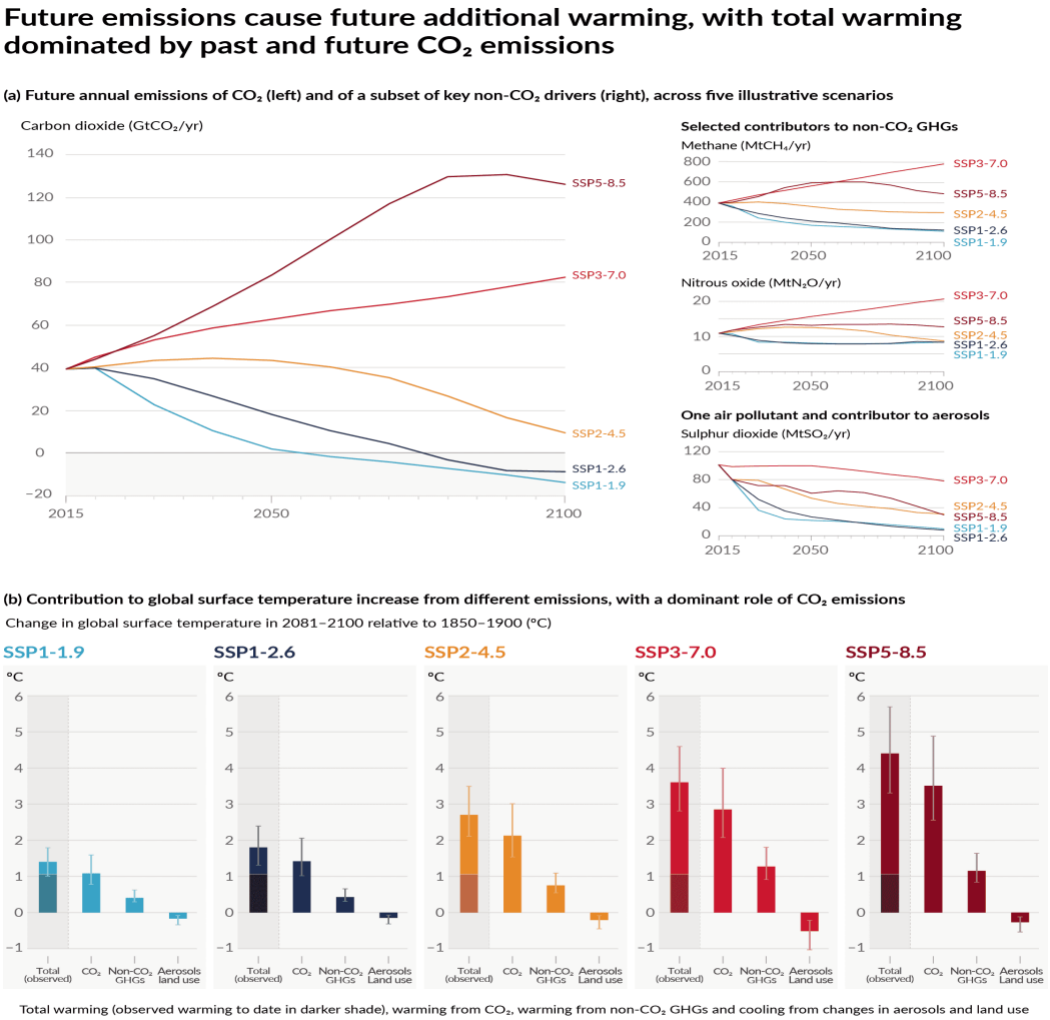
For the purposes of this LHMP, the timescale for probability, unless otherwise specified, will be 5 years, the current duration of an approved LHMP.

3.3 Global Climate Change

Global climate change is one of the defining phenomena of the 21st century and is emphasized in FEMA's revised hazard mitigation planning guidance as of April 19, 2023. Climate change is caused by increasing emissions of specific gasses, primarily carbon dioxide (CO2) and the feedback loops caused by those emissions increasing overall global temperatures. As of 2023, current concentrations of CO2 in the atmosphere are equivalent to those last seen in the Pliocene era between 2 and 5 million years ago before the Ice Ages, where global sea levels were on average 20 feet higher than today.

Climate change is not, by itself, a discrete hazard, and will not be considered as such in this LHMP. Instead, climate will be considered in each individual hazard description, as well as within individual mitigation actions. Climate change is best thought of as, in security parlance, a threat multiplier, or as "loading the dice", amplifying the impacts of existing hazards, shifting the probability of extreme events, and extending new hazards to regions that previously have not experienced them.

National and intergovernmental efforts to establish consensus climate projections include the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment in the United States (the Fifth Assessment is currently in preparation). The IPCC uses a representative concentration pathway (RCP) and associated shared socioeconomic pathways (SSP) to illustrate likely outcomes of varying emissions levels.



At the time of writing (2023), given national pledges and observed trends in measurable emissions, the most probably emission scenario is the upper end of RCP4.5, which results in an increase of between 2.2 and 3.5 degrees Celsius over preindustrial temperatures. By 2100, a significant increase by any measure over the 1.5 degree Celsius boundary set by the 2015 Paris Accords. This outcome is subject to several significant caveats:

- This assumes that all national pledges are followed through upon, which is highly questionable given political realities.
- This also neglects the potential for feedback loops or unpredictable events such as major methane releases due to arctic thawing that may temporarily significantly increase greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- Many projections assume the development and widespread use of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology to draw down carbon out of the atmosphere. As of yet, CCS technology has not been proven to scale, and the extent of deployment required for CCS to impact projections will be extraordinarily broad and expensive.
- Finally, a consensus is not a prediction – it is a product of a scientific process that is heavily impacted by political considerations. It can be thought of as a set of ranges, not as a hard number.

Many climate risk analyses today use RCP8.5, or "business as usual" projections as their baseline, which was the most likely outcome as of as little as three years ago. More recent projections have shifted to RCP4.5, but RCP8.5 is still completely in the realm of possibility and is more likely than the extremely optimistic projection of RCP1.9.

In its 2021 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, the City of West Hollywood commissioned its own projections for City emissions using three scenarios – Business as Usual, Business as Planned, and Carbon Neutrality. These scenarios looked at trends in specific sectors. While the City's emissions are a small fraction of global emissions, these scenarios are an excellent example of thinking locally and taking into account the range of potential future outcomes.

Below are a few of the most relevant aspects of climate change for hazard mitigation planning:

Source: U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit Climate Explorer for West Hollywood, California

- Many of climate change's impacts have resulted in greater unpredictability. For example, many regions are projected to experience both too little rain (increasing droughts) and too much rain (in severe events such as rain bombs or atmospheric rivers). Averages tend to obscure these kinds of extremes. Increasingly over the past several years, these kinds of almost stochastic events have increased all over the world.
- Projections by their nature tend to assume steady, linear change. Given what has been observed above, this is unlikely on either a local scale or a macrolevel scale. Planners should assume that surprises are likely to occur and plan accordingly.
- While overall climate projections have been remarkably accurate in terms of global temperature, many of the impacts of these temperature rises have been faster than expected, in some cases significantly so, with observed phenomena occurring today that researchers expected to see decades later. Planners should assume that impacts will occur on shorter time scales than anticipated – acting sooner will save money, time, and effort later.

This is important for planners and decision makers to keep in mind. Past conditions are no longer as reliable as guides to future conditions as they once might have been.

3.4 Hazard Profiles

3.4.1 Cyberattack

Hazard Description

A cyberattack is a malicious attempt to damage, disrupt, or gain unauthorized access to a computer system, network, or device. These attacks can take many forms and can be launched from anywhere in the world, making them a constant threat to local governments and businesses alike.

Cyberattacks on local governments and businesses are becoming increasingly common as more services move online and more data is stored in digital formats. These attacks can take many forms, including phishing scams, ransomware attacks, and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks. In a phishing scam, an attacker will send a legitimate-looking email or message to a target, attempting to trick them into revealing sensitive information such as usernames and passwords. In a ransomware attack, an attacker will use malware to encrypt a victim's data, demanding payment in exchange for the decryption key. In a DDoS attack, an attacker will flood a website or server with traffic, overwhelming it and making it unavailable to legitimate users.

Cyberattacks on local governments can be particularly damaging, as they can disrupt critical services such as emergency response systems, public utilities, and transportation networks. They can also result in the theft of sensitive data such as personal information, financial data, and intellectual property. Businesses are also vulnerable to cyberattacks, which can result in significant financial losses, reputational damage, and legal liability.

Location and Extent

By its nature, the threat of cyberattacks is ever-changing, and as the mechanics of how work happens is increasingly digitized, is ever-growing as well. Increasing vulnerability of cloud-based systems may result in attempts to wall off certain portions of the cloud or even create “mini-clouds”. Widely available artificial intelligence (AI) is likely to increase vulnerability to cyberattacks as it becomes more pervasive and supplements or replaces human-based knowledge.

Cyberattacks are generally not geographically based in the sense that there is a discrete, singular location that is targeted. They could be targeted to specific organizations or departments or targeted towards the entire municipal IT network. Cloud storage, for example, may be used by a city but may physically be distributed among many servers in various locations, some potentially far from the City.

Previous Occurrences

Cyberattacks are often not publicized, and as such, there is not a detailed record of cyberattacks potentially available to the public against West Hollywood city government or local businesses.

However, there have been several high-profile cyberattacks that illustrate the nature of the threat:

- **Atlanta Ransomware Attack (2018)**: In March 2018, the city of Atlanta, Georgia, fell victim to a ransomware attack. The SamSam ransomware was used to infect the city's computer systems, leading to widespread disruptions in various services, including the court system, utility payments, and police services. The attackers demanded a ransom in Bitcoin to decrypt the affected systems. The incident highlighted the vulnerabilities of municipal IT infrastructure and the potential consequences of cyberattacks on essential services.
- **Baltimore Ransomware Attack (2019)**: In May 2019, the city of Baltimore, Maryland, was hit by a ransomware attack using the RobbinHood ransomware. The attack crippled the city's computer systems, affecting services such as email, payment processing, and even real estate transactions. The city refused to pay the ransom, leading to a lengthy recovery process that lasted several weeks and cost millions of dollars.
- **New Orleans Cyberattack (2019)**: In December 2019, the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, suffered a cyberattack that disrupted various city services. While the city stated that no ransom was paid, the attack affected emergency services, public safety operations, and various administrative functions. This incident highlighted the potential risks of cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and the need for preparedness and response measures.
- **Colonial Pipeline Ransomware Attack (2021)**: Although not targeting a municipal government directly, the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack in May 2021 had significant regional implications. The Colonial Pipeline, which transports a large portion of the East Coast's fuel supply, was shut down due to a ransomware attack. The pipeline's shutdown led to fuel shortages and price increases in various states, affecting multiple municipalities' ability to provide services and respond to emergencies.

Probability of Future Events

Overall probability over next five years: Very Likely.

The probability of future cyberattacks has only grown, and is likely to continue growing, as malicious actors gain access to increasingly sophisticated tools. Check Point Research in 2022 reported that:

- *Global volume of cyberattacks reached an all-time high in Q4 of 2022 with an average of 1168 weekly attacks per organization.*

- *Top 3 most attacked industries in 2022 were **Education/Research, Government and Healthcare.***
- *Africa experienced the highest volume of attacks with 1875 weekly attacks per organization, followed by Asia/Pacific with 1691 weekly attacks per organization.*
- *North America (+52%), Latin America (+29%) and Europe (+26%) showed largest increases in cyberattacks in 2022, compared to 2021.*
- *USA saw a 57% increase in overall cyberattacks in 2022, UK saw a 77% increase and Singapore saw a 26% increase.*

This was driven in part by the increase in remote work and collaboration environments such as Slack, as well as the introduction of rudimentary artificial intelligence systems such as ChatGPT which made the deployment of cyberattack methods much quicker.

3.4.2 Earthquake

Hazard Description

An earthquake is a sudden, violent movement of the earth's surface that is caused by volcanic activity or tectonic movement along fault lines and the subsequent release of energy in the form of seismic waves. The effects of an earthquake can be widespread and include surface faulting, shaking of the ground, landslides, soil liquefaction, changes in the earth's tectonic structure, tsunamis, and oscillations in large bodies of water.

The point where two tectonic plates meet is called a fault line, and earthquakes often occur along these lines. In California, the San Andreas Fault is the most well-known fault line, where the North American Plate and the Pacific Plate come together. Over time, the constant friction between these two plates has caused the intersection to break into smaller faults, making the area more prone to earthquakes. The Earth's surface may show visible signs of fault lines in the form of sudden changes or breaks in the landscape.

Earthquakes strike suddenly, without warning. Earthquakes can occur at any time of the year and at any time of the day or night. On a yearly basis, 70 to 75 damaging earthquakes occur throughout the world. To this point, a 5.1 earthquake occurred on Sunday, August 20, 2023 during the landfall of Hurricane Hilary, the first tropical storm to arrive in California in 84 years.

The two main types of earthquakes that can occur in each region are strike-slip and dip-slip earthquakes. Strike-slip earthquakes occur on vertical or nearly vertical faults, where the plates of the Earth's crust move mostly horizontally. The direction of movement across the fault determines if it is a right lateral fault or a left lateral fault. Dip-slip earthquakes occur on slanted faults where the blocks of the Earth's crust shift mostly vertically. If the Earth above the fault moves downward, it is called a normal fault, and if it moves upward, it is known as a reverse fault. If the reverse fault has a dip of 45 degrees or less, it is referred to as a thrust fault.

The region close to a fault line is vulnerable to damage due to the possibility of a fault rupture, resulting in the shifting and displacement of the land on either side of the fault, which may move a few inches to several feet in opposite directions. Buildings and infrastructure near, on top of, or crossing a fault line may be severely damaged or even destroyed. Some faults have only recently formed in geological history and are known as Quaternary faults. These faults, which have developed within the past 1.8 million years, are a concern as they are most likely to be active and cause future earthquakes. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act permits the California State Geologist to identify zones around active faults as Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zones, which are designated as special regulatory areas. These zones require further study to determine the location of the fault and the extent of the area prohibited from surface construction above the known location of an active fault.

Liquefaction

Liquefaction happens when seismic energy shakes an area with a low-density material, such as fine-grained soil like sand or silt, that is saturated with water. This can cause the loose soil to suddenly compact and behave more like a liquid than solid ground. Buildings and infrastructure built on these areas can be damaged or even collapse because of the liquefaction. Utility lines like pipelines that pass through a liquefaction zone may also be ruptured, leading to potential flooding or the release of hazardous substances. Although there is no standard method for measuring the scale of liquefaction, other factors can be used to gauge the extent of damage caused by it. These include the type of soil, the strength of the seismic shaking in the affected area, the size of the affected region, and the degree of destruction caused by the liquefaction.

Seismic shaking

Seismic shaking is the trembling felt on the Earth's surface caused by an earthquake. While not all earthquakes are strong enough to cause noticeable shaking, the intensity of seismic shaking is proportional to the amount of energy released from the earthquake, which is determined by the length and depth of the fault that caused it. Typically, areas closest to the fault rupture experience stronger seismic shaking, while areas farther away experience weaker shaking. Seismic shaking can result in structural damage or collapse, and it can also harm underground utilities or pipelines, leading to flooding if water lines are broken.

The Richter magnitude scale, named after seismologist Charles F. Richter, measures the amount of energy released by an earthquake at its source. The scale ranges from 0 to 10, with each increase of one representing an earthquake 10 times stronger than the previous one. However, because it is a logarithmic scale, the energy released increases by a factor of 32 for each one-point increase in magnitude. For example, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.0 releases 32 times more energy than an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0.

The Mercalli intensity scale, on the other hand, measures the effects of an earthquake on people, structures, and the environment. It is based on observations of damage and shaking intensity rather than on instrumental measurements. The scale ranges from I to XII, with each level representing a different level of damage and impact. For example, an earthquake

with an intensity of I would be felt only by a few people under very special circumstances, while an earthquake with an intensity of XII would cause total destruction of buildings and infrastructure.

The Richter Magnitude Scale

Richter Magnitudes	Earthquake Effects
Less than 3.5	Generally, not felt but recorded.
3.5-5.4	Often felt, but rarely causes damage.
Under 6.0	At most slight damage to well-designed buildings. Can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings over small regions.
6.1-6.9	Can be destructive in areas up to about 100 kilometers across where people live.
7.0-7.9	Major earthquake. Can cause serious damage over larger areas.
8 or greater	Great earthquake. Can cause serious damage in areas several hundred kilometers across.

Source: https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/earthquake

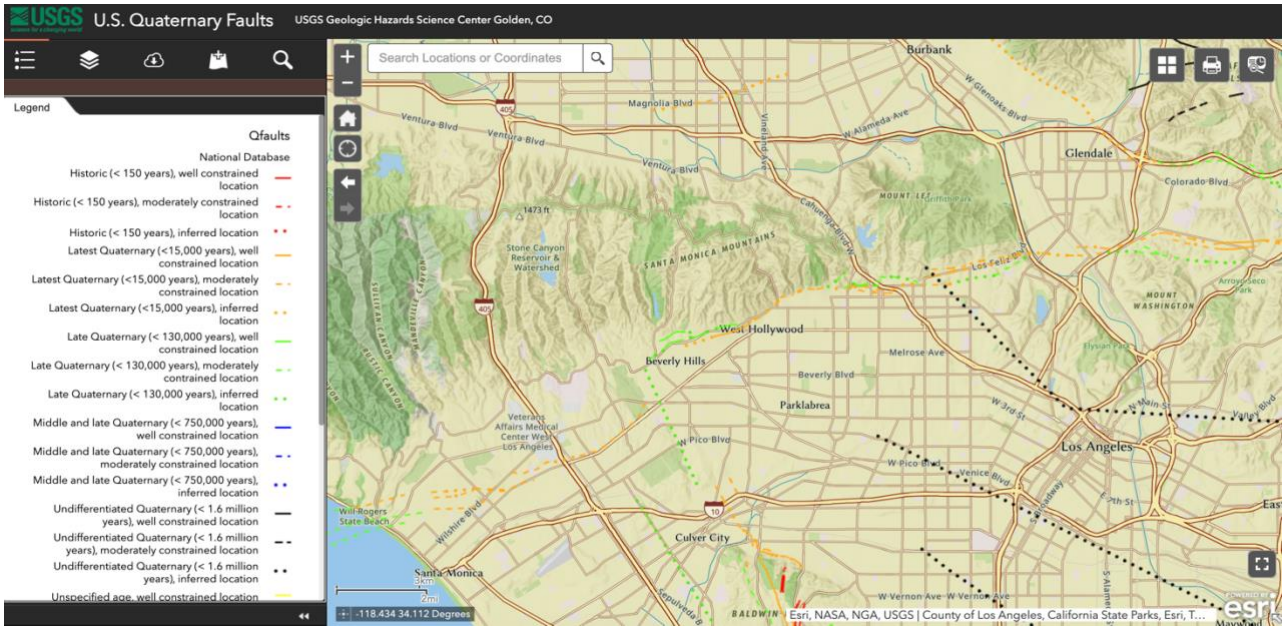
Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale for Earthquakes

Scale	Intensity	Description of Effects	Corresponding Richter Scale Magnitude
I	Instrumental	Detected only on seismographs	
II	Feeble	Some people feel it	<4.2
III	Slight	Felt by people resting; like a truck rumbling by	
IV	Moderate	Felt by people walking	
V	Slightly Strong	Sleepers awake; church bells ring	<4.8
Scale	**Intensity**	**Description of Effects**	**Corresponding Richter Scale Magnitude**

VI	Strong	Trees sway: suspended objects swing, objects fall off shelves	<5.4
VII	Very Strong	Mild alarm; walls crack; plaster falls	<6.1
VIII	Destructive	Moving cars uncontrollable; masonry fractures; poorly constructed buildings damaged.	
IX	Ruinous	Some houses collapse; ground cracks; pipes break open	<6.9
X	Disastrous	Ground cracks profusely; many buildings destroyed; liquefaction and landslides widespread	<7.3
XI	Very Disastrous	Most buildings and bridges collapse; roads, railways, pipes, and cables destroyed	
XII	Catastrophic	Total destruction: trees fall; ground rises and falls in waves	>8.1

Source: https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/earthquake

Location and Extent



Source: https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/faults

Major fault lines in close proximity to the City of West Hollywood include:

- **San Andreas Fault**: The San Andreas Fault is perhaps the most famous fault in California. It runs approximately 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) through the state, marking the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate. While the main trace of the fault is not directly adjacent to West Hollywood, its influence on seismic activity and potential earthquakes in the region is significant.
- **Hollywood Fault**: The Hollywood Fault is a thrust fault that runs through parts of the Hollywood Hills and could potentially impact the Los Angeles Basin, including West Hollywood. It has been the subject of geological studies to understand its activity and potential for seismic events.
- **Santa Monica Fault**: The Santa Monica Fault runs parallel to the coast, just a few miles from West Hollywood. It's considered a significant seismic hazard due to its proximity to populated areas and its potential to generate earthquakes.
- **Puente Hills Fault**: The Puente Hills Fault is another important fault in the area, running from the San Gabriel Valley to downtown Los Angeles. It's a thrust fault capable of producing powerful earthquakes. Its proximity to densely populated areas raises concerns about the potential impact of a seismic event.
- **Raymond Fault**: The Raymond Fault is located to the east of West Hollywood, running through parts of Pasadena and nearby areas. It's considered active and capable of generating earthquakes.

Beyond these known faults, there are a potentially large number of “blind” faults that underlie the surface of Southern California. One such blind fault was involved in the Whittier Narrows earthquake in October 1987.

Although the most famous of the faults, the San Andreas, can produce an earthquake with a magnitude of 8+ on the Richter scale, some of the “lesser” faults have the potential to inflict greater damage on the urban core of the Los Angeles Basin. Seismologists believe that a 6.0 earthquake on the Newport-Inglewood would result in far more damage than a “great” quake on the San Andreas, because the San Andreas is relatively remote from the urban centers of Southern California.

Limitations to predicting damage from an earthquake to the City specifically include not being able to identify with certainty which fault might be affected, the magnitude of the earthquake, or the length of time of the shaking. Comparisons can be drawn from history and geologic studies and are addressed in the Safety and Noise Chapter of the City’s General Plan. The City Seismic Hazard Zone map, which is included in the City’s General Plan, denotes southern areas of the City that have historic occurrence of liquefaction or local geological, geotechnical and groundwater conditions that indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements. There is also an area in the northern part of the City that either has pervious occurrence of landslide movement or local topographic, geological, geotechnical, and subsurface water conditions that indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements.

Previous Occurrences

The following data comes from FEMA's Disaster Declarations for States and Counties (https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties; retrieved November 18, 2023).:

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-299-CA	1971	February	2/9/1971	SAN FERNANDO EARTHQUAKE	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-799-CA	1987	October	10/7/1987	EARTHQUAKE & AFTERSHOCKS	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-1008-CA	1994	January	1/17/1994	NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE	CA

In the past several decades, earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 or greater occurred in the Los Angeles Area, with the most recent being the La Habra earthquake (magnitude 5.1) March 28th, 2014. For the La Habra earthquake, the epicenter was one mile east of La Habra and four miles north of Fullerton. An aftershock (magnitude 4.1) centered near the Los Angeles County community of Rowland Heights the following day. Based on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale (a measure of the effect of an earthquake on the Earth's surface, or the intensity), the City of West Hollywood received an intensity rating of IV on a Roman numeral scale of I to X. A rating of IV means light shaking, in which the effects are felt indoors by many and outdoor by a few. The second most recent earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater in the Los Angeles Area was the July 29th, 2008 Chino Hills earthquake, with the epicenter located 28 miles east-southeast of downtown Los Angeles. Similar to the La Habra earthquake, the City of West Hollywood received a rating of IV on the Mercalli Intensity Scale.

Earthquakes in southern California have been frequent, with many impacting the City of West Hollywood and surrounding communities. Among the more notable area:

- **Northridge Earthquake (1994)**: One of the most impactful earthquakes in recent history for the Los Angeles area was the Northridge Earthquake. On January 17, 1994, a magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck in the San Fernando Valley, which is relatively close to West Hollywood. The earthquake caused widespread damage, including collapsed buildings, infrastructure damage, and loss of life. The event highlighted the vulnerabilities of the region's infrastructure to seismic events.
- **Whittier Narrows Earthquake (1987)**: The Whittier Narrows Earthquake, with a magnitude of 5.9, occurred on October 1, 1987. While its epicenter was further east, near the San Gabriel Valley, it was felt throughout the Los Angeles Basin. The quake caused damage to several freeway overpasses and highlighted the potential for seismic hazards in the area.

- **Long Beach Earthquake (1933)**: The Long Beach Earthquake, also known as the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, struck on March 10, 1933. It had a magnitude of 6.4 and caused significant damage in Long Beach and surrounding areas. Although West Hollywood is further west, it was still affected by the shaking from this earthquake.
- **San Fernando Earthquake (1971)**: The San Fernando Earthquake, also referred to as the Sylmar Earthquake, occurred on February 9, 1971. With a magnitude of 6.5, it caused destruction in the San Fernando Valley, which is close to West Hollywood. The earthquake resulted in collapsed buildings, fires, and widespread damage.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Moderate.

There is a higher likelihood of large earthquakes occurring in the Los Angeles region compared to other parts of California, due to the presence of multiple faults that can cause multi-fault ruptures. On average, it is expected that a quake measuring 6.0 or greater in magnitude will occur in Southern California every few years. It is not possible to predict when a major earthquake will occur, but the USGS has estimated that there is a 75% chance that one or more earthquakes with a magnitude of 7.5 or greater will occur within the next thirty years.

Some research indicates that climate change could result in “isostatic rebounds,” or a sudden upward movement of the crust because of reduced downward weight caused by glaciers, which could result in increased seismic and volcanic activity in previously glaciated areas. However, this will not impact West Hollywood directly.

3.4.3 Extreme Heat

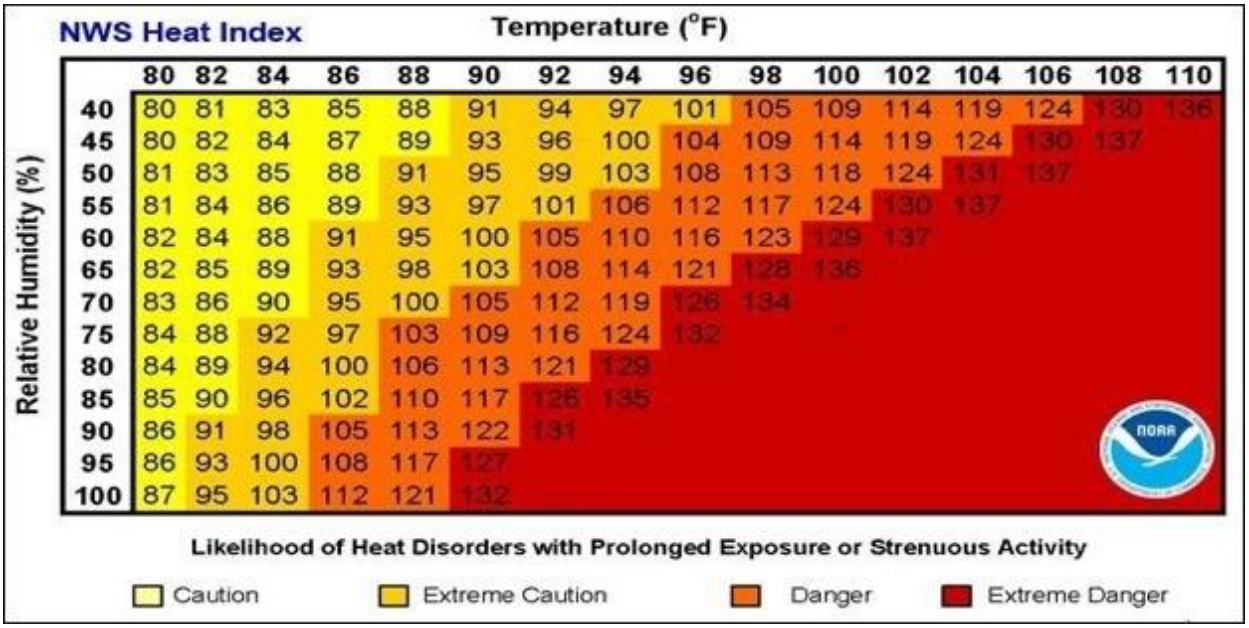
Hazard Description

Extreme heat refers to a period of abnormally high temperatures in a specific location. As defined by CalAdapt (https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat/), there are three major types of extreme heat events:

- Extreme heat days, which exceed 98% of all historic high temperatures for the area between April and October from 1961 to 1990.
- Warm nights, which exceed 98% of all historic minimum daytime temperatures observed between April and October from 1961 to 1990.
- Extreme heat waves, a successive series of extreme heat days and warm nights defined as a minimum of four successive extreme heat days and warm nights.

Different regions will experience extreme heat events differently due to variations in historic high temperatures. For example, an extreme heat day on the coast will feel distinct from an extreme heat day in the high desert due to the impact of humidity on people's perception of

heat. Humid conditions make a day feel hotter than non-humid conditions, even if the temperature is the same, resulting in a difference known as the heat index. A 90-degree day with 50 percent humidity feels like 95°F, whereas a 90°F day with 90 percent humidity feels like 122°F.



National Weather Service Extreme Heat Index

Prolonged exposure to extreme heat can be hazardous to public health, as the human body is less able to withstand high temperatures for extended periods of time. This can result in heat exhaustion and dehydration, which may progress to heat stroke and organ failure if internal body temperature surpasses 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Without intervention, this can be fatal.

While West Hollywood and the Los Angeles area experience moderate temperatures throughout the year, citizens are still vulnerable to unusually hot weather during the summer or early fall months. The City cooperates with the County of Los Angeles to offer cooling centers during significantly hot weather, including the West Hollywood library, operated by the County. The primary center is in the Senior Lounge in Plummer Park. The City's Cooling Center is open during periods of extreme heat (above 90 degrees). Occasionally the City offers bottled water to older adults who are in the cooling centers.

Location and Extent

Extreme heat events occur with the same intensity and duration across all locations in West Hollywood and are not limited to any specific part of the City. Extreme heat does have

disproportionate impacts depending on the type and age of building, however. Many older buildings may not have the same cooling capacity or may be more vulnerable to power outages and loss or air conditioning. Residential buildings of this age in West Hollywood are disproportionally occupied by lower income tenants.

Previous Occurrences

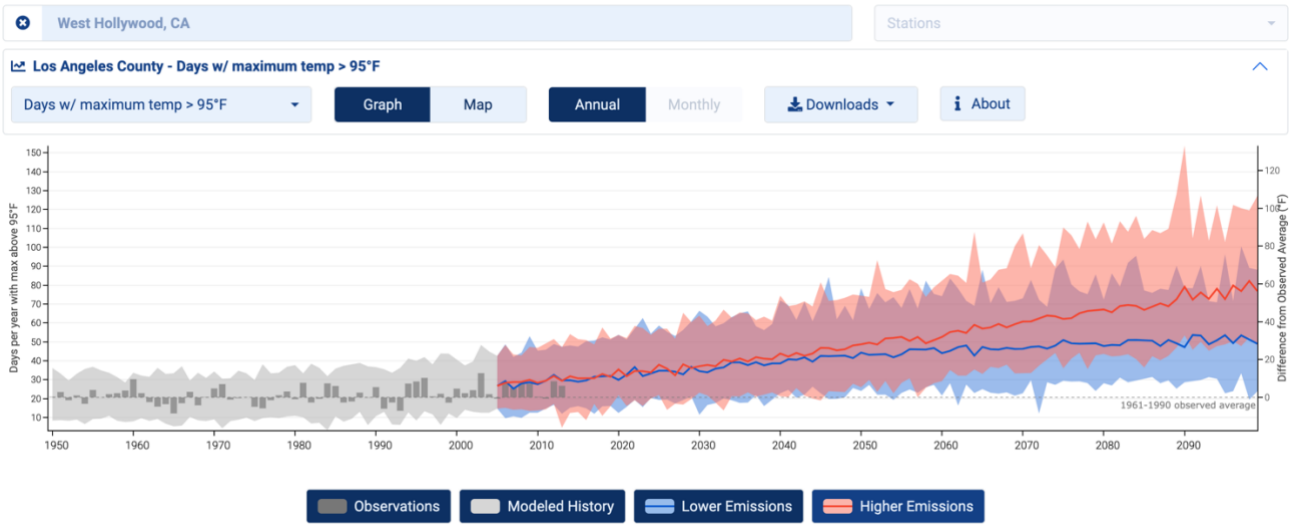
Extreme heat events are not unusual in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, which the City of West Hollywood is a part of. Some recent examples include:

- **1970 Heat Wave:** In the summer of 1970, Los Angeles endured a severe heatwave. Temperatures soared to record highs, with some areas reaching over 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius). This heatwave led to multiple heat-related deaths and power outages as air conditioning usage surged.
- **1980 Heat Wave:** In the summer of 1980, Los Angeles experienced another significant heatwave. Over a two-week period in July and August, temperatures consistently exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).
- **2006 Heat Wave:** A heatwave in July 2006 brought record-breaking temperatures to Southern California, including Los Angeles. Several days of temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) resulted in heat-related health issues, power outages, and concerns about wildfire risk due to the dry conditions.
- **2018 Heat Wave:** In July 2018, a heatwave impacted Southern California, including Los Angeles. Temperatures in some areas reached above 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius).
- **2020 Labor Day Weekend Heat Wave:** Over the Labor Day weekend in 2020, Los Angeles experienced a historic heatwave. Temperatures soared to record levels, with the Woodland Hills neighborhood reaching a high of 121 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius), one of the highest temperatures ever recorded in Los Angeles County. This event led to rolling blackouts and increased wildfire risk, as dry conditions and strong winds combined with the extreme heat.
- **2021 Summer Heat Waves:** The summer of 2021 saw multiple heatwaves affecting Los Angeles and the broader region. High temperatures led to an increased demand for electricity and concerns about the strain on the power grid.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Likely.

The following illustration from NOAA's Climate Explorer details the probability of days in West Hollywood with high temperatures over 95 degrees Fahrenheit to 2100 under multiple emissions scenarios.



The frequency and intensity of extreme heat events is growing. According to California's Fourth Climate Assessment for the Los Angeles Region:

> *The average hottest day of the year is expected to increase roughly 4-7°F under RCP4.5 and 7-10°F under RCP8.5 by the late 21st century. Similar to the spatial pattern in annual max temperature changes, the largest changes in extremes are found in the interior of the region, and particularly the valleys, while the smallest changes are generally confined to coastal regions.*
>
> *The number of extremely hot days Is expected to Increase In the future. For instance, LA International Airport (LAX) historically experiences less than 15 days per year with temperatures equal to or greater than 90°F (Cayan et al. 2018). By the end of the century under RCP8.5, LAX is projected to experience 50–90 such days per year (Pierce et al. 2018). Sun et al. (2015) similarly found that land locations are projected to experience 60–90 additional extremely hot days (greater than or equal to 95°F) per year by the end of the century, with the exception of the highest elevations and regions along the coast, where increases are only a few days.*

3.4.4 Epidemic/Pandemic

Hazard Description

An infectious disease is a disease caused by pathogenic microorganisms, characterized by clinical symptoms. Infectious diseases pose a major threat worldwide and cause millions of deaths annually. Transmission of infectious diseases can occur through various modes such as direct physical contact with infected individuals, exposure to contaminated food or water, exposure to bodily fluids, contact with contaminated objects, airborne inhalation, or vector-borne dissemination.

An infectious disease can be classified based on its impact as endemic, epidemic, or pandemic. Endemic diseases are consistently present but at low levels (e.g., chicken pox in the United States). Epidemic diseases are sudden severe outbreaks (e.g., the bubonic plague during Medieval times). A pandemic disease is an epidemic that spreads widely across a region, continent, or the world (e.g., the 1957 flu pandemic caused millions of deaths globally). With global travel and trade, fears of pandemics have increased in recent years due to the potential for rapid spread.

A pandemic is defined by the CDC as a worldwide epidemic that affects many people and crosses international borders, creating a public health emergency that impacts all sectors of society. It occurs when a virus undergoes significant antigenic drift or shift, resulting in a new and efficient strain that spreads from person-to-person without pre-existing immunity. The severity of the outbreak is generally unpredictable.

A high number of infectious disease cases can strain healthcare infrastructure. The impact on morbidity and mortality may differ depending on the disease; it can disproportionately affect either younger and healthier people, as seen in the 1918 influenza pandemic, or older and medically-at-risk people, as happened with the recent COVID-19 outbreak. This can lead to worker shortages due to illness, isolation/quarantine, or caring for sick family members. It may also disrupt daily life and lead to shortages of goods and services. Strategies like "stay-at-home" orders and closing non-essential businesses can limit disease transmission but may also create additional burdens on productivity and essential services.

Location and Extent

A pandemic of a human infectious disease has the potential to impact the entire country, including California. Due to the integration of business and social activities both nationally and internationally, it is unreasonable to assume that any location would be exempt from the threat of a pandemic. Locations with high population concentration, such as schools, retail areas, and special event venues, are at the greatest risk.

Recent data on the COVID-19 outbreak indicates that individuals living in densely populated urban areas were more prone to contracting the virus, potentially due to close contact with other residents or visitors from other places. The ease of global transportation makes it increasingly challenging to contain local outbreaks, as infected or exposed individuals travel for business and leisure, possibly disseminating the disease worldwide within hours.

Previous Occurrences

The following data comes from FEMA's Disaster Declarations for States and Counties (https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties; retrieved November 18, 2023).

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Other	Los Angeles County	DR-4482-CA	2020	March	3/22/2020	COVID-19 PANDEMIC	CA
Other	Los Angeles County	EM-3428-CA	2020	March	3/13/2020	COVID-19	CA

- **Typhoid (19th and early 20th centuries):** Before the advent of modern sanitation and water treatment systems, California, like many other places, faced occasional outbreaks of typhoid fever.
- **Spanish Flu (1918 Influenza Pandemic):** The Spanish flu was a devastating influenza pandemic that swept across the globe between 1918 and 2020.
- **HIV/AIDS Epidemic (1980s - Present):** The HIV/AIDS epidemic has had a profound impact on California, particularly in cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles.
- **H1N1 Influenza (2009 Pandemic):** In 2009, a novel strain of influenza A (H1N1) emerged and caused a global pandemic.
- **Hepatitis A Outbreak (2017-2018):** California experienced a hepatitis A outbreak primarily affecting unhoused populations in 2017-2018.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic (2020 - Present):** The COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, has had a significant impact on California.
- **Tuberculosis Epidemics (Various Periods):** Tuberculosis (TB) has been a recurring public health concern in California, particularly in densely populated urban areas.
- **West Nile Virus Outbreaks (Various Periods):** West Nile virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, has caused outbreaks in California over the years.
- **Measles Outbreaks (Multiple Occurrences):** Measles, a highly contagious viral disease, has had sporadic outbreaks in California over the years. These outbreaks have been attributed to low vaccination rates in some communities,

Probability of Future Occurrences and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Low.

Pandemics are relatively rare when compared to the frequency of natural disasters. When they do occur, however, they can have far-reaching effects. Even suppressed outbreaks of disease can have significant impacts to the localities they affect.

It is difficult to accurately predict the likelihood of future pandemics. However, human encroachment into formerly natural areas worldwide increase the risk of hitherto unknown animal diseases making the jump into human populations. Public health systems should be aware of the potential for new diseases that may pose a threat to the populations they serve, and they should expect future pandemics to appear, some potentially more deadly than COVID-19. Climate change may impact the emergence and transmission of viruses by extending the habitat range of animals that carry them. Already, viruses such as West Nile

or Zika have appeared in areas previously not hosting these viruses. It is likely that future diseases from warmer climates will spread along with those climates.

3.4.5 Wildfire

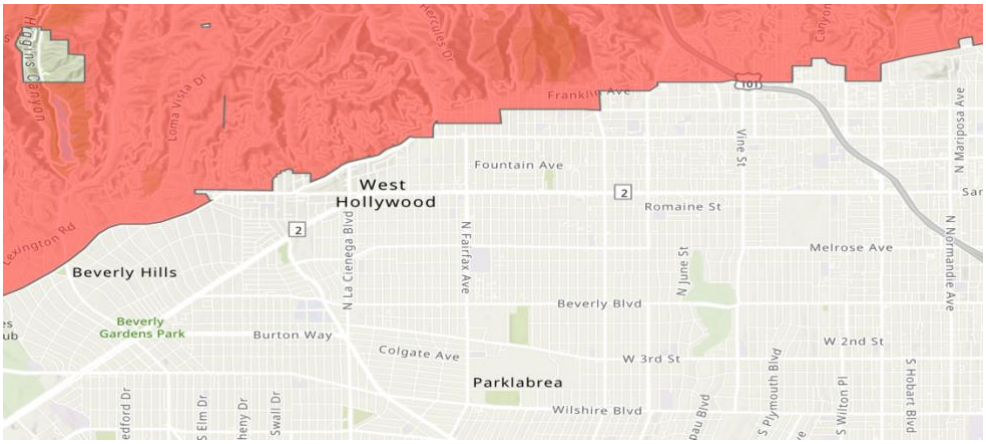
Hazard Description

Wildfires tend to occur most frequently in the summer when dry brush provides fuel for flames to spread rapidly. Ignition sources for wildfires can include campfires that were not properly extinguished, discarded cigarettes, burning debris, lightning strikes, or intentional acts of arson. Wildfires can start as slow burns along the forest floor, damaging and killing trees. As they spread to the tops of trees, wind can carry the flames from one tree to another, causing the fire to spread more rapidly. Typically, the first indication of a wildfire is the presence of dense smoke.

Wildfires pose a significant threat when they happen during a drought, and they can occur anywhere, with variation in size, intensity, location, and duration. The danger to people and property is particularly high in the wildland urban interface (WUI), where development meets undeveloped open grassland or fire-adapted forest ecosystems.

Wildfires are more frequent and intense in summer and autumn, especially during droughts when dry vegetation such as fallen branches, leaves, grasses, and scrub become highly flammable. Some experts attribute the increased severity and frequency of wildfires to global warming, which is believed to worsen drought conditions. Strong winds and low humidity exacerbate the threat to people and property, and fires can also start in urban areas and spread into wildlands, caused by various sources such as electrical fires, arson, cooking, smoking, and other hazards.

Location and Extent



Source: Los Angeles County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps - Local Responsibility Area, April 2024

The City of West Hollywood sits at the base of the Hollywood Hills in the City of Los Angeles, and no state-designated fire areas lie within the boundaries of the City of West Hollywood.

The Hollywood Hills are characterized by low density but widespread development and windy, difficult-to-navigate roads, and are designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ). A fire in the Hollywood Hills could easily spread to the northern region of the City of West Hollywood, which is also densely populated, making large evacuations difficult.

Regardless of whether fire itself spreads, smoke is very likely to impact the City, whether from adjacent fires or more severe fires further away. Smoke from fires can severely impact air quality and increase health risks for vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly.

Fire growth is related to building density, types of building construction, the presence and amount of flammable materials, wind speed and direction, width of fire breaks, water supply, time of fire department arrival, and available fire fighter resources. There are two fire stations in the City of West Hollywood: Fire Station 7 at 864 N. San Vicente Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069, and Fire Station 8 at 7643 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Fire Danger Rating System

Fire Danger Rating	Description
Low (L)	Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands, although a more intense heat source, such as lightning, may start fires in duff or punky wood. Fires in open cured grasslands may burn freely a few hours after rain, but woods fires spread slowly by creeping or smoldering, and burn in irregular fingers. There is little danger of spotting.
Moderate (M)	Fires can start from most accidental causes, but except for lightning fires in some areas, the number of starts is generally low. Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days. Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. The average fire is of moderate intensity, although heavy concentrations of fuel, especially draped fuel, may burn hot. Short-distance spotting may occur but is not persistent. Fires are not likely to become serious and control is relatively easy.
High (H)	All fine dead fuels ignite readily, and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. High intensity burning may develop on slopes or in concentrations of fine fuels. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small.

Fire Danger Rating	Description
Very High (VH)	Fires start easily from all causes and, immediately after ignition, spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Fires burning in light fuels may quickly develop high intensity characteristics, such as long-distance spotting and fire whirlwinds when they burn into heavier fuels.
Extreme (E)	Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Development into high intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in the very high fire danger class. Direct attack is rarely possible and may be dangerous except immediately after ignition. Fires that develop headway in heavy slash or in conifer stands may be unmanageable while the extreme burning condition lasts. Under these conditions the only effective and safe control action is on the flanks until the weather changes, or the fuel supply lessens.

Source: U.S. Forest Service's Wildland Fire Assessment System (USFS WFAS)

Urban Fires due to Seismic Events

Urban fires are a constant threat in the City, given the seismic hazards of fault rupture, strong ground shaking, and liquefaction. In the United States, fires following earthquakes have caused the largest losses associated with earthquakes. Urban fires following earthquakes are driven by two key features: 1) the earthquake is likely to ignite multiple, nearly simultaneous fires; and 2) the earthquake is likely to damage and disrupt fire suppression by severing water pipelines and delaying the arrival of adequate fire-fighting equipment and personnel. There have been no recent fires due to seismic events in the City of West Hollywood.

Previous Occurrences

The following data comes from FEMA's Disaster Declarations for States and Counties (https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties; retrieved November 18, 2023).

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-295-CA	1970	September	9/29/1970	FOREST & BRUSH FIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3067-CA	1978	October	10/29/1978	BRUSH FIRES	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1005-CA	1993	October	10/28/1993	FIRES, MUD/LANDSLIDES, FLOODING, SOIL EROSION	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-635-CA	1980	November	11/27/1980	BRUSH & TIMBER FIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-872-CA	1990	June	6/30/1990	FIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-942-CA	1992	May	5/2/1992	FIRE DURING A PERIOD OF CIVIL UNREST	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3120-CA	1996	October	10/23/1996	SEVERE FIRESTORMS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2417-CA	2002	June	6/6/2002	CA - COPPER FIRE - 06-06-2002	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2464-CA	2002	September	9/24/2002	WILLIAMS FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2462-CA	2002	September	9/4/2002	LEONA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1498-CA	2003	October	10/27/2003	WILDFIRES, FLOODING, MUDFLOW AND DEBRIS FLOW DIRECTLY RELATED T	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2502-CA	2003	October	10/25/2003	CA-VERDALE FIRE 10-25-2003	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2466-CA	2003	January	1/7/2003	CA - WILDFIRE (PACIFIC FIRE) - 01-06-2003	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2534-CA	2004	July	7/18/2004	CA-FOOTHILL WILDFIRE-07-18-2004	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2535-CA	2004	July	7/21/2004	CA-CROWN WILDFIRE-07-21-2004	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2528-CA	2004	July	7/14/2004	CA - PINE FIRE - 7-13-2004	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2583-CA	2005	September	9/28/2005	TOPANGA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1731-CA	2007	October	10/24/2007	WILDFIRES, FLOODING, MUD FLOWS, AND DEBRIS FLOWS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2736-CA	2007	October	10/22/2007	RANCH FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2732-CA	2007	October	10/21/2007	CANYON FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2733-CA	2007	October	10/21/2007	BUCKWEED FIRE	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2708-CA	2007	July	7/8/2007	CANYON FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2694-CA	2007	May	5/10/2007	ISLAND FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2691-CA	2007	May	5/9/2007	GRIFFITH PARK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3279-CA	2007	October	10/23/2007	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-1810-CA	2008	November	11/18/2008	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2788-CA	2008	October	10/12/2008	MAREK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2792-CA	2008	November	11/15/2008	FREEWAY FIRE COMPLEX	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2789-CA	2008	October	10/13/2008	SESNON FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2791-CA	2008	November	11/15/2008	SAYRE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2763-CA	2008	April	4/27/2008	SANTA ANITA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2828-CA	2009	August	8/28/2009	PV FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2830-CA	2009	August	8/28/2009	STATION FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-2851-CA	2010	July	7/30/2010	CROWN FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5025-CA	2013	June	6/2/2013	POWERHOUSE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5051-CA	2014	January	1/16/2014	COLBY FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5124-CA	2016	June	6/5/2016	OLD FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5129-CA	2016	June	6/21/2016	FISH FIRE	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5132-CA	2016	July	7/9/2016	SAGE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5135-CA	2016	July	7/23/2016	SAND FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3396-CA	2017	December	12/8/2017	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5201-CA	2017	September	9/2/2017	LA TUNA FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5225-CA	2017	December	12/5/2017	CREEK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5226-CA	2017	December	12/5/2017	RYE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5227-CA	2017	December	12/6/2017	SKIRBALL FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-4407-CA	2018	November	11/12/2018	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-4353-CA	2018	January	1/2/2018	WILDFIRES, FLOODING, MUDFLOWS, AND DEBRIS FLOWS	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	EM-3409-CA	2018	November	11/9/2018	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5280-CA	2018	November	11/9/2018	WOOLSEY FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5293-CA	2019	October	10/11/2019	SADDLE RIDGE FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5296-CA	2019	October	10/24/2019	TICK FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5297-CA	2019	October	10/28/2019	GETTY FIRE	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	DR-4569-CA	2020	October	10/16/2020	WILDFIRES	CA
Fire	Los Angeles County	FM-5374-CA	2020	September	9/13/2020	BOBCAT FIRE	CA

Large fires have been part of the Southern California landscape for millennia. Indigenous communities used controlled fires to shape the landscape to their benefit. In the aftermath of Mexican and later American colonization, California's fire regime was significantly altered. Early US forest management practices centered around the idea of fire suppression, which reduced the frequency of fires in proximity to settlements but ultimately increased their intensity by allowing vegetation to build up and fuel more intense fires.

Notable fires outside of West Hollywood that have nevertheless impacted the City's air quality include:

- **1993 Southern California Wildfires:** In October 1993, a series of wildfires swept through Southern California, including areas in Los Angeles County. These fires were fueled by strong Santa Ana winds and dry conditions. The smoke from the wildfires blanketed the region, leading to poor air quality and health concerns for residents.
- **2003 Southern California Wildfires:** In October 2003, another series of devastating wildfires struck Southern California, affecting Los Angeles County and neighboring areas. The fires resulted in widespread smoke and ash, creating hazardous air quality conditions, and prompting evacuation orders for communities in their path.
- **Station Fire (2009):** The Station Fire, which started in August 2009, was one of the largest wildfires in Los Angeles County's history. The fire burned for weeks, charring vast areas of the Angeles National Forest and adjacent foothill communities. The smoke from this fire significantly impacted air quality in the surrounding regions, including parts of Los Angeles County.
- **Creek Fire (2017):** In December 2017, the Creek Fire erupted in the Angeles National Forest and quickly spread, posing a threat to numerous communities in Los Angeles County's northern and eastern regions. The heavy smoke from this fire led to health advisories and air quality concerns for residents in the affected areas.
- **Woolsey Fire (2018):** The Woolsey Fire, also in November 2018, burned through parts of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including areas near Malibu. The fire's smoke and ash affected air quality throughout the region, with residents advised to stay indoors and use air purifiers to reduce exposure.
- **Bobcat Fire (2020):** In September 2020, the Bobcat Fire ignited in the Angeles National Forest and quickly grew, threatening homes and communities in Los Angeles County. The fire's smoke spread across the region, leading to poor air quality and health risks for vulnerable populations.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Moderate.

Wildfires can occur at any time of the year, although over the past two decades, wildfire season has begun to extend into the cooler months. The frequency and severity of fires are increasing due to higher temperatures and drier climates. Climate change is projected to lead to increased temperatures and more frequent/intense droughts, resulting in more dry plant matter available and a higher risk of wildfires statewide.

In a low-emissions (conservative) scenario, burned acreage in Los Angeles County is expected to increase 16% by 2050. According to California's Fourth Climate Assessment for the Los Angeles Region:

> *Future projections by Jin et al. (2015) using statistical models indicate that southern California may experience a larger number of wildfires and burned area by the mid-21st century under RCP8.5. Overall burned area is projected to increase over 60% for Santa Ana-based fires and over 75% for non-Santa Ana fires. New wildfire projections were developed for the Assessment (Westerling et al. 2018) using different statistical models than those used by Jin et al. (2015), which also incorporated new datasets of future climate data and land use. Compared to the observed 1950- 2009 historical average area burned of 53,300 hectares (Jin et al. 2015), the modeled 1976-2005 historical average area burned is roughly 16,000 hectares (Westerling et al. 2018). This discrepancy highlights that large uncertainties remain in current wildfire models and is an area where further research is required. Based on the projections developed by Westerling et al. (2018), the annual burned area over the LA region may increase over 2000 hectares by the mid-21st century under RCP4.5 or RCP8.5 compared to simulated historical conditions. Similar, yet potentially slightly lower, increases are projected by the late-21st century, as continued warming (even with moderate precipitation increases) could lead to overall fuel declines necessary for wildfire.*

And in August 2023, *Nature* published "Climate warming increases extreme daily wildfire growth risk in California" (https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06444-3.epdf) that further attempted to quantify future wildfire risk. Brown et al. conclude that as of the time of publication (August 2023), aggregate expected frequency of extreme wildfire events has grown by 25% over pre-industrial conditions. Under lower emissions scenarios, the aggregate expected frequency of extreme wildfire events more than doubles from today to 59% relative to pre-industrial conditions, and under very high-emissions scenarios increases by 172%.

3.4.6 Drought

Hazard Description

A drought is a prolonged period of scarce water supplies caused by a lack of substantial rainfall. By one count, there are over 150 definitions for "drought". The National Weather Service describes drought as "*a deficiency of moisture that results in adverse impacts on people, animals, or vegetation over a sizeable area.*"

Drought is a natural occurrence in all climates, both in regions with high and low average rainfall. Droughts typically are declared when lasting for a calendar season or longer and can be categorized into five different types: meteorological, agricultural, hydrologic, socioeconomic, and ecological.

- **Meteorological**: This type of drought refers to a decrease in rainfall that deviates from the normal precipitation pattern. It includes changes in the amount, intensity, or timing of rainfall, as well as changes in temperature, humidity, and wind patterns. The threshold for defining meteorological drought varies from country to country. In the United States, a meteorological drought is declared if there is less than 2.5mm of rainfall in 48 hours. This type of drought is the first stage to be detected. Broader multi-year precipitation patterns can give rise to drought conditions. In California, the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, a regional meteorological event in the Pacific Ocean, is important in the region's hydrologic regime. The ENSO cycle consists of changes in ocean water and air temperature and results in two phases: El Niño, a warm and wet phase, and La Niña, a dry and cold phase. When La Niña is active, it can lead to below-normal precipitation levels in California and frequently lead to drought conditions.
- **Agricultural:** This type of drought is characterized by insufficient moisture conditions that cause lasting damage to crops and other vegetation. It is dependent on factors such as rainfall, temperature, topography, soil permeability, evapotranspiration, vegetative demand, and more. Agricultural drought begins when the available soil moisture only supports a fraction of the actual evapotranspiration rate.
- **Hydrological**: This type of drought is related to the effects of reduced precipitation on the surface or subsurface water supply. During the latter part of the hydrological cycle, water infiltrates into the groundwater. The subsurface water supply is the last component to return to normal when meteorological conditions and aquifer recharge return to normal.
- **Socioeconomic**: This type of drought occurs when the consequences of drought start to impact social and economic systems. It arises when the demand for an economic good is greater than the available supply due to drought-related weather conditions. Examples of such goods include water, food grains, dairy products, hydroelectric power, and more. Socioeconomic drought affects both individuals and the population as a whole.
- **Ecological**: This type of drought is defined as a widespread and prolonged deficit in naturally available water supplies that leads to multiple stressors across ecosystems. This includes changes in both natural and managed hydrology.

Determining the onset and end of a drought can be challenging compared to sudden and discrete weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and thunderstorms. Early signs of a drought can be difficult to detect, and it may take some time, perhaps even weeks, or months, before it is recognized. The conclusion of a drought is also challenging to identify for the same reasons. Droughts can range in duration from a few weeks to several years and in some cases, even persist for a decade or more.

Drought primes the conditions for a variety of other hazards by drying soil out, which reduces its capacity to absorb water. Thus, when precipitation returns, the soil is less able to hold onto water, increasing runoff and the risk of floods. Due to the soil's reduced ability to bond together, dry earth is more prone to erosion and landslides. In addition, the lack of participation effects plants and other vegetation in natural places as the lack of nutrients makes them more vulnerable to pests and diseases and the lack of internal water raises the possibility of wildfires.

Location and Extent

The entirety of the City of West Hollywood is susceptible to drought. The impact of drought is regional in nature, and typically would extend far beyond the city limits of West Hollywood to include the whole of southern California.

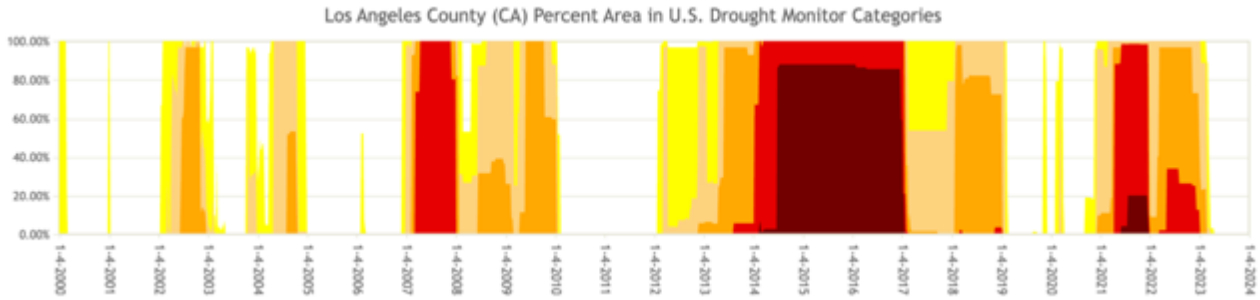
The Palmer Drought Index is a tool used to assess the severity of drought by evaluating the duration and intensity of persistent circulation patterns that cause drought. The intensity of drought in each month is determined by the current weather conditions combined with the cumulative impact of previous months. The effects of drought on water resources such as reservoir levels and groundwater levels take longer to manifest.

Category	Description	Example Percentile Range for Most Indicators	Values for Standard Precipitation Index and Standardized Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index
None	Normal or wet conditions	31 or above	-0.49 or above
D0	Abnormally Dry	21 to 30	-0.5 to -0.79
D1	Moderate Drought	11 to 20.99	-0.8 to -1.29
D2	Severe Drought	6 to 10.99	-1.3 to -1.59
D3	Extreme Drought	3 to 5.99	-1.6 to -1.99
D4	Exceptional Drought	0 to 2.99	-2.0 or less

US Drought Monitor Classification Scheme.
Source: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/AbouttheData/DroughtClassification

Previous Occurrences

West Hollywood, like the rest of California, has experienced many drought events throughout its history. California was in some form of drought for 376 consecutive weeks from December 20, 2011, until March 14, 2017. By summer of 2014, almost all of California was experiencing level D2 (severe drought) conditions. By 2015, emergency water saving mandates were enacted, which required all jurisdictions to reduce water use by no less than 25 percent. In late 2016 and early 2017, consecutive occurrences of heavy rain helped end the drought conditions in the state. The following winter, in late 2017 and early 2018, rains did not occur to the same level and slight drought conditions again affected the state. This moderate drought was again abated in the winter season of late 2018 and early 2019, when heavy rains ended any existing drought conditions. Drought conditions returned shortly thereafter, with water restrictions being eased after the intense precipitation events of early 2023.



Los Angeles County Percent Area in Drought Categories

Source: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/dmData/Timeseries.aspx

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Likely.

Periodic drought has been a fact of life in California since before written records were kept. However, global climate change has already had a significant impact, in part fueling the North American West's "megadrought", as of 2023 in its 23rd year and being the driest period in over 1,200 years. October 2019 through September 2022 were California's driest years on record.

Paradoxically, climate change has also brought historic rainstorms and flood events, as conditions whipsaw between drought and flooding. This increased variability and oscillation between too little rain and too much rain is a hallmark of climate projections and is playing out in real time. As described in West Hollywood's 2021 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Appendix B: Climate Vulnerability Assessment:

> *This projection indicates that the City of West Hollywood will likely experience both an increase in the severity of wet years and an increase in the severity of dry years, resulting in more precipitation whiplash events. These whiplash events are particularly important in that they contribute to and intensify various other climate hazards. When dry years are followed by very wet years, mudslides and landslides are more likely to occur. This is due to declines in vegetation during the dry years which otherwise offer soil stabilization. When wet years are followed by dry years, wildfires are much more likely. This is because the wet years allow a lot of new vegetation to grow, but it eventually dries out in the drought period – leading to increases in fuel sources for fire.*

Atmospheric rivers (narrow corridors of concentrated moisture in the atmosphere) are largely responsible for precipitation patterns across the southern California region, and coupled with topographical influences, can create intense storms. Cal-Adapt climate projections predict that the likelihood and duration of atmospheric rivers will increase, leading to increased likelihoods of flood events.

Predictions for extreme weather events show that no major trend changes are expected under either scenario. However, as noted above for patterns in precipitation, whiplash events are expected to increase. When years with elevated numbers of extreme rain events follow dry years, the likelihood and severity of mudslides and flooding increases. This is largely due to reductions in vegetation during dry years, which otherwise stabilize soil. Conversely, dry years that follow upticks in extreme rain events can lead to wildfires. This is due to increased presence of fuel sources for wildfire in the form of dry vegetation.

These whiplash events will increase vulnerability to both fire and floods. A tragic example at the time of writing (August 2023) is the Hawai'i fires on the island of Maui that consumed the historic royal capital of Lahaina, killing large numbers of people. The compounding nature of this disaster – high winds driving fires on an island experiencing extended drought conditions – illustrates that drought is not only an absence of water but can be an accelerant for devastating wildfires.

According to California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment's Los Angeles Region survey, published in 2019:

> *Anthropogenic warming has increased the probability that low-precipitation years coincide with warm years, increasing the current risk and severity of droughts and low snowpack in California (Difenbaugh et al. 2015; Berg and Hall 2017; Williams et al. 2015). Atmospheric conditions conducive to California droughts, such as a persistent region of high pressure in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, may have also become more frequent in recent decades (Swain et al. 2016). GCMs (global climate models) project significantly drier soils in the future over the Southwest (including California), with more than an 80% chance of a multidecadal drought during 2050–2099 under RCP8.5 (Cook et al. 2015).*

The effects of climate change on drought are expected to be mixed. For Instance, in some years, climate change-enhanced weather patterns such as those during the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase may bring more rainfall to California and
West Hollywood, alleviating drought conditions. On the other hand, it may also extend the La Niña phase of ENSO, leading to longer periods without precipitation. Furthermore, climate change is projected to cause more frequent and prolonged heat waves in California, increasing the average temperature. During such events, the water supply may be diverted for essential cooling needs, including those of the elderly and to maintain critical City operations, leading to greater water consumption. If a heat wave were to occur during a drought, it would place even more strain on the water supply.

3.4.7 Power Outages

Hazard Description

A power outage is a temporary loss of electricity to a home or business due to a disruption in the power supply. There are several causes of power outages, including severe weather

conditions such as thunderstorms, high winds, and extreme heat. In Southern California, power outages can also be caused by wildfires, earthquakes, and equipment failures.

During times of extreme heat, power outages can be particularly hazardous to a city. High temperatures can cause increased demand for electricity as people turn up their air conditioning units, leading to strain on the power grid. This can result in blackouts or brownouts, which can lead to several hazards.

Location and Extent

The entirety of the City of West Hollywood is vulnerable to power outages due to its small size. Currently, power outages are disproportionally frequent in the La Cienega Boulevard area. Areas with larger and older street trees may also see tree limbs knocking out power during storms.

The location and duration of power outages can also vary depending on the cause of the outage. For example, power outages caused by weather events such as thunderstorms or wildfires may be localized, affecting only a few neighborhoods or communities. On the other hand, power outages caused by equipment failures or grid overloads may be more widespread and impact larger areas or even entire regions.

Previous Occurrences

Minor power outages are a not-infrequent occurrence in any grid system. Several major incidents that impacted Los Angeles County include:

- **Northridge Earthquake (January 17, 1994):** One of the most significant power outages in Los Angeles County's history occurred because of the 6.7 magnitude Northridge Earthquake. The earthquake caused widespread damage to the electrical grid and left much of the county without power. It took several days to restore power to all affected areas, and the total economic losses from the earthquake were estimated to be around $44 billion.
- **Summer Heat Wave (July 2006):** During an intense heat wave in July 2006, the demand for electricity soared as people turned on their air conditioners to cope with the high temperatures. The increased strain on the power grid led to rolling blackouts and power interruptions in various parts of Los Angeles County. The heat wave was part of a larger statewide energy crisis during that year.
- **September 2015 Outage:** In September 2015, a major power outage occurred in Los Angeles County after a fire broke out at a power station in the city of Vernon. The fire led to the loss of a significant transmission line, leaving many areas in the county without power. It took several hours to restore electricity to affected communities.
- **Rye Fire (December 2017):** The Rye Fire, which occurred in December 2017, was one of several wildfires that impacted Southern California that year. The fire damaged power infrastructure, leading to power outages in parts of Los Angeles County and neighboring areas. Firefighters worked to control the blaze and restore power to affected communities.

- **Saddle Ridge Fire (October 2019):** Another wildfire, the Saddle Ridge Fire, struck Los Angeles County in October 2019. The fire's spread led to precautionary power shutoffs by utility companies to prevent the risk of power lines igniting more fires. This measure affected thousands of residents and businesses in the county.

The above list underlines the vulnerability of the electrical supply for West Hollywood to natural events such as fire and earthquake, as well as to extreme heat events. One particularly dangerous scenario, exemplified by the 2006 summer heat wave, is a power outage amid a severe heat wave. This scenario, which is likely to result in fatalities, is unfortunately becoming more probable as climate impacts grow.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Moderate.

The likelihood of future power outages impacting the City of West Hollywood may increase because of climate change and the associated risks of wildfires and extreme heat events.

Wildfires have become increasingly common and severe in California beyond the traditional fire season in recent years, with record-breaking fires causing widespread damage and disruption to power infrastructure. Power lines and equipment damaged by wildfires can lead to power outages and disruptions to essential services, such as hospitals and emergency response systems. Los Angeles County, with its dry climate and high wildfire risk, may be particularly vulnerable to these types of power outages.

In addition to the risk of wildfires, extreme heat events associated with climate change can also increase the likelihood of power outages. High temperatures can put strain on the power grid, leading to equipment failures and blackouts. In Los Angeles County, which experiences hot and dry summers, this risk is particularly acute.

To mitigate the risks of future power outages, Los Angeles County, and utility providers such as Southern California Edison (SCE) have implemented measures such as grid upgrades, equipment maintenance, and emergency response plans. SCE has also implemented Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) to reduce the risk of wildfire-related power outages. PSPS is a proactive measure in which SCE intentionally shuts off power to certain areas during periods of high fire risk to reduce the risk of equipment-related fires. While these measures can help reduce the risk of power outages, they may not eliminate the risk, especially during extreme weather events.

Another consideration is the drive towards electrification in response to climate change – most notably electric cars, but also potentially including electric appliances among others. West Hollywood already has 84 public EV charging stations, and that number will only grow, as well as private charging stations at residences and multi-unit housing. This will inevitably lead to greater demands on the City's electric grid, putting further strain during times of the year where the demand may already be extremely taxing.

3.4.8 Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding

Hazard Description

When heavy rain occurs, it can fall at a rate so high that the water is unable to drain away quickly enough. This can result in flooding, causing inundation and potential damage to buildings, road networks, public areas, utilities, critical infrastructure, and other assets. In California, heavy rainfall events are typically brief and intense bursts of rain, although in some instances, heavy rain can persist for several days.

Precipitation levels in California fluctuate from year to year, largely dependent on the amount of moisture the state receives from atmospheric rivers. These rivers are pathways along which moist air travels from the tropics to the continents, and when this moisture reaches California, it can fall as either rain or snow. One of the most well-known atmospheric rivers in California is the "Pineapple Express," which brings wet air from the ocean surrounding Hawaii to California. In some years, a substantial amount of moisture can be transported by atmospheric rivers, resulting in heavy rainfall events in California.

The weather pattern known as El Niño, or the Southern Oscillation, is another factor that can influence rainfall in southern California, especially during winter. El Niño occurs when the surface of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean warms, causing warm, moist air to evaporate into the atmosphere. This moisture is then carried by winds to the eastern Pacific and the American continents, where it can result in increased rainfall. While El Niño doesn't always lead to increased rainfall, it generally increases the likelihood of a winter with above-average precipitation. Anomalous events such as Hurricane Hilary in 2023 are another example of extreme weather that could cause flooding.

Location and Extent

The entirety of the City of West Hollywood is susceptible to heavy rain and flash flooding. The northern half of the City of West Hollywood sits at the base of the Hollywood Hills, and many streets have severe grades leading away from the hills. During heavy storms, residential and commercial properties in the area can experience flooding and landslide damage from mud and debris. Storm drain infrastructure is located relatively evenly throughout major thoroughfares in the City; however, during severe events, if these drains become obstructed, they can quickly become sources of localized flooding.

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, 2023

Flooding can have significant impacts on a community, including property damage, road closures, and power outages. In some cases, flooding can also pose a threat to public safety, particularly if floodwaters are fast-moving or carry debris.

The size and location of a precipitation event are influenced by both local geography and regional and global weather conditions. While small precipitation events may only affect the city of West Hollywood, a large event could impact a significant portion of southern California. The intensity of a heavy rain event is typically measured by the amount of precipitation that falls.

Measuring Heavy Rain Events

Table 8-1. Intensity of Rain or Ice Pellets Based on Rate-of-Fall

Intensity	Criteria
Light	Up to 0.10 inch per hour; maximum 0.01 inch in 6 minutes.
Moderate	0.11 inch to 0.30 inch per hour; more than 0.01 inch to 0.03 inch in 6 minutes.
Heavy	More than 0.30 inch per hour; more than 0.03 inch in 6 minutes.

Table 8-2. Estimating Intensity of Rain

Intensity	Criteria
Light	From scattered drops that, regardless of duration, do not completely wet an exposed surface up to a condition where individual drops are easily seen.
Moderate	Individual drops are not clearly identifiable; spray is observable just above pavements and other hard surfaces.
Heavy	Rain seemingly falls in sheets; individual drops are not identifiable; heavy spray to height of several inches is observed over hard surfaces.

Source: https://www.icams-portal.gov/resources/ofcm/fmh/FMH1/fmh1_2019.pdf

Previous Occurrences

The following data comes from FEMA's Disaster Declarations for States and Counties (https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties; retrieved November 18, 2023).

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1046-CA	1995	March	3/12/1995	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING LANDSLIDES, MUD FLOW	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1044-CA	1995	January	1/10/1995	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, MUD FLOWS	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1203-CA	1998	February	2/9/1998	SEVERE WINTER STORMS AND FLOODING	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1577-CA	2005	February	2/4/2005	SEVERE STORMS, FLOODING, DEBRIS FLOWS, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1585-CA	2005	April	4/14/2005	SEVERE STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUD AND DEBRIS FLOWS	CA
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-1884-CA	2010	March	3/8/2010	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, AND DEBRIS AND MUD FLOWS	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Severe Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-4699-CA	2023	April	4/3/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Tropical Storm	Los Angeles County	DR-677-CA	1983	February	2/9/1983	COASTAL STORMS, FLOODS, SLIDES & TORNADOES	CA
Tropical Storm	Los Angeles County	EM-3248-CA	2005	September	9/13/2005	HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUATION	CA

Due to the geographic nature of heavy rain and associated flooding as well as the location and small size of the City of West Hollywood being surrounded by the City of Los Angeles, it is difficult to separate events impacting West Hollywood. Some events include:

- **1938 New Year's Eve Storm:** Dropped almost 5 inches of rain in Los Angeles, causing widespread flooding.
- **1969 Storms**: Two major storms in January and February dropped almost 12 inches of rain on parts of LA, causing widespread flooding and mudslides.
- **1978 Winter Storms:** A series of storms dumped almost 24 inches of rain in parts of Southern California in February 1978, causing damaging flooding.
- **1983 El Nino Storms:** Powerful storms during the 1982-83 El Nino dumped over 40 inches of rain on parts of Southern California, causing deadly flooding and landslides.
- **1992 January Rains:** Over 5 inches of rain fell in the LA area in 24 hours, flooding highways and communities.
- **1995 January Storms:** Back-to-back storms produced 6-12 inches of rain in LA, causing flooding and damage.
- **1997-1998 El Niño-Related Storms:** The El Niño event in 1997-1998 brought heavy rains and storms to Southern California.
- **2004-05 Winter Storms:** Repeated soaking storms caused flooding and debris flows across Southern California.
- **2010 January Storm:** Over 3 inches of rain fell in LA, flooding roads and freeways.
- **2017 Winter Storms:** A series of strong winter storms pounded California, causing flooding and mudslides.
- **Winter Storms of 2019:** In early 2019, Southern California experienced a series of storms with heavy rainfall.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Likely.

The following chart from NOAA's Climate Explorer describes trends in the number of days with rainfall greater than 3 inches to 2100.

West Hollywood can expect to experience more frequent and intense heavy rainstorms due to the expected increase in the frequency and overall amount of rainfall in California. By the end of the 21st century, it is projected that intense rainfall events may occur twice as often and may result in up to a 40% increase in total rainfall.

According to California's Fourth Climate Assessment for the Los Angeles Region:

> *Atmospheric rivers are regions of high water vapor transport from the tropics to the Pacific Coast of the U.S. that can produce intense topographic-induced precipitation along southern California mountain ranges (Neiman et al. 2008; J. Kim et al. 2012; Harris and Carvalho 2017; Guan et al. 2013; Payne and Magnusdottir 2014). Such events have helped pull the region out of droughts, although they are also responsible for devastating floods and mudslides (Ralph et al. 2006; Guan et al. 2013; M. D. Dettinger 2013). Between 1979-2013, 72 atmospheric rivers were identified as landfalling along the coast of southern California, approximately 2-3 events each year, though significant interannual variability exists. The frequency of atmospheric rivers over southern California has a potential connection to some natural climate variability patterns (Neiman et al. 2008; J. Kim et al. 2012; Harris and Carvalho 2017; Guan et al. 2013; Payne and Magnusdottir 2014).*
>
> *Analysis of several previous-generation GCMs by (Dettinger 2011a) suggest that the frequency of atmospheric river events may increase in the future, and that the storms*

themselves will be associated with higher water vapor transport rates compared to historical conditions. Moreover, the peak season of atmospheric rivers may also lengthen, which could extend the food-hazard season in California. The current generation of GCMs project a nearly 40% increase in precipitation during atmospheric river events over southern California by the late-21st century under RCP8.5. The number of atmospheric river events is also projected to increase in the future, possibly around a doubling of days by the end of the century (Warner et al. 2015; Hagos et al. 2016; Gao et al. 2015). Understanding future characteristics of atmospheric rivers, particularly over local spatial scales in California, remains an active area of research.

Increased periods of little to no rainfall and associated drying out of soils could also contribute to reduced absorptive capacity and increased surface transport of water from heavy rainfall, intensifying localized flooding.

3.4.9 Terrorism/Active Assailant

Hazard Description

Terrorism is defined as the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political, ideological, or religious aims. Terrorism can take many forms, but generally involves attacks or threats that are intended to cause harm, fear, or disruption to the community. Here are some examples of the types of terrorism that could impact an American city (cyberattacks are described in the preceding section):

- **Domestic Terrorism:** Domestic terrorism refers to acts of violence committed by individuals or groups based in the United States who seek to promote a political or social agenda. Domestic terrorism can take many forms, including hate crimes, extremist attacks, and targeted violence.
- **International Terrorism:** International terrorism refers to acts of violence committed by individuals or groups who are based outside of the United States and seek to cause harm to American interests. International terrorism can include attacks on American citizens, businesses, or institutions, as well as attacks on foreign targets that have an impact on American interests.
- **Biological Terrorism:** Biological terrorism refers to the intentional release of biological agents, such as viruses or bacteria, with the intention of causing harm to the public. Biological terrorism can cause widespread illness or death, as well as panic and fear within the community.
- **Chemical Terrorism:** Chemical terrorism refers to the intentional release of chemical agents with the intention of causing harm to the public. Chemical terrorism can cause widespread illness or death, as well as damage to infrastructure and the environment.

Location and Extent

As with any American City, terrorism could impact various areas of West Hollywood depending on the type and scale of the attack. Certain areas are more likely to attract terrorist attack, and mass shooting events would be more likely in areas with higher concentrations of people or during mass events such as WeHo Pride.

Previous Occurrences

There have been no major instances of terrorism directed at the City of West Hollywood since its founding. However, the City's prominence as an LGBTQ+ haven combined with its hosting of mass community events such as WeHo Pride and Halloween and the intensity of political tensions around LGBTQ+ issues make the possibility of some kind of terrorist event targeting the City and its inhabitants a distinct possibility that requires planning and preparation.

Below are a list of some major terrorist incidents that have targeted the LGBTQ+ community in the United States since 2000:

- **Backstreet Café Shooting (2000)**: In Roanoke, Virginia, on September 22, 2000, a gunman opened fire at the Backstreet Café, a popular gay bar. He killed one person and wounded six others before being apprehended by police. The shooter later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.
- **LGBT Center Shooting in Colorado Springs (2007)**: In Colorado Springs, Colorado, on August 31, 2007, a man entered the Colorado Springs Pride Center and opened fire, injuring three people. The shooter was convicted of attempted first-degree murder and bias-motivated crimes.
- **Seattle Gay Bar Shooting (2014)**: In Seattle, Washington, on January 1, 2014, a man opened fire inside Neighbours, a gay nightclub. He wounded two people before being subdued by club patrons. The shooter later pleaded guilty to charges of attempted first-degree assault and malicious harassment.
- **Pulse Nightclub Shooting (2016)**: On June 12, 2016, a mass shooting took place at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The nightclub was hosting a Latino-themed event for the LGBTQ+ community. The attack, carried out by a lone gunman, resulted in the deaths of 49 people and numerous injuries, making it one of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history. The incident was widely condemned and sparked discussions about gun control, hate crimes, and LGBTQ+ rights.
- **Club Q Shooting (2022)**: On November 19–20, 2022, an anti-LGBT-motivated mass shooting occurred at Club Q, a gay bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado, United States. Five people were murdered, and 25 others were injured, 19 of them by gunfire.

In general, these incidents have targeted smaller venues such as night clubs and not large-scale events such as Pride. This cannot be assumed to hold true indefinitely, however.

Probability of Future Events

Overall probability over next five years: Unlikely.

It is difficult to predict the probability of future terrorist or mass shooting-related events. LGBTQ+ communities such as West Hollywood are likely to always have some elevated level of risk; however, the degree of that risk is very closely tied to the political climate in the United States in a variety of ways. While there is no way to eliminate the risk of such events, law enforcement and emergency services can take proactive measures to prevent and respond to potential threats.

The sensitivity of this issue for the City of West Hollywood means that this Plan will not go into levels of depth or detail on this issue that may be published in a document accessible to malevolent actors.

3.4.10 Flood

Hazard Description

Floods are among the most common and most widespread of all natural disasters. Almost every community in the United States has, at some point, experienced flooding.

Floods are typically caused by excessive precipitation and can be influenced by various factors such as topography, weather patterns, soil moisture, vegetation, and impervious surfaces. Drainages and streams can overflow if their capacity is surpassed by rainwater. In urban areas, the presence of pavement and other impermeable surfaces reduces the ground's ability to absorb excess water, necessitating the use of storm channels or waterways.

Floods can cause secondary hazards such as erosion or scouring of stream banks, roadway embankments, foundations, footings for bridge piers, and other features. High-velocity flow and debris carried by floodwaters can also cause impact damage to structures, roads, bridges, culverts, and other features, with debris accumulating on bridge piers and in culverts. In addition, floods can lead to the release of sewage and hazardous or toxic materials when wastewater treatment plants are inundated, storage tanks are damaged, and pipelines are severed.

The standard for flooding is the so-called "100-year flood," a benchmark used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a standard of flood control in communities throughout the country. Thus, the 100-year flood is also referred to as the "regulatory" or "base" flood.

It is important to note that it does not mean that only one flood of that size will occur every 100 years. What it means is that there is a one percent chance of a flood of that intensity and elevation happening in any given year. In other words, it is the flood elevation that has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. And it could occur more than once in a relatively short period of time. (By comparison, the 10-year flood means that there is a ten percent chance for a flood of its intensity and elevation to happen in any given year.)

Flash floods typically occur during the rainy seasons of fall and winter. The region's dry soil makes matters worse since water has little chance to absorb the rainfall only adding to the problem. Flash floods occur suddenly, usually within 6 hours of the rain event, and result from heavy localized rainfall or levee failures. Flash floods can begin before the rain stops. Water level on small streams may rise quickly in heavy rainstorms, especially near the headwaters of river basins. Heavy rains can also cause flash flooding in areas where the floodplain has been urbanized.

Many people are killed by flash floods when driving or walking on roads and bridges that are covered by water. In fact, flash floods are the number one weather-related killer in the United States. Even six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock a person off their feet, and a depth of only two feet of water will float many of today's automobiles.

Location and Extent

The Los Angeles Basin, of which West Hollywood is a part, has historically experienced flooding during major winter storm events. The City of West Hollywood itself is situated on relatively high ground and is not adjacent to a major waterway subject to flood hazards. However, the City is situated at the base of the mountains with steep narrow canyons that drain into the City.

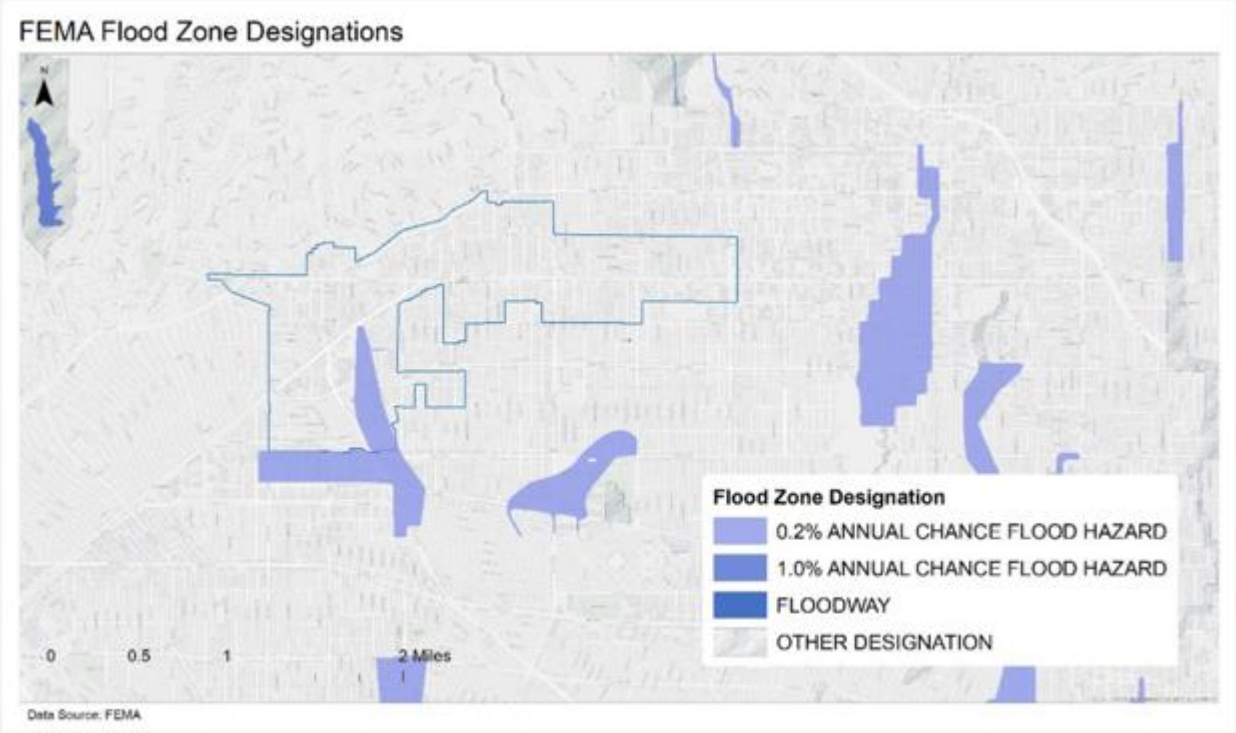
Historically, localized flooding has occurred in low topographic areas where street gutters must accommodate peak flows during a storm event. Generally, localized flooding does not overtop curbs and dissipates quickly after heavy rain ceases.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District maintains the backbone flood control system, a network of catch basins and underground storm drainpipes. The City owns and maintains a few catch basins and small storm drainpipes that directly flow into the Los Angeles County Flood Control District system.

Floodplains and frequently flooded areas are typically identified by FEMA as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), although flooding can occur outside of these areas. There are no SFHAs within the boundaries of the City of West Hollywood.

To illustrate, a flood that has a 1 in 100 (1.0 percent) chance of occurring in any given year is called a 100-year flood. Similarly, a flood that has a 1 in 500 (0.2 percent) chance of occurring in any given year is referred to as a 500-year flood. The 100-year flood serves as a reference point for significant flood events and is known as the "base flood." The three most prevalent categories described on FIRMs are:

- **Special Flood Hazard Area:** The area within a 100-year floodplain.
- **Moderate Flood Hazard Area:** The area outside of the 100-year floodplain but within the 500-year floodplain.
- **Minimum Flood Hazard Area:** The area outside of the 500-year floodplain.



City of West Hollywood Flood Hazard Map (2021)

Previous Occurrences

There have been no notable flood events impacting the City of West Hollywood since its founding in 1984. The following data comes from FEMA's Disaster Declarations for States and Counties (https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties; retrieved November 18, 2023).

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-253-CA	1969	January	1/26/1969	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-547-CA	1978	February	2/15/1978	COASTAL STORMS, MUDSLIDES & FLOODING	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-615-CA	1980	February	2/21/1980	SEVERE STORMS, MUDSLIDES & FLOODING	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-812-CA	1988	February	2/5/1988	SEVERE STORMS, HIGH TIDES & FLOODING	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-935-CA	1992	February	2/25/1992	RAIN/SNOW/WIND STORMS, FLOODING, MUDSLIDES	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-979-CA	1993	February	2/3/1993	SEVERE WINTER STORM, MUD & LAND SLIDES, & FLOODING	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-4305-CA	2017	March	3/16/2017	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	EM-3592-CA	2023	March	3/10/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	CA
Flood	Los Angeles County	EM-3591-CA	2023	January	1/9/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, AND MUDSLIDES	CA

Incident Subcategory	County	FEMA Declaration String	Calendar Year of Declaration	Date Month	Declaration Date	Declaration Title	State
Flood	Los Angeles County	DR-4683-CA	2023	January	1/14/2023	SEVERE WINTER STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	CA

Probability of Future Events and Impact of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Unlikely.

The probability of future flooding events in and around West Hollywood is difficult to predict with certainty, but climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall and flooding. The topography of the City and the neighborhoods surrounding it make the potential damage from a future flood event more possible at some point.

According to the Fifth National Climate Assessment, Southern California is expected to experience more frequent and intense precipitation events, which can increase the risk of flash flooding and mudslides. Paradoxically, an increased likelihood of drought is likely to intensify flood events as ground absorptive capacity for water decreases.

In *Science* in August 2022, (https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abq0995), Huang and Swain conclude that both regular and extreme flood events affecting California are becoming more likely:

> *Meanwhile, a growing body of research suggests that climate change is likely increasing the risk of extreme precipitation events along the Pacific coast of North America, including California,, and of subsequent severe flood events. The primary physical mechanism responsible for this projected regional intensification of extreme precipitation is an increase in the strength of cool-season atmospheric river (AR) events. Previous analyses have suggested that the thermodynamically driven increase in atmospheric water vapor with warming is directly responsible for most of this projected AR intensification, with the remainder contributed by shifts in regional atmospheric circulation. There is also evidence that increased radiative forcing may result in an eastward shifted expression of atmospheric circulation anomalies associated with both the Madden-Julian Oscillation and the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)–forced component of the Pacific North American pattern —both of which would increase the subseasonal variability of cool season precipitation over and near California. Compounding the increase in extreme precipitation associated with AR events are warming temperatures themselves —which raise the mean elevation of snow accumulation in mountainous areas, increase instantaneous runoff*

rates as rain falls at the expense of snow, and raise the risk of "rain on snow" events. Collectively, these previous research findings motivate the question of whether climate change may substantially affect the odds of "low probability but high consequence" flood events.

3.4.11 Severe Wind

Hazard Description

High winds can result from thunderstorm inflow and outflow, or downburst winds when the storm cloud collapses, and can result from strong frontal systems, or gradient winds (high or low pressure systems) moving across the land. High winds are speeds reaching 50 mph or greater, either sustaining or gusting.

Windstorms can damage buildings, power lines, and other property and infrastructure due to falling trees and branches. For example, tree limbs breaking in winds of 45 mph can be thrown over 75 feet. During wet winters, saturated soils cause trees to become less stable and more vulnerable to uprooting from high winds. In addition, windstorm activity can negatively impact transportation routes and power outages.

Perhaps the greatest danger from windstorm activity in Southern California comes from the combination of the Santa Ana winds with the major fires that occur every few years in the urban/wildland interface. With the Santa Ana winds driving the flames, the speed and reach of the flames is even greater than in times of calm wind conditions. The higher fire hazard raised by a Santa Ana wind condition requires that even more care and attention be paid to proper brush clearances on property in the wildland/urban interface areas.

Location and Extent

The entirety of the City of West Hollywood is susceptible to severe wind events.

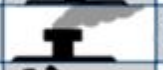
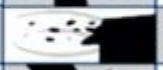
Santa Ana winds are generally defined as warm, dry winds that blow from the east or northeast (offshore). These winds occur below the passes and canyons of the coastal ranges of Southern California and in the Los Angeles Basin. Santa Ana winds often blow with exceptional speed in the Santa Ana Canyon (the canyon from which it derives its name). Forecasters at the National Weather Service in Oxnard and San Diego usually place speed minimums on these winds and reserve the use of "Santa Ana" for winds greater than 25 knots.

The complex topography of Southern California combined with various atmospheric conditions creates numerous scenarios that may cause widespread or isolated Santa Ana events. Commonly, Santa Ana winds develop when a region of high pressure builds over the Great Basin (the high plateau east of the Sierra Mountains and west of the Rocky Mountains including most of Nevada and Utah). Clockwise circulation around the center of this high pressure area forces air downslope from the high plateau. The air warms as it

descends toward the California coast at the rate of 5 degrees Fahrenheit per 1000 feet due to compressional heating. Thus, compressional heating provides the primary source of warming. The air is dry since it originated in the desert, and it dries out even more as it is heated.

The measurement of winds typically employs the Beaufort scale, which was created in 1805 and sorts wind occurrences based on their speed and effects on a force scale ranging from 0 to 12. Wind events classified as force 9 or higher are typically recognized as severe wind events.

Beaufort Scale

Beaufort number	Wind Speed (mph)	Seaman's term		Effects on Land
0	Under 1	Calm		Calm; smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	Light Air		Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move.
2	4-7	Light Breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move.
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze		Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; light flags extended.
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze		Dust, leaves and loose paper raised up; small branches move.
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze		Small trees begin to sway.
6	25-31	Strong Breeze		Large branches of trees in motion; whistling heard in wires.
7	32-38	Moderate Gale		Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against the wind.
8	39-46	Fresh Gale		Twigs and small branches broken off trees.
9	47-54	Strong Gale		Slight structural damage occurs; slate blown from roofs.
10	55-63	Whole Gale		Seldom experienced on land; trees broken; structural damage occurs.
11	64-72	Storm		Very rarely experienced on land; usually with widespread damage.
12	73 or higher	Hurricane Force		Violence and destruction.

Previous Occurrences

Santa Ana winds commonly occur between October and February with December having the highest frequency of events. Summer events are rare. Wind speeds are typically north to east at 35 knots through and below passes and canyons with gusts to 50 knots. Stronger Santa Ana winds can have gusts greater than 60 knots over widespread areas and gusts greater than 100 knots in favored areas. Frequently, the strongest winds in the basin occur during the night and morning hours due to the absence of a sea breeze. The sea breeze which typically blows onshore daily, can moderate the Santa Ana winds during the late morning and afternoon hours. In Southern California, Santa Ana can also often fuel damaging wildfires.

- **September 1955**: A damaging Santa Ana wind event fueled a large fire in Bel Air that burned 375 homes. Winds gusted to 78 mph.
- **November 1966**: Severe Santa Anas caused major power outages and structural damage across Los Angeles while also spreading multiple large brush fires.
- **September 1970**: Destructive Santa Ana winds caused brush fires and spread flames into Brentwood and Bel Air areas of Los Angeles, destroying hundreds of upscale homes.
- **November 1982:** Sustained Santa Ana winds from 50-60 mph destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings in the Los Angeles area, with damage concentrated in Sherman Oaks and Van Nuys.
- **October 2003**: Gusty Santa Anas helped drive the destructive Simi Valley Fire that burned over 100,000 acres in Ventura County and parts of the San Fernando Valley.
- **October 2007**: Santa Ana winds fueled multiple destructive wildfires across Southern California, including the Canyon Fire that burned in Malibu Canyon. Winds gusted over 60 mph at times.
- **November 2008**: Powerful Santa Anas gusted to around 100 mph in some areas, causing damage and contributing to the destructive Sesnon Fire in Porter Ranch north of Los Angeles. Widespread power outages affected over 250,000 customers.
- **December 2017**: Strong and prolonged Santa Ana winds helped fuel multiple wildfires in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, including the Skirball Fire that threatened Beverly Hills and Bel Air. Winds gusted over 60 mph.
- **October 2021**: A severe Santa Ana wind event caused the fast-moving Coastal Fire that burned approximately 200 acres in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. Winds gusted over 60 mph.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Likely.

The probability of high wind events in West Hollywood and the surrounding areas depends on several factors, including atmospheric conditions, the location and topography of the region, and the season. The probability of high wind events is highest during the fall and winter months, when the Santa Ana winds are most likely to occur. However, these events can occur at any time of year and can vary in intensity and duration.

It is difficult to predict exactly how climate change will impact high wind events in the West Hollywood area and surrounding region. Conflicting research points to possibilities of both decreasing or increasing frequencies of Santa Ana wind events overall. One 2019 study posits that Santa Ana winds will decrease in frequency during the fall, while a follow-up 2022 study finds that only the so-called “cold” winds that bring snow to mountains are likely to measurably decrease.

In either scenario, however, while the chronological distribution of severe winds may shrink overall, changes in precipitation patterns may result in increased danger from high winds. Due to increased periods of dryness between precipitation in summer and a shift in fall

precipitation later in the year towards winter, there is a possibility that the window for wildfires will follow the Santa Ana winds. With increased dryness in vegetation, this has the potential for more damaging fires.

3.4.12 Hazardous Materials

Hazard Description

Hazardous materials are substances that have physical properties that can be dangerous to human health or the environment if they are not handled or managed correctly. They can come in the form of pesticides, herbicides, toxic metals, chemicals, liquefied natural gas, explosives, volatile chemicals, and radioactive materials. These substances can be found in both households and businesses, such as motor oil, paint, cleaners, solvents, gasoline, and lawn and garden chemicals.

If hazardous materials are mishandled or improperly managed, they can contaminate soil and groundwater, which can pose a threat to the health of individuals and ecological systems. When contaminated sites are disturbed, the public can be exposed to toxic substances through airborne dust, surface water runoff, or vapors.

The following bullets define hazardous materials according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):

- Chemicals that are carcinogens, toxic agents, irritants, or corrosives and sensitizers.
- Agents that act on the hematopoietic system.
- Agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.
- Chemicals that are combustible, explosive, flammable, oxidizers, pyrophoric, unstable, reactive, or water reactive.
- Chemicals that may produce or release dust, gases, fumes, vapors, mists, or smoke with any of the previously mentioned characteristics during normal handling, use, or storage.

The nine classes of hazardous materials are provided below.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Classes

Hazard Class	
1. Explosives	1.1: Mass Explosion 1.2: Projectile Hazard 1.3: Minor blast/projectile/fire 1.4: Minor blast 1.5: Insensitive explosives 1.6: Very insensitive explosives

2. Compressed Gases	2.1: Flammable Gases 2.2: Nonflammable compressed 2.3: Poisonous
3. Flammable Liquid	3.1: Flammable (flash point below 141°) 3.2: Combustible (flash point 141°-200°)
4. Flammable Solids	4.1: Flammable solids 4.2: Spontaneously combustible 4.3: Dangerous when wet
5. Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides	5.1: Oxidizer 5.2: Organic Peroxide
6. Toxic Materials	6.1: Material that is poisonous 6.2: Infectious Agents
7. Radioactive Material	7.1: Radioactive I 7.2: Radioactive II 7.3: Radioactive III
8. Corrosive	8.1: Destruction of the human skin 8.2: Corrode steel at a rate of 0.25 inches per year
9. Miscellaneous	A material that presents a hazard during shipment but does not meet the definition of other classes

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Location and Extent

There are no major sites that generate or store large quantities of hazardous materials in the City of West Hollywood. There are smaller businesses within city limits such as dry cleaners that use smaller amounts of materials that may be hazardous to human health. These facilities are required to comply with regulations related to the storage, handling, and disposal of these materials to minimize the risk of exposure to workers and the surrounding community.

Given that there are no major freeways or industrial rail routes within the City, the likelihood of the transport of significant amounts of hazardous materials through the City is greatly reduced. Accidents or spills involving hazardous materials during transport could still pose risk to public health and the environment.

Previous Occurrences

There are no known incidents involving significant quantities of hazardous materials in the City of West Hollywood.

Probability of Future Events and Impacts of Climate Change

Overall probability over next five years: Very Unlikely.

Unless there is a significant change to the character and economic drivers of the City of West Hollywood, the presence of significant amounts of hazardous materials on a regular basis is highly unlikely. However accidents can still occur even at a low likelihood. Natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods can increase the risk of hazardous materials events by damaging storage and transportation facilities or disrupting transportation routes.

Climate change may also impact the probability of hazardous materials events in the future. For example, rising temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events may increase the risk of chemical spills and explosions due to equipment failure or human error.

SECTION 4 – VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Element B: Risk Assessment Requirements
B2. Does the plan include a summary of the jurisdiction's vulnerability and the impacts on the community from the identified hazards? Does this summary also address NFIP insured structures that have been repetitively damaged by floods? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(2)(ii))

4.1 Lifelines and Critical Infrastructure

FEMA-Defined Community Lifelines

FEMA's Lifelines are a framework for identifying and prioritizing critical infrastructure and services that are essential to the functioning of communities during and after a disaster. The Lifelines framework was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help emergency managers and first responders prioritize their response efforts and allocate resources during a disaster.

The concept of Lifelines emerged from the realization that disasters can have wide-ranging impacts on a community's infrastructure and services, and that disruptions to these critical systems can significantly hinder response and recovery efforts. The Lifelines framework was developed to identify these critical systems and services and prioritize them based on their importance to overall community functioning and resilience.

There are eight FEMA Lifelines, each of which represents a critical area of infrastructure or service. Critical facilities are categorized under the following lifelines:

- **Safety and Security:** This includes law enforcement/security, search and rescue, fire services, government service, and responder safety.
- **Food, Water, and Shelter:** This encompasses evacuations, schools, food/potable water, shelter, durable goods, water infrastructure, and agriculture.
- **Health and Medical:** This lifeline involves medical care (hospitals), patient movement, public health, fatality management, health care, and supply chain.
- **Energy:** Power (grid), temporary power, and fuel.

- **Communications:** This includes infrastructure, alerts, warnings, messages, 911 and dispatch, responder communications, and financial services.
- **Transportation:** This encompasses highway/roadway, mass transit, railway, aviation, and pipeline.
- **Hazardous Materials:** This includes facilities, hazardous debris, pollutants, and contaminants.
- **Water Systems:** This includes potable water infrastructure and wastewater management.

The Lifelines framework is designed to help emergency managers and first responders prioritize their response efforts and allocate resources based on the criticality of each Lifeline. By prioritizing the most critical Lifelines, emergency responders can work to restore essential services and infrastructure more quickly, which can help to speed up the overall recovery process and reduce the impact of the disaster on the community.

4.2 Critical Facility List

A critical infrastructure list has been a part of City hazard mitigation plan updates up through the most recent in 2018. New infrastructure was included as appropriate.

Name	Address	Lifeline	Critical Rank
Plummer Park Community & Senior Center	7377 Santa Monica Boulevard	Food, Water and Shelter	Critical
Plummer Park – Various Structures	7377 Santa Monica Boulevard	Food, Water and Shelter	Critical
West Hollywood Library	625 N. San Vicente Boulevard	Food, Water and Shelter	Critical
City Field Services Facility	7317 Romaine Street	Safety and Security	Critical
City Hall	8300 Santa Monica Boulevard	Safety and Security	Critical
Fire Station #7	864 N. San Vicente Boulevard	Safety and Security	Critical
Fire Station #8	7643 Santa Monica Boulevard	Safety and Security	Critical
West Hollywood Sheriff's Station	780 N. San Vicente Boulevard	Safety and Security	Critical
Aquatic and Recreation Center	8750 El Tovar Place	Food, Water and Shelter	High
Formosa Park	1140 Formosa Avenue	Food, Water and Shelter	High
Havenhurst Park	1351 Havenhurst Drive	Food, Water and Shelter	High
Hart Park	8341 De Longpre	Food, Water and Shelter	High
Kings Road Park	8383 Santa Monica Boulevard	Food, Water and Shelter	High
West Hollywood Park Various Structures	647 N. San Vicente Boulevard	Food, Water and Shelter	High

4.3 Individual Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

This section serves to identify each hazard confronting the community and its vulnerabilities to that hazard.

4.3.1 Cyberattack

4.3.1.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood, like governments throughout the country, are increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks. Cyberattacks can impact local government, services, and businesses in a variety of ways, depending on the type and severity of the attack.

In West Hollywood, the City's IT management has taken measures to increase its resiliency, with at least one redundant connection to the outside world in case of a major service disruption. However, it does not have a large, dedicated generator capacity – currently there is only one dedicated generator in City Hall. A secondary site, possibly in the West Hollywood Aquatic and Recreation Center, would add significant resiliency.

Laptops generally have 4-5 hours of power capacity, so in the event of a power outage, they could quickly run down without available power sources. And without an operating network to log in to, their utility would be seriously compromised. This becomes an issue in the case of another pandemic or other situation requiring widespread remote work as during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic – ensuring operation of the network will be key to ensuring the continued functioning of the City.

4.3.1.2 Population

The general population may be subject to cyberattack through attacks on other institutions or individual responses to phishing or other online scams. In addition, certain populations such as the elderly, disabled, and unhoused people may be more vulnerable to the impacts of cyberattacks on local government and services. For example, if emergency services or public utilities are disrupted, these populations may have a more difficult time accessing the resources they need to stay safe and healthy.

4.3.1.3 Critical Facilities

Every facility today is to some degree supported by IT technology, from access systems to the power grid. Beyond specific critical facilities, other elements of infrastructure could be affected, from traffic lights to modern electric vehicles.

Local Government:

- Emergency Services: Cyberattacks can disrupt emergency services such as 911 systems, which can prevent people from getting the help they need in a timely manner.
- Public Utilities: Cyberattacks can target public utilities such as water and power systems, potentially causing widespread outages and other disruptions.
- Transportation Networks: Cyberattacks can target transportation networks such as traffic signals and public transit systems, causing delays and safety hazards.
- Public Records: Cyberattacks can compromise public records such as birth certificates, social security numbers, and other sensitive information.

Services:

- Financial Services: Cyberattacks can target financial institutions such as banks and credit unions, potentially compromising sensitive financial data and disrupting financial transactions.
- Healthcare: Cyberattacks can compromise healthcare systems, putting patient data and even lives at risk.

4.3.1.4 Non-Critical Facilities

Virtually all non-critical facilities are vulnerable to cyberattack, although to lesser degrees.

Businesses:

- Intellectual Property: Cyberattacks can target businesses' intellectual property such as trade secrets, patents, and other sensitive information.
- Financial Information: Cyberattacks can compromise businesses' financial data, potentially leading to financial losses and reputational damage.
- Supply Chain Disruptions: Cyberattacks can disrupt businesses' supply chains, causing delays and financial losses.

4.3.1.5 Environment

Cyberattack has no direct impact on the environment. Shutdowns of certain systems may cause events that have impacts on the environment, however.

4.3.1.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. However, as networked systems and new forms of information technology such as artificial intelligence become more common, the City's vulnerability to cyberattack will only grow. Vulnerability to cyberattack has increased since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to cyberattack has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. Cyberattacks have also become more sophisticated and widespread in the past several years Therefore, overall population vulnerability to cyberattack has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.1.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from cyberattack on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from cyberattack on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: There are no specific impacts from cyberattack on unhoused populations.

Behavioral Health: Disruptions to health care services and related organizations from cyberattack may have an impact on behavioral health services and their ability to reach out to impacted individuals.

Older Adults: Disruptions to community and medical services from cyberattack may have direct impacts to services for older adults, including on their health and well-being.

4.3.2 Earthquake

4.3.2.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood, along with surrounding communities, is historically vulnerable to earthquakes. Earthquakes are traditionally one of the major hazards impacting California, and significant attention has been paid to understanding and mitigating against earthquake impacts.

Earthquakes can cause significant damage to the built environment, including collapsed structures that may trap or bury individuals, resulting in loss of life and expensive cleanup efforts. Many buildings in California, including West Hollywood, were constructed before 1993, when building codes were less stringent, and retrofitting is not mandatory except in certain circumstances, leading to a high number of vulnerable structures. After an earthquake, significant time is devoted to the removal of debris from various structures, including brick, glass, wood, steel, concrete building components, and office or home contents following damage.

Seismic activity poses a significant threat to businesses, from large corporations to small retail shops. Even a single day of production downtime can result in tremendous economic loss, particularly for businesses with national or global markets. These losses can be a burden for owners who may struggle to recover. According to FEMA, forty percent of

businesses fail to reopen after a disaster, and another twenty-five percent fail within one year. Similarly, statistics from the United States Small Business Administration show that over ninety percent of businesses fail within two years after being hit by a disaster.

Fires are frequently triggered by downed power lines or broken gas mains during earthquakes. If fire stations sustain damage, there is a reduced chance of responders being able to promptly put out fires. Additionally, major incidents require a greater allocation of resources, leaving smaller fires and issues with little or inadequate attention in the initial hours following a significant earthquake event. The associated loss of electricity can also lower water pressure, further impeding firefighting efforts.

The western area of the City of West Hollywood is particularly susceptible to liquefaction in the event of a severe earthquake. Prior to the 1920s, a subsection of this area was a marsh, with continued soils including organic sediments.

4.3.2.2 Population

The entire population of West Hollywood is vulnerable to an earthquake. In addition, on a busy weekend night, thousands more visitors are present in the City's restaurants and clubs on Sunset Strip. Both indoor and outdoor environments can be hazardous during earthquakes, with collapsed buildings, falling equipment, and moving debris causing death and injury. Additionally, downed power lines, as well as broken water and gas lines, pose threats to human life.

4.3.2.3 Critical Facilities

Every structure in the City is potentially at risk during an earthquake. The specific critical facilities vulnerable in the City of West Hollywood include City Hall, city parks, city maintenance facilities, parking structures and others. While difficult to predict the exact amount of damage, the area could experience something similar to the Northridge Earthquake which caused an estimated $20 billion in damage.

An earthquake can cause damage to structures, utilities, transportation routes, and communication resulting in loss of revenue and ability to provide emergency, essential, and non-essential services. In addition, recovery includes substantial debris removal issues and multiple building inspections. The area affected is the entire 1.9 square miles of the City.

4.3.2.4 Non-Critical Facilities

Specific non-critical facilities vulnerable in the City of West Hollywood include various residential and commercial properties, social service agencies, and government resources. Older residential structures constructed before the introduction of stringent earthquake-related construction codes are particularly vulnerable to earthquakes. A severe earthquake could result in many of these buildings sustaining serious damage or even collapsing, leading to injury or loss of life.

Any substantial damage to housing stock in the City would result in additional constraints on housing supply, potentially leading to strain on many sectors of the City's population.

4.3.2.5 Environment

There are no major discrete environmental impacts from earthquakes. The ecology of California is well-adapted to them.

4.3.2.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. However, housing prices, as in many other markets in the United States , have increased far in excess of wages. This has greatly increased the difficulty of purchasing housing and, in the case of lower-income renters, has increased the chance of becoming unhoused. Any earthquake and the resulting damage to housing stock would greatly increase these strains. Therefore, vulnerability to earthquake due to development has increased since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to earthquake has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. Overall population vulnerability to earthquakes has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.2.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from earthquake on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: Russian-speaking populations may be more likely to occupy older residential properties, and therefore be more vulnerable to earthquakes. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Due to their lack of stable housing, homeless people are at a higher risk of injury during an earthquake. They may be exposed to falling debris, collapsing structures, and hazardous conditions. Earthquakes can destroy existing makeshift shelters used by homeless individuals, leaving them without a place to seek refuge. This may also increase the likelihood of negative health impacts.

Behavioral Health: Disruptions to health care services and related organizations from earthquakes may have an impact on behavioral health services and their ability to reach out to impacted individuals.

Older Adults: Older adults may be more likely if lower-income to occupy older residential properties. They may also be more vulnerable to earthquake-related injuries.

4.3.3. Extreme Heat

4.3.3.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood, along with the rest of Southern California, is increasingly vulnerable to extreme heat. Extreme heat includes heatwaves and sustained heat events.

4.3.3.2 Population

The entire population of the City of West Hollywood can be negatively impacted by extreme heat. Currently the majority of the senior population, defined as those 62 years of age and older, resides in the eastern portion of the City. Many residences in this area have substandard or no cooling infrastructure such as air conditioning. Increased use of air conditioning can put pressure on the power grid, increasing the possibility of power loss, which would severely impact humans and animals. Unhoused people are especially vulnerable as well. Temperatures above 90 degrees trigger City staff to open cooling centers at city parks.

Extreme heat can have serious consequences for human health, including headaches, dizziness, weakness, cramping, nausea, vomiting, confusion, dehydration, and even death. Vulnerable populations such as the very young, elderly, the unhoused and those with special needs or disabilities are particularly at risk, especially during prolonged heat waves.

In addition to the groups identified above, the following demographic groups are also more susceptible to the effects of extreme heat:

- Women who are pregnant
- Persons with medical conditions (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, insulin-dependent, dialysis)
- Persons with mental illness/disabilities or cognitive disorders
- Persons who use medical equipment (e.g., ventilators, oxygen, G-tubes)
- Individuals with drug or alcohol dependencies
- Persons with mobility devices (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers, canes)
- Persons who are non-ambulatory
- Persons who are socially isolated
- Persons who do not speak English with minimal access to current weather information in their own language.

According to the City of West Hollywood's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Vulnerability Assessment:

> *Productivity and labor supply have been shown to suffer during hot days, eventually leading to lags in economic development. Excessive heat has also been linked to worse student performances on exams and general decline in cognitive functions. These effects have been most pronounced in regions where access to adaptive technology (for example air conditioning) is lacking. Extreme heat can lead to various*

other issues including increased energy demands, higher emissions, and overloading of healthcare systems.

4.3.3.3 Critical Facilities

Extreme heat can affect critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, power lines, and water supply systems. Heat stress on metal and road materials, as well as increased use, can cause system breakdowns and outages as well as outright damage, as seen during the "heat dome" event in the Pacific Northwest in 2021. Additionally, the high demand for energy due to the increased use of air conditioning during heat events can cause utility "brownouts" and "blackouts."

Power outages by themselves are a significant enough hazard in West Hollywood to be mentioned separately later in this section.

4.3.3.4 Non-Critical Facilities

Sustained extreme heat can have impacts on physical infrastructure such as overhead and transmission wires. By encouraging residences and businesses to use air conditioning, it can also put pressure on the power grid, increasing the possibility of power loss.

4.3.3.5 Environment

Prolonged extreme heat can cause severe damage to the natural environment, particularly the water supply, which can affect drinking water as well as other uses. The combination of extreme heat and drought can result in significant crop loss and increase the risk of wildfire. While West Hollywood has no agricultural land, this will affect plant growth and survival from personal gardens to shade trees and recreational landscapes.

4.3.3.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. However, as extreme heat events become more likely and more intense due to climate change, the vulnerability of the City will only grow. Therefore, vulnerability to extreme heat has increased since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to extreme heat due to land use has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. However, as extreme heat events become more likely and more intense due to climate change, the vulnerability of the City will only grow. Therefore, vulnerability to extreme heat due to population shifts has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.3.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from extreme heat on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from extreme heat on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Unhoused populations are at great risk from extreme heat events, even more so if they are accompanied by power outages.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from extreme heat on populations with behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: Older adults are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat events.

4.3.4 Infectious Disease

4.3.4.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood is vulnerable to infectious disease. The vulnerability of a specific population to epidemic or pandemic is affected by several variables, including virus type, affected demographics, and environmental factors such as seasonality and individual medical conditions. While the Spanish Flu of 1920 impacted largely healthy young people, the COVID-19 pandemic was most impactful for elderly individuals, with morbidity and mortality rates highest among those aged 65 and older, particularly those 85 and older.

4.3.4.2 Population

The entire population of the City of West Hollywood is vulnerable to infectious disease. Most diseases impact certain segments of the population more than others; COVID-19 disproportionally affected the elderly and others with existing co-morbidities. Future pandemics may impact different population sectors.

4.3.4.3 Critical Facilities

As infectious disease impacts humans directly, it does not directly impact critical physical infrastructure. It would, however, impact staffing and human systems that support the physical infrastructure of the City. The City's recent experience of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic revealed both strengths and vulnerabilities that could be considered in future pandemic planning.

4.3.4.4 Non-Critical Facilities

Infectious disease does not directly impact non-critical physical infrastructure. Businesses and other entities may be impacted, however, due to closures and other mitigation measures. The economy can be Impacted by infectious disease outbreaks through

measures such as limiting travel and public events, and closing non-essential businesses, creating a high demand for healthcare resources.

4.3.4.5 Environment

Infectious disease impacting humans does not directly impact the natural environment. Some diseases originating in animals may impact humans under the right conditions.

4.3.4.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to infectious disease from development has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to infectious disease from land use has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. Overall population vulnerability to infectious disease from population shifts has remained the same since the last approved plan.

4.3.4.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There may be significant impacts from infectious disease on LGBTQ+ populations depending on the characteristics of a disease.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from infectious disease on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: There may be significant impacts from infectious disease on unhoused populations. Unhoused populations may have reduced access to medical facilities or treatment.

Behavioral Health: There may be significant additional vulnerabilities to infectious disease among populations with behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: Older adults are often more vulnerable to infectious disease than other populations.

4.3.5 Wildfire

4.3.5.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

Southern California's brush plants are largely composed of chaparral, which grows quickly and leaves behind dead vegetation that is nutrient-rich and released into the soil through burning. Some chaparral plants, like *Ceanothus*, have flammable resin coatings on their leaves, while others, such as chamise (greasewood), produce volatile gases when burned and leave a water-resistant residue in the soil that can cause erosion on denuded slopes, increasing the risk of post-fire flash flooding and mudslides in nearby communities.

4.3.5.2 Population

The City of West Hollywood sits at the base of the Hollywood Hills in the City of Los Angeles. The Hollywood Hills is densely populated by mostly single family homes and apartment buildings. Roads in this area are often difficult to navigate by larger vehicles, with switchbacks, sharp curves and sometimes sharp slopes, and there is a lot of brush in the area. A fire in the Hollywood Hills could easily spread to the northern region of the City of West Hollywood which is also densely populated. The layout of roads could make evacuations by vehicle or on foot difficult. Even if fires do not cross into the City of West Hollywood, smoke and other impacts could spill over into nearby streets.

While wildfire is unlikely to have direct impacts relating to flame itself, fires from other causes can spread given extreme windy conditions. As discussed above, smoke from wildfires in other areas can directly and adversely impact human health due to reductions in air quality.

4.3.5.3 Critical Facilities

Fire growth is related to building density, types of building construction, the presence and amount of flammable materials, wind speed and direction, width of fire breaks, water supply, time of fire department arrival, and available fire fighter resources. Fortunately in this regard, the Salt Lake oil field is isolated along Beverly Boulevard at the southwest margin of the City. There are no major petrochemical or industrial plants. Specific Critical Facilities vulnerable in the City of West Hollywood include major commercial and residential properties on and around the Sunset Strip. A small area along the northernmost edge of the City is located within a CAL FIRE-defined Moderate Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone. This area is at the southern fringe of the Hollywood Hills. The Hollywood Hills, located immediately adjacent to West Hollywood to the north (but within the city limits of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills), are High and Very High Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones.

Fire's primary effects, which include loss of life, injury, and destruction of buildings and wildlife, are well known. However, it also has several secondary effects, such as overburdened public utilities, reduced water supplies, disrupted communication systems due to downed utility lines and damaged transformers and road closures.

Wildfires can cause damage to structures, utilities, transportation routes, and communication resulting in loss of revenue and ability to provide emergency, essential, and non-essential services. The total area affected is less than one square mile.

4.3.5.4 Non-Critical Facilities

The specific non-critical facilities vulnerable in the City of West Hollywood include major commercial and residential properties on and around the Sunset Strip. The area affected is less than one square mile.

4.3.5.5 Environment

Bare hillsides after major fires increase the flow of water and material downhill. This can lead to an increased chance of landslide or mudflow after a rain event as a secondary hazard.

4.3.5.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to wildfire has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to wildfire has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. There has been a statistically significant increase in the unhoused population. Therefore, overall population vulnerability to wildfire has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.5.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from wildfire on LGBTQ+ populations as a whole.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from wildfire on Russian-speaking populations; however, immigrant communities sometimes are less likely to have advanced central air and heating systems, making them potentially more vulnerable to impacts from wildfire smoke. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Without permanent shelter, unhoused populations may experience greater adverse health impacts due to smoke from wildfires.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from wildfire on populations with behavioral health issues. Populations with behavioral health issues may have a more difficult time in terms of evacuations, whether from wildfire danger or into safe spaces during severe smoke events.

Older Adults: Older adults often have a higher instance of respiratory issues, and therefore more vulnerable to the impacts of smoke from wildfires than other populations.

4.3.6 Drought

4.3.6.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood, like its surrounding communities, are vulnerable to drought and secondary impacts of decreasing availability of water. Rising temperatures in California are expected to impact and reduce water supplies across the state. Much of California's water comes from snowmelt in the High Sierra, a part of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. As temperatures rise due to climate change, the precipitation that would have fallen as snow is expected to become rainfall, leading to less snowfall and therefore, less meltwater from the Sierra Nevada snowpack, reducing the water that would have flowed into Southern California's reservoirs and aqueducts. This could lead to a strain on the City's imported water supply, resulting in a greater reliance on local groundwater in Los Angeles County.

4.3.6.2 Population.

The entire population of the City of West Hollywood is vulnerable to drought. Drought impacts the entire city through reductions in water supply and related impacts. A shortage of water in individuals can cause dehydration, which can lead to symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, weakness, cramping, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and, in extreme cases, death. Drought also often coincides with high temperatures, exacerbating the effects and putting vulnerable populations, such as young children, the elderly, and those with disabilities, at greater risk.

4.3.6.3 Critical Facilities.

Drought does not have significant direct physical impacts on critical infrastructure with the exception of water utility lines and facilities and plants at recreational facilities.

During droughts, water customers are instructed to use less water, which in turn leads to decreased revenue for local water utilities with no reduction in fixed costs. As a result, water utilities often raise rates to make up for lost revenue. The reduction in water flow also leads to decreased sewage flows, causing an increase in contaminants in the water supply. This can affect the availability of drinking water and water for agriculture, leading to a decrease in food supply, a loss of biodiversity, increased mortality in humans and animals, an increase in disease, and a rise in endangered species.

4.3.6.4 Non-Critical Facilities.

Drought does not have major structural impacts on non-critical facilities but can impact residential water availability. Increased prices may result in lower-income populations using less water, increasing the likelihood of dehydration or other negative health impacts.

4.3.6.5 Environment

The environmental effects of drought are widespread and reach beyond geographic boundaries. Drought conditions result in decreased water availability for plant and animal

habitat from sources such as lakes, streams, aquifers, soil, wetlands, springs, and other surface and subsurface sources. This reduction in water quality can alter the levels of salinity, bacteria, turbidity, pH, and temperature, potentially affecting the aquatic habitat of plants and animals, and the health of livestock if they ingest too much salt or bacteria.

4.3.6.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. Increased water use efficiency has decreased overall water use by many metrics. However, increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns have increased uncertainty around planning for drought. Overall, vulnerability to drought from development has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to drought from land use has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. Vulnerability from drought due to population shifts has remained the same since the last approved plan.

4.3.6.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from drought on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from drought on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: There are secondary impacts due to drought from potential increases in water costs on unhoused populations. Associated heat waves may significantly impact unhoused populations.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from drought on populations experiencing behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: Older adults may be vulnerable to increased water costs and reduced water intake during drought; associated heat waves may significantly impact older adults.

4.3.7 Power Outages

4.3.7.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood is vulnerable to power outages impacting part of all of the City. Compounding issues such as the growing age of the electrical grid, increased demands due to growing IT applications such as the cloud and artificial intelligence and increasing high

temperatures due to climate change combine to greatly increase the likelihood of power outages impacting the City of West Hollywood.

4.3.7.2 Population

A power outage affecting the entire 1.9 square miles of the City would affect approximately 30,000 residents. In addition, several thousand visitors can be present on a busy weekend evening, especially on the Sunset Strip. While vulnerable populations such as older adults and the unhoused may be impacted first, extended power outages could impact all of the inhabitants of the City without regard to income.

One of the most significant hazards of power outages during extreme heat is the risk of heat-related illnesses. When power goes out, air conditioning units and fans stop working, which can lead to indoor temperatures rising quickly. This can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and even heatstroke, especially among vulnerable populations such as the elderly, young children, and those with preexisting medical conditions.

Historically, sustained extreme heat events have resulted in significant deaths among vulnerable populations without air conditioning or working fans, such as the 1995 Chicago heat wave.

4.3.7.3 Critical Facilities.

All government facilities can be affected by rolling blackouts and power failures. It is predicted that the State of California will experience more rolling blackouts in the future.

In addition to homes and businesses, power outages can also impact essential services such as hospitals, emergency response systems, and water treatment facilities. Emergency response systems such as 911 call centers and police and fire departments also rely on electricity to function, and a power outage can hinder their ability to respond to emergencies quickly.

Water treatment facilities are another critical service that can be impacted by power outages. These facilities rely on electricity to pump and treat water, and a loss of power can result in a disruption in the water supply or a decrease in water quality.

4.3.7.4 Non-Critical Facilities.

All neighborhoods in West Hollywood are vulnerable to rolling blackouts and power outages. The most immediate impact of a power outage is typically felt in homes and businesses. When the power goes out, residents and employees may experience a loss of lighting, heating, or cooling, and access to electronic devices. This can result in inconvenience, discomfort, and potential safety hazards, especially if the outage occurs at night or during extreme weather conditions.

Power outages also affect traffic signals. For a community such as West Hollywood, surrounded by the greater Los Angeles metropolitan region, this can reduce the speed of vehicles both entering and leaving the City. In the event of other major disasters that cause

power outages, this can be a compounding hazard that affects the ability of people to evacuate and the ability of responders to enter the City.

4.3.7.5 Environment

There are relatively few impacts on the natural environment due to power outages.

4.3.7.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. However, increasing power demands from a variety of sources and vulnerability to extreme weather events increase the strain on the power grid. Vulnerability to power outages due to development has increased since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to power outages due to land use remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. However, increasing demands and vulnerabilities impacting the power grid as well as increasing high temperatures increase the vulnerability from power outages to various populations in the City. Therefore, overall population vulnerability to power outages has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.7.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from power outages on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from power outages on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Power outages may impact the ability of unhoused populations to find cooler shelter during extreme heat events.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from power outages on populations experiencing mental health issues.

Older Adults: Older adults are more vulnerable to periods of extreme heat, and power outages can put many at severe risk.

4.3.8 Heavy Rain

4.3.8.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood may experience local drainage issues, particularly in areas where stormwater runoff enters culverts or flows underground into storm drains. Poor maintenance of these drains may also contribute to flooding hazards in urban areas.

4.3.8.2 Population

Residents and businesses located on the northern slopes of the City are the most vulnerable to damage from heavy rain and related hillside flooding. Although the area is less than one square mile, several high occupancy buildings, hotels, and residential structures are located on the slope.

4.3.8.3 Critical Facilities

The specific critical facilities vulnerable in City of West Hollywood include key commercial and residential properties in the northern portion of the City, such as hotels, businesses on the Sunset Strip, high occupancy buildings, and residential structures.

Flash flooding can cause damage to structures, utilities, transportation routes, and communication resulting in loss of revenue and ability to provide emergency, essential, and non-essential services. In addition, recovery includes substantial debris removal issues and multiple building inspections. The total area affected is less than one square mile.

4.3.8.4 Non-Critical Facilities

The specific non-critical facilities vulnerable in the City of West Hollywood include various smaller commercial and residential properties.

Property damage caused by heavy rain and flooding events can vary depending on the depth and velocity of the rainfall. Although some events may not reach the level of a 100-year flood, they can still pose a serious threat, potentially washing away buildings from their foundations and sweeping away cars. Infrastructure such as pipelines and bridges are also at risk, as flood debris carried by high waters can cause extensive damage upon impact. Soil saturation from flood events can also lead to landslide damage and basement flooding, resulting in further property damage. Most flood damage is caused by water saturating materials that are susceptible to loss, such as wood, insulation, wallboard, fabric, furnishings, floor coverings, and appliances. In many cases, flood damage to homes can render them uninhabitable.

4.3.8.5 Environment

Heavy rain and storms may kill trees and damage other vegetation. Otherwise, the impact on the natural environment alone is not significant.

4.3.8.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to heavy rain has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to heavy rain has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. There has been a statistically significant increase in the unhoused population since the last approved plan. Therefore, overall population vulnerability to heavy rain has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.8.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from heavy rain on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from heavy rain on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Heavy rain may have impacts on unhoused populations. Heavy rain may damage or destroy makeshift outdoors shelters used by unhoused people, increasing the likelihood of negative health impacts.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from heavy rain on populations with behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: There are no specific impacts from heavy rain on older adults.

4.3.9 Terrorism/Armed Assailant

4.3.9.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood has relatively unique vulnerabilities to certain varieties of terrorism, whether against individuals or groups. Terrorism, whether from an organized group or from a lone active assailant, is a constant shadow over many aspects of life in the United States. These kind of events can be carried out not only with guns but with explosive devices or sabotage of infrastructure such as attacks on electrical transformers or attempts to poison water supplies.

4.3.9.2 Population

The prominence of the LGBTQ+ community in the City of West Hollywood makes the City more vulnerable to anti-LGBTQ+ terrorism. The relatively significant Jewish population in the City may also be vulnerable to anti-Semitic incidents. Large-scale events such as WeHo

Pride and the City's Halloween celebrations attract large numbers of visitors to the City who may be vulnerable to malicious actors.

In addition, on a typical busy weekend night, thousands more visitors are present in the City's restaurants and clubs on Sunset Strip. These people as well would be vulnerable in any mass casualty event.

4.3.9.3 Critical Facilities

The most vulnerable critical facilities in West Hollywood include City Hall and City-owned recreational facilities. These may be targets for ideologically-motivated terrorism but are less likely than larger individual events due to their relative difficulty and lower numbers of people.

Critical infrastructure, such as power plants, water treatment facilities, and communication systems, are essential to the functioning of the City. An attack on these facilities could disrupt vital services and cause significant damage to the City's infrastructure.

4.3.9.4 Non-Critical Facilities

Businesses, especially LGBTQ+ bars, are vulnerable to terrorism. Public spaces, such as parks, shopping districts, and public transportation hubs, are potential targets for terrorist attacks. For example, an attack on a crowded public space could cause mass casualties and widespread panic. West Hollywood is especially susceptible to this during WeHo Pride or other major events when large numbers of visitors are present.

Religious institutions, such as churches and synagogues, are potential targets for terrorist attacks. Religious institutions perceived as pro-LGBTQ+ have been attacked in the past decades, such as the shooting at a Unitarian Universalist church in Knoxville, Tennessee in 2007. The relatively high Jewish population in the City makes the possibility of an anti-Semitic attack on a Jewish place of worship potentially more impactful as well.

4.3.9.5 Environment

The natural environment itself is not a major target of potential terrorist or active assailant incidents in the City of West Hollywood. Depending on the mode of attack, the natural environment could be impacted by attacks directed on other targets.

4.3.9.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. However, the political climate in the United States has fostered an increase in armed groups and individuals motivated by ideology that are capable of violence. Therefore, vulnerability to terrorism due to development has increased since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to terrorism has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. City events had reduced attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic but have largely rebounded and even grown. Therefore, vulnerability to terrorism due to population shifts has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.9.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: LGBTQ+ populations are major potential targets of terrorist or active assailant events.

Russian-Speaking Populations: As many Russian speakers in the City of West Hollywood are Jewish, they may have an elevated vulnerability to terrorist events. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: There are no specific impacts from terrorism on unhoused populations.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from terrorism on populations experiencing behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: There are no specific impacts from terrorism on older populations.

4.3.10 Floods

4.3.10.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

West Hollywood is a densely populated city with numerous commercial and residential structures. The high density and associated impervious surfaces can impede natural water absorption and increase runoff during heavy rain events, potentially leading to localized flooding. The City's terrain includes hilly and sloped areas, which can contribute to runoff during heavy rains.

4.3.10.2 Population

The magnitude of a flooding event is limited since it most likely would not affect the entire City. Fortunately, the City is situated on relatively high ground and does not have a major waterway subject to flood hazards. However, the City is situated at the base of nearby hills with steep narrow canyons that drain into the City, and individuals caught unaware after severe rain events may be directly impacted.

4.3.10.3 Critical Facilities

No specific critical facilities in the City of West Hollywood stand out for their greater vulnerability to flooding. However, during heavy rain events, stormwater can quickly overwhelm the capacity of storm drains, leading to flooding in streets and neighborhoods

and potentially impacting critical facilities in the vicinity. This excess water can also flow into the sewer system, causing it to become overloaded and leading to backups and overflows in other areas.

In addition, stormwater runoff can carry pollutants, such as debris, trash, chemicals, and sediment, into the sewer system. These pollutants can cause blockages and damage to pipes and equipment, as well as pose a risk to human health and the environment.

4.3.10.4 Non-Critical Facilities.

No specific categories of non-critical facilities stand out in the City of West Hollywood for their vulnerability to flooding. Flooding can cause damage to structures, utilities, transportation routes, and communication resulting in loss of revenue and ability to provide emergency, essential, and non-essential services.

As described above, flash flooding after extreme events may impact both critical and non-critical facilities. Roads may act as channels for floodwaters, making crossing roads hazardous and damaging or even washing away vehicles.

The extent and nature of property damage from floods depend on the velocity and depth of floodwaters. Basement flooding and soil saturation from flood events can lead to significant damage. Most flood damage occurs from water penetrating materials that are vulnerable to loss, such as wood, insulation, wallboard, fabric, furnishings, floor coverings, and appliances. In some cases, flood damage can make homes unlivable. Given that flooding has not been a typical hazard in the City of West Hollywood, some homes or apartments may not be raised as high off the ground as in areas with more frequent flooding. When a flood event occurs, those residences may be more vulnerable.

4.3.10.5 Environment

Any sustained flooding event is likely to impact the City's natural environment by potentially putting stress on aging trees and vegetation.

4.3.10.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. However, as the intensity of extreme rain events increases due to climate change, the risk of anomalous events impacting the City of West Hollywood is growing. Therefore, vulnerability to flooding has increased since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. However, as the intensity of extreme rain events increases due to climate change, the risk of anomalous events impacting the City of West Hollywood is growing. Therefore, vulnerability to flooding has increased since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. However, as the intensity of extreme rain events increases due to climate change, the

risk of anomalous events impacting the City of West Hollywood is growing. Therefore, vulnerability to flooding has increased since the last approved plan.

4.3.10.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from flooding on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from flooding on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Unhoused populations may be more vulnerable to floods due to their lack of permanent shelter.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from flooding on populations experiencing behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: Older adults may have mobility issues preventing them from moving to higher or safer ground in the event of flooding.

4.3.11 Severe Wind

4.3.11.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

The City of West Hollywood seasonally experiences severe wind. Windstorms can cause damage to buildings, block roads and bridges, and damage traffic signals, streetlights, and parks, among other things. The inability to access emergency services due to blocked roads can limit the response operations during a windstorm, while industry and commerce can suffer losses from interrupted electric services and extended road closures. Such losses to buildings, personnel, and equipment, as well as service interruptions, may impact the local economy following a windstorm event.

4.3.11.2 Population

Population vulnerability to severe wind in the City of West Hollywood varies by incident. Very few injuries to people are recorded during the types of high winds that Southern California experiences. Most damage is to property, but roads blocked by fallen trees during a windstorm may have severe consequences to people who need access to emergency services. Unhoused people may be more vulnerable than others to the effects of severe wind including of flying objects.

In the event of a windstorm or microburst, emergency personnel may be required to respond to damage sustained by both residential and commercial structures, especially those with weak reinforcement. The debris carried by extreme winds can contribute to loss of life and failure of protective building elements. Downed trees, power lines, and damaged property can hinder emergency response and disaster recovery efforts.

4.3.11.3 Critical Facilities.

All critical facilities are at risk for damage from severe winds which can damage structures, roads, traffic signals, and streetlights.

Above-ground utility infrastructure is at special risk from severe wind. Falling trees have been a leading cause of power outages. Windstorms, including strong microbursts and Santa Ana winds, can result in flying debris and downed utility lines. Even in minor windstorm events, tree limbs can break in winds as low as 45 mph and be thrown over 75 feet, causing damage to overhead power lines. This can result in electric power lines falling to the ground, posing a potential risk of fatal electric shock.

4.3.11.4 Non-Critical Facilities.

All above-ground non-critical facilities in the City of West Hollywood are at risk for damage from severe winds.

Residential and commercial structures with weak reinforcement are vulnerable to windstorm damage. Wind pressure can push walls, doors, and windows inward, while passing currents create suction forces that pull building components and surfaces outward. Extreme wind forces can cause a building or its roof to fail, resulting in significant damage. In addition, even winds of 45 mph can cause tree limbs to become flying debris and damage structures. Overhead power lines can also be damaged and falling trees can bring electric power lines down to the pavement, creating a risk of electric shock.

Strong windstorms can affect local transportation by causing trees and electrical wires to fall onto streets and highways, leading to road closures. During periods of very strong winds, major highways may also be temporarily closed to trucks and recreational vehicles. However, these disruptions are usually short-lived and do not have a significant long-term economic impact on the region.

4.3.11.5 Environment

Strong winds may down trees, including those in City parks or street trees that provide shade for pedestrians.

4.3.11.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to severe wind has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to severe wind has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. Overall population vulnerability to cyberattack has remained the same since the last approved plan.

4.3.11.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from severe wind on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from severe wind on Russian-speaking populations. Power outages due to severe wind may be a secondary impact. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Unhoused populations may be subject to greater impacts from severe wind if outside without shelter.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from severe wind on populations with behavioral health issues.

Older Adults: There are no specific impacts from severe wind on older adults. Power outages due to severe wind may be a secondary impact.

4.3.12 Hazardous Materials

4.3.12.1 Overall Vulnerability and Impact

Hazardous materials incidents encompass a variety of potential events involving the escape of hazardous materials. As the City does not have major freeways, rail or airport facilities within City limits, incidents from the transport of hazardous materials are much less likely than in communities with any of the above facilities. The City also lacks major storage facilities for potentially hazardous materials.

The City of West Hollywood has a low vulnerability and low likelihood of significant impact from hazardous materials events.

4.3.12.2 Population.

In the event of a hazardous materials event, the impacted population would likely be limited to the immediate proximity of the event itself.

4.3.12.3 Critical Facilities.

Critical infrastructure in the City of West Hollywood is unlikely to be impacted to a severe degree in the event of a hazardous materials-related-incident.

4.3.12.4. Non-Critical Facilities.

Non-critical infrastructure in the City of West Hollywood is unlikely to be impacted to a severe degree in the event of a hazardous materials-related incident.

4.3.12.5 Environment

Impacts on plants or animals are likely to be similar to impacts on humans in the event of a hazards materials-related incident.

4.3.12.6 Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan

Development: There have been no significant changes in development since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to hazardous materials incidents has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Land Use: There have been no significant changes in land use since the last approved plan. Vulnerability to hazardous materials incidents has remained the same since the last approved plan.

Population shifts: Population has increased but not significantly so since the last approved plan. Therefore, overall population vulnerability to hazardous materials incidents has remained the same since the last approved plan.

4.3.12.7 Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

LGBTQ+: There are no specific impacts from hazardous materials incidents on LGBTQ+ populations.

Russian-Speaking Populations: There are no specific impacts from hazardous materials incidents on Russian-speaking populations. Linguistic barriers may impede communication with and disseminating information to Russian-speaking populations during or after an event.

Unhoused: Unhoused populations may face more exposure to hazardous materials incidents than other populations.

Behavioral Health: There are no specific impacts from hazardous materials incidents on behavioral health populations.

Older Adults: Due to increased susceptibility to certain health issues, older adults may be more impacted by hazardous materials incidents.

4.4 National Flood Insurance Program Participation

The City of West Hollywood currently participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

CID	Community Name	County	Init FHBM Identified	Init FIRM Identified	Curr Eff Map Date	Reg-Emer Date	Tribal
060720	WEST HOLLYWOOD, CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY		6/18/87	9/26/08	6/18/87	No

- **Adoption of NFIP minimum floodplain management criteria via local regulation.** No portions of West Hollywood lie within a federally designated mandatory flood insurance zone.
- **Adoption of the latest effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).** The City of West Hollywood entered the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on June 18th, 1987 (CID 060720). On June 3, 1994, 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 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. In August 2018, FEMA Region IX reviewed the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map for the City of West Hollywood and confirmed that there are no mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas (1% annual chance: 100-year) floodplains within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City. The only mapped area is a 'Zone X' which is the 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard which is out of the 100-year floodplain.
- **Implementation and enforcement of local floodplain management regulations to regulate and permit development in SFHA's.** There are no portions of the City of West Hollywood that are within an SFHA.
- **Appointment of a designee or agency to implement the addressed commitments and requirements of the NFIP.** The City of West Hollywood's Planning Department is responsible for implementing the addressed commitments and requirements of the NFIP.

  Description of how participants implement the substantial improvement/substantial damage provisions of their floodplain management regulations after an event. The City of West Hollywood's Planning Department will implement all applicable provisions after a flood event. Section 15.68.130 (B) (1), *Development of Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage Procedures*

(https://ecode360.com/43911429#43911429). directly refers to FEMA publication 213, *Answers to Questions About Substantially Damaged Buildings* to define requirements and directs City departments and divisions under the leadership of the Planning Department to coordinate with one another after a flood event.

No portions of West Hollywood lie within a federally designated mandatory flood insurance zone. There are no repetitive loss properties within the boundaries of the City of West Hollywood.

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SECTION 5 – CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Element C: Mitigation Strategy Requirements
C1. Does the plan document each jurisdiction's existing authorities, policies, programs and resources and its ability to expand on and improve these existing policies and programs? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3))
C2. Does the plan address each jurisdiction's participation in the NFIP and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(ii))

A capability assessment is an in-depth look at community mechanisms (such as plans, codes, ordinances, staffing, etc.) in place to support proposed mitigation activities. Performing the capability assessment helps communities identify regulatory, administrative, technical, and fiscal capacities and capabilities, and to consider ways that these tools can be used to further hazard mitigation and disaster resiliency goals.

5.1 Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

The City of West Hollywood has many highly trained and experienced civil servants who bring a high level of expertise to their work. Of note is the City's Long Range Planning department as well as its close relationships with Los Angeles fire and sheriff's departments. The City also has close relationships with other local governments through the Westside Council of Governments and through relationships with the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City and Santa Monica.

West Hollywood operates as what is popularly termed a "contract city". Contract cities rely on outside agencies – sometimes public, sometimes private – to provide many of the basic functions of a city. This produces both unique challenges and unique opportunities when considering resilience and hazard mitigation. West Hollywood, for example, through its contract relationship with the Los Angeles Fire Department or the Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department, draw upon the resources of a much larger area in times of need than it may be able to if having to rely on its own. This may become a problem during larger-scale disasters such as a major earthquake, however, when West Hollywood may find itself triaged compared to other areas in greater need.

A major related consideration, already mentioned in Section 2, Community Profile, is accessibility. The City of West Hollywood is accessed only through surface arterials from three directions and from winding hill streets from the north. In the case of a mass casualty event such as a terrorist attack during a major public celebration, the only way to get into or out of the City may be by air. And since there are no major public spaces large enough for

helicopter landings in the City, street intersections may have to be used, which pose their own problems.

Being a small city in the middle of a major metropolitan area, West Hollywood relies on facilities within its neighbors' boundaries, such as hospitals. Again, this may work very well ordinarily or during localized events, but during a large-scale disaster, this may present problems.

Policy and Regulatory Resources

Policy and Regulatory Resources	Link / Location
Building Code	https://library.qcode.us/lib/west_hollywood_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_13
General Plan 2035	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-development-department/general-plan-2035
2021 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-development-department/long-range-planning/climate-action-sustainability
2011 Climate Action Plan	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-development-department/general-plan-2035
Erosion Management Ordinance	https://www.weho.org/services/search-results/construction-management
Floodplain Management Ordinance	https://library.qcode.us/lib/west_hollywood_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_15-article_3-chapter_15_68
Seismic Retrofit Grant Program	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-development-department/building-and-safety/seismic-retrofit
Stormwater Management	https://library.qcode.us/lib/west_hollywood_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_15-article_3-chapter_15_56
Subdivision Regulation	https://library.qcode.us/lib/west_hollywood_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_20-chapter_20_04
Zoning	https://library.qcode.us/lib/west_hollywood_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_19

Administrative Resources

Administrative Resources	Link / Location
Planning Commission	https://www.weho.org/city-government/boards-commissions/commissions/planning-commission
Building & Safety	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-development-department/building-and-safety
Emergency Preparedness	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-safety/public-safety/emergency-preparedness
Sherriff's Department	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-safety/public-safety/sheriff-fire-security-ambassadors/sheriff-s-department
Fire Department	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-safety/public-safety/sheriff-fire-security-ambassadors/fire-department
Long Range Planning	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-development-department/long-range-planning
Public Works	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works
Economic Development	https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/economic-development
Urban Art Program Guidelines	https://www.weho.org/home/showpublisheddocument/52227/637812042576500000

5.2 Technical and Fiscal Capabilities

The City of West Hollywood has several departments that direct all resources including, Administrative Services (City Clerk, Human Resources),Communications (Public Information), City Attorney, City Manager (Legal Services), Economic Development, Community Development (Building and Safety, Current Planning, and Long Range and Mobility Planning), Finance (Accounting, Budget, Information Systems, and Revenue), Human Services (Housing and Rent Stabilization, Recreation, Social Services, and Special Events), Public Safety (Public Safety Administration, Emergency Management, Sheriff and Fire Departments), and Public Works (Code Compliance, Engineering, Facilities, and Parking).

According to the California State Auditor's Office's ranking of the fiscal health of California cities, based on a variety of factors such as liquidity, debt burden, and pension obligations, West Hollywood was ranked 202 out of 471 cities in terms of its overall fiscal health, putting it in the overall "Low Risk" category.

Source: https://www.auditor.ca.gov/local_high_risk/dashboard-csa

The City's fiscal resources are provided by the City's General Fund. The General Fund is supported by various tax and other revenue sources. City Departments submit two-year budget plans which are approved by City Council.

Local funding sources for mitigation projects are limited but can include taxes and grants for Capital Improvement Projects and maintenance projects.

The City of West Hollywood can apply for funding under FEMA programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) or the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) program. Another potential source of funding for hazard mitigation projects is through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program provides funding to local communities for a variety of projects, including those related to hazard mitigation. The City can apply for CDBG funding to implement projects such as drainage improvements, erosion control, or wildfire fuel reduction.

The City of West Hollywood can also consider issuing bonds to fund hazard mitigation projects. These bonds would be repaid over time through property taxes or other revenue sources and would allow the City to implement projects such as retrofitting critical infrastructure, building fire breaks, or developing early warning systems. Finally, the City can partner with other organizations and agencies to fund hazard mitigation projects. For example, the City can work with local businesses or non-profits to fund projects such as emergency preparedness education or the development of community-wide evacuation plans.

5.3 Education/Outreach

The City of West Hollywood has historically had a deep emphasis on outreach and community engagement. This was illustrated most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, where City employees quickly repurposed their operations to provide direct support to people throughout the City. The City's close relationship to the LGBTQ+ community is essential for support of Pride and related events, which are important to the city both socially and financially. These kinds of existing networks give the City a valuable resource to socialize hazard mitigation and resilience thinking through existing public campaigns and through person-to-person interaction.

The City communicates with its residents through a variety of methods, most easily through a large email database that enables direct communication with a large percentage of households. The electorate also communicates with City government through several means, including through very participatory City council meetings.

5.3 Potential for Improvement

Section 6, Mitigation Strategy, includes not only a list of actions that could expand upon and improve the City's capabilities but also a discussion of how best to implement them.

5.3.1 Policy/Regulatory

Close coordination with Community Development and cultivation of relationships with the City Council to introduce and pass new and updated policy and codes will be essential. Codes specifically are vital, and not only in traditional areas of concern to hazard mitigation such as flood and building codes. Planning and zoning regulations largely shape the physical nature of a community, and as such present a tremendous opportunity in building resilience. Overlay resilience zones such as seen in cities like Norfolk, VA can be very useful in strategically building resilience to specific hazards. Enhanced building codes deriving from the work of the Institute for Building and Home Safety among other organizations can also aid in steadily increasing the overall level of resilience.

5.3.2 Admin/Technical

A major vulnerability of the City, and of virtually all organizations, public and private, is their increasing dependence on information technology. Cyberattacks often are first in mind (several high-profile attacks took place during the writing of this LHMP update), but just as important are the infrastructure networks such as electricity that enable the network to work. COVID-19 was in many ways a test case for larger disasters, but it was easier to deal with given that it had no direct physical impact except to human health. A large earthquake, a Carrington event or other natural event that reduced or eliminated power to large areas for extended periods of time would be far more devastating to IT networks.

West Hollywood can consult directly with business continuity and resilience specialist firms to identify best practices to maintain cybersecurity and IT network resilience. Maintaining access to alternate internet and cloud storage providers that can serve as backups will be vital. The City can also maintain its own independent network with dedicated, independent power sources and dedicated access through VPN or other methods. These should also include localized data backups that do not rely on the cloud. Working with business continuity specialists may be helpful as individual business operations rely much more on IT networks than on the kinds of physical structures that cities do.

5.3.3 Education/Outreach

Education and outreach is not only a top-down initiative. Raising awareness and public capacity to assist in disaster events is essential, especially for a contract city such as the City of West Hollywood.

Through its own communications – social media, physical mailings, and presence at in-person events, the City can raise awareness about hazard mitigation. Social media can enable this to be done at a relatively low cost for a potential wide reach. Existing campaigns focusing more on preparedness and emergency response can be widened to include resilience and hazard mitigation. The City's existing relationships with community groups can be leveraged for more targeted outreach and collaboration with specific sectors of the community.

5.3.4 Financial

Section 5 above discusses the City's fiscal health in detail. However, as discussed later in this plan, rising insurance costs across the country pose a problem to local and state government. Finding new methods of insurance and other forms of risk pooling will become ever-more important as disasters increase in frequency and intensity.

SECTION 6 – MITIGATION STRATEGY

Element C: Mitigation Strategy Requirements
C1. Does the plan document each jurisdiction's existing authorities, policies, programs and resources and its ability to expand on and improve these existing policies and programs? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3))
C2. Does the plan address each jurisdiction's participation in the NFIP and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(ii))
C3. Does the plan include goals to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(i))
C4. Does the plan identify and analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects for each jurisdiction being considered to reduce the effects of hazards, with emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(ii))
C5. Does the plan contain an action plan that describes how the actions identified will be prioritized (including cost benefit review), implemented and administered by each jurisdiction? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(iii)); (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(iv))

6.1 Introduction

The Mitigation Strategy serves as a comprehensive guide for the City of West Hollywood in its pursuit of enhancing disaster resilience by reducing vulnerability to identified hazards. Through the identification of specific Mitigation Goals and Objectives, strategies and initiatives are formulated to prevent, minimize, and alleviate the impacts of both natural and manmade disasters on the local population and property within the planning area.

Strengthening community resilience involves the implementation of building codes, zoning ordinances, and other regulatory measures. During the review or update of these planning mechanisms, there is an opportunity to assess the feasibility of integrating mitigation strategies into policy changes. These proactive efforts contribute significantly to ensuring the City's sustained resilience in the face of hazard events.

The City of West Hollywood is 1.9 square miles and has no waterways, freeways, bridges, or dams. The City is not in a high hazardous fire area, and no portions of West Hollywood lie within a federally designated mandatory flood insurance zone.

Although storms, flooding, extreme heat or winds can affect the City, the most likely natural hazard that could inflict devastating damage on the City is an earthquake. As such, all City facilities have been built to code, and the City adopts a new building code approximately every three years. This code update includes updating seismic and structural requirements.

Additionally, the City has completed a city-wide retrofit project where dozens of private and public buildings were retrofitted in 2015.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team reviewed the many mitigation projects that have already been conducted by the City. In addition, the General Plan has reviewed ground surface and shaking, seismically induced hazards, mudslides, landslides, expansive soils and rocks, collapsible soils, and ground subsidence. The General Plan and EIR have examined flood and inundation, urban fires, building inventory, emergency response, and post-disaster recovery.

With the exception of a few vacant parcels, the City of West Hollywood is completely developed. All new buildings and infrastructure have to comply with existing building codes and mitigation strategies. All plans for construction are reviewed by the Building and Safety Division and the Planning Division to ensure compliance with the Uniform Building Code, the General Plan, and City Ordinances.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team discussed the most likely hazards and potential mitigation projects at length in order to evaluate which mitigation activities would be most beneficial to the City. The team discussed modifying infrastructure, facilities, land use, seismic retrofitting, and updates to the General Plan and the Municipal Code. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will continue to meet and discuss the need for major mitigation projects as codes change, disasters occur, and the housing and commercial buildings age.

City Staff make recommendations to the West Hollywood City Council regarding prioritization and funding of the above and future projects, yet the decision lies ultimately with the Councilmembers. Capital Improvement Projects and other Mitigation Projects receive public hearings as either part of the budgeting process or as individual staff items for City Council which allows for public input.

6.2 Mitigation Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Ensure Effective Response of Emergency Services to Hazards

- Maintain adequate levels of law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services to meet the needs of a changing population.
- Cooperate and collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions, social services, and internal departments to maximize public safety and emergency services.
- Support the County's existing mutual aid and automatic aid agreements for additional fire and police resources needed during an emergency.

Goal 2: Reduce impact (injury and damage) from natural and man-made hazards.

- Minimize the level of death, injury, property damage, economic and social dislocation, and disruption of vital services as a result of a hazard.
- Protect critical facilities from damage, loss of function, or inaccessibility in the event of a hazard.

- Minimize exposure to hazardous materials.

Goal 3: Maximize Internal and External Resources for Investment in Hazard Mitigation

- Maximize the use of internal sources of funding for mitigation programs.
- Identify, apply for, and utilize external sources of funding for mitigation programs.
- Prioritize mitigation and capital improvement projects, based on cost effectiveness for projects that promote protecting life, property, and the environment.
- Plan for alternative sources of financing of damage and reconstruction.

Goal 4: Increase Public Understanding, Support, and Demand for Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness

- Utilize existing and procure additional resources to adequately educate the residents and business owners of West Hollywood regarding hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness.
- Provide printed materials and seminars to residents and business owners regarding non-structural hazard mitigation and other mitigation activities.

6.3 Mitigation Actions

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Emergency Operations Center Equipment	Update Emergency Operations Center equipment and supplies as necessary to ensure effectiveness. Periodically review technology used to support the Emergency Operations Center to ensure systems are updated and effective.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	2	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Emergency Operations Plan	Continue to implement the Emergency Operations Plan, which functions as the City's manual for communication protocol in the events of disaster.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	2	Yes
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	EOC Drill	Conduct annual EOC drill or exercise to provide City personnel with the opportunity to practice their responsibilities during an emergency.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund; Los Angeles County Funds for Personnel	Annually each fall	4	Yes
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Issuing Special-Purpose Bonds	Issue resilience/green infrastructure bonds or other special-purpose financial instruments.	Finance	City of West Hollywood General Fund and financial markets	New; initial survey to take place within one year after approval.	2	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Public-Private Partnerships	Pursue public-private partnerships for resilience funding, especially in industrial areas or with new development.	Finance	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	New and subsequently ongoing.	2	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Back-up generators	Provide back-up generators for critical facilities and schools	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Not started; completion within one year	1	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	City Employee Disaster Training	Provide training to all City employees on their roles and responsibilities in times of disasters and local emergencies. Training should include comprehensive and realistic disaster exercises, and cross-training for multiple potential roles should be considered.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	3	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Earthquake Preparedness Drills	Conduct emergency preparedness and response drills for mock major earthquake events-the natural hazards with the greatest potential for injury, life loss, property damage and service interruptions. Drills should test disaster response systems and communication protocols. When preparing the drills, consider the wide range of potential risks associated with critical facilities and vulnerabilities. Include City officials, utility providers, emergency response stakeholders and representatives of vulnerable facilities.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	4	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Mutual Aid Agreement Participation	Continue to participate in Statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreements and local automatic aid agreements related to emergency response.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	2	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Funding Options for Hazards Mitigation	Conduct survey of disaster risk reduction and adaptation funding options for the City. Options could include special taxing districts, private/philanthropic sources, and others.	Public Safety, Community Development	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Initial survey and report within two years after approval.	1	No
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Program Cycle Management and Data Collection for Disaster Risk Reduction	Collect data and develop program methodology to adaptively manage hazard mitigation through examination of hazard events.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Every 5 years; first review within two years of plan approval, subsequent reviews to precede LHMP updates.	1	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure, Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Resilience Centers	Supply cooling centers with refrigerators for storing medicine, backup water supplies, and social services information in multiple languages. Establish locations to provide disaster planning assistance and backup supplies and power sources. Backup power and outlets for personal device charging.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	1	No
All Hazards	Environment	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Green Space Networks	Green space networks: Promote the development to a network of green spaces throughout the City, prioritizing areas with low park access.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing	2	No
All Hazards	Environment, Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Sponge City Infrastructure - Normalize Water Cycle Flows	Use "sponge city" concepts to increase water flow and reduce undesired retention (i.e., flooding) to work with water cycle and retain water where desired.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	New; emphasis on water flow to be mainstreamed into city contract consideration.	3	No
All Hazards	Environment, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Environmental and Open-space Grants	Pursue environmental and open-space grants on federal and state level for at-risk parcels to fire, flood, and other hazards.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing	2	No
All Hazards	Environment, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Green Streets Program	Develop a green streets program to support a sustainable approach to stormwater, drainage, groundwater recharge, and landscaping and incorporate green streets standards and guidelines in all streetscape improvements.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund/CalTrans & FHWA grants	Within one year after approval.	2	Yes
All Hazards	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Adoption of new City building codes	Adoption of new City building code approximately every three years: Includes updating seismic and structural requirements. Electrification efforts should include language on hardening grid and power systems as well as promoting resilience to disasters and distributed energy generation (solar, etc.).	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Every 3 years.	2	Yes

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Code Enforcement	Enforce all applicable and current building & land use codes and ordinances. Adopt and develop new codes and standards that provide protection beyond minimum standards. Develop partnerships with business community to develop and maintain businesses with emphasis on pre-mitigation practices. Continue efforts to ensure that Critical facilities meet minimum building code standards for seismic and critical events. The overall goal is to minimize deaths and injuries that could be caused by the impact from a disaster.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing	2	Yes
All Hazards	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Community Insurance Promotion	Promote uptake of disaster insurance; consider community-embedded insurance or other new disaster insurance models.	Finance	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within one year after approval	2	No
All Hazards	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Leverage Development for Resilience Investment	Require developers to implement resilience measures through impact fees, tax increment financing, or other mechanisms.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within one year after approval.	2	No
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure e	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Bicycles As Alternate Transportation in Emergencies	Establish alternative means of transportation for personnel and light-duty supplies when roads are blocked due to debris and/or fuel is unavailable due to interrupted deliveries. Bicycles are employed worldwide for this purpose as they can maneuver around obstacles, require no fuel, and can carry large bags; the rider can also shoulder a backpack. The emergency services and critical city staff should have access to bicycles that can be rapidly loaded with emergency supplies.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within several months after approval	3	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Emergency Response Vehicle Traffic Control	Develop the specifications and designs for an emergency response vehicle-operated traffic control system.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within one year after approval	2	No
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Evacuation Routes	Continue to study and monitor the conditions of existing evacuation routes with particular attention to traffic conditions to incorporate a range of emergency scenarios including differences in hazard types, locations, and timing. Consider collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions for hazard scenarios that may cause regional evacuation.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund; other jurisdictional funding	Within two years after approval.	2	No
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Hazard Recovery Program Database	Develop a repository of resources or case studies on relevant hazard recovery programs that could allow for nimble emergency ordinances, facilitate speedy recovery, and increase resilience for vulnerable populations.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within three months after approval	1	No
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Update and Maintain Geographic Information System (GIS) Program Capability	Update and maintain City Geographic Information System (GIS) capacity and ensure coordination between planning, public safety, and emergency management.	Information Technology	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually and ongoing as needed.	4	Yes
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Urban Art Program Emergency Response Plan Development	Develop an Emergency Response Plan for the Urban Art Program to ensure the safe handling and restoration of City-owned public artworks, and pursue grants on federal, state, and regional levels.		City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within six months of approval	3	No
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Annual Fire Department Structural Inspections	Personnel annually inspect each structure in the City.	Los Angeles County Fire Department	Los Angeles County	Annually, began in 1984	3	Yes

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Public WiFi Power Backup	Ensure battery backup at critical city facilities, including parks.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Evaluation complete within one year of approval.	1	Yes
All Hazards	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Road Repair and Enhancement	Repave roadways, fix broken and damaged sidewalks, upgrade traffic signal equipment, install ADA ramps at the corners of streets, add landscaped medians and storm drain catch basins at locations. When possible and deemed necessary, or during regular road maintenance, upgrade existing roads to meet minimum road widths, surface, grade, radius, and turnarounds to ensure emergency vehicle access is possible.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing as required.	2	Yes
All Hazards	Population	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Financial Resources Post-Disaster	Public awareness to have cash on hand in case of disaster; develop methods to deliver cash to survivors in a timely fashion.	Public Safety, Communications	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; campaign within one year after approval and then ongoing.	4	No
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Continuation of Public Education Campaign “Live, Work, Play, Be Safe”	Used to address community emergency preparedness.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Completed Creation of Materials, Outreach Ongoing	4	Yes
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Disaster Kit Distribution	Work with local places of worship and local non-profits to create disaster kits for lower-income residents. This should include disaster supplies and guidance on how to collect and store important documents.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	3	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Encourage and Promote Community Networks and Groups	Support programs such as Neighborhood Watch Organizations to build and train teams of community residents, leaders, and stakeholders to assist with emergency response and first aid. Make use of existing community networks to enlist participants.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing; greater emphasis on extreme weather resilience with subsequent updates to program	3	No
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Know Your Neighbor Program	Coordinate a Know Your Neighbor Program where community leaders and neighbors provide resources and check in on vulnerable populations during hazard events where people shelter at home.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	3	No
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Regular Needs Assessment	Regularly meet with community leaders that represent special needs populations to maintain continuous two-way communication. This should include surveys and other needs assessments to refine notification and response policies.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Varies but at least bi-annually	2	Yes
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Vulnerable Population Registry	Develop a voluntary vulnerable population registry and subsequent priority list to help first responders better provide services and meet the needs of those most in need.	Public Safety, Communications	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within one year after approval.	3	No
All Hazards	Population, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 1: Emergency Response	Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Campaigns	Implement public education campaigns for residents and businesses about appropriate emergency preparedness measures and what to do in the event of a disaster. Develop special themes and topics to increase awareness of hazards.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	2	No
Cyberattack	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	City-wide Cybersecurity Strategy	Update and implement citywide cyber-security strategy and operational plan to identify threats and vulnerabilities to all cyber systems (including , communications, signals, corporate data, security networks), and put operational plans in place to mitigate those threats and reduce vulnerabilities.	Information Technology	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within one year after approval.	1	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Cyberattack	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Citywide Cybersecurity Awareness Program	Risk reduction through employee education via training and awareness initiatives including classroom, computer-based training courses, anti-phishing simulation testing and training, various media initiatives, and role-based training for users with privileged access.	Information Technology	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing as new employees are onboarded and annually for all existing employees.	2	No
Cyberattack	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	IT Recovery Plan	Create, distribute, and implement a recovery plan to ensure continuity of IT operations in the event of a disaster.	Information Technology	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Plan to be revised annually.	1	No
Cyberattack	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Simulated Cyberattacks to Understand Vulnerability	Simulate cyberattacks including using "black-hat" intruders to understand and address cyber-vulnerabilities.	Information Technology	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Undetermined but at least annually	3	No
Cyberattack	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Update Authentication Methods for IT Access	Revise and update access to City networks.	Information Technology	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Quarterly	2	Np
Drought	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Incentives for Water-saving Appliances	Provide incentives for households and businesses to install water-saving appliances.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	Ongoing; annual reevaluation for additional opportunities.	3	No
Drought	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Incentives for Water-saving Landscaping and Xeriscaping	Provide incentives for households and businesses to install water-saving landscaping, including xeriscaping.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	Ongoing; annual reevaluation for additional opportunities.	3	No
Drought	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Water Recycling for Non-Potable Uses	Use of greywater or recycled water for non-drinking water uses wherever possible.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing; annual reevaluation for additional opportunities.	3	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Earthquake	Critical Infrastructure, Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Earthquake Insurance for All City Facilities	Secure earthquake insurance for all City facilities.	Finance	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Renew and reevaluate yearly.	1	Yes
Earthquake	Critical Infrastructure, Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Require Geotechnical Investigations for Relevant Projects	Require geotechnical investigations by certified engineering geologist or other qualified professionals for all grading and construction projects subject to geologic hazards, including fault rupture, severe ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, and collapsible or expansive soils. Particular attention should be paid to areas within Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	Ongoing	3	No
Earthquake	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Fault Rupture Hazard Studies	Required for sites located within the City-defined Fault Precaution Zone	Community Development, in coordination with private developers	Private Funding (developers pay cost)	As needed	3	Yes
Earthquake	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Earthquake Code Compliance	Require all construction to be in conformance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and the California Building Code (CBC), and to be consistent with the Municipal Code as it provides for earthquake resistant design, excavation, and grading.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing	3	No
Earthquake	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	New Development Seismic Standards	Evaluate and update seismic standards for all new development based on best practices and needs.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Every 3 years	2	No
Epidemic/Pandemic	Population	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Pandemic Planning and COVID-19 Response Report	Review pandemic response and history and proactively plan based on lessons learned for future pandemics. Develop report with successes and lessons learned,	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within one year after approval.	3	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Epidemic/Pandemic	Population	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Storage and Maintenance	Maintain store of usable PPE in case of pandemic event.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within six months of approval	3	No
Extreme Heat	Environment	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Street Tree Planting	Prioritize tree planting from approved street tree list based on the existing tree canopy and the population's vulnerability to extreme heat. Where possible, integrate shade trees with bike and pedestrian infrastructure.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing as planting is necessary	3	No
Extreme Heat	Environment, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Cool/Green/White Roofs	Explore the feasibility of incentivizing cool and/or green roofs for existing residential and existing/new commercial, industrial, institutional, and similar structures in the City. Develop user-friendly standards that clearly explain the process and requirements for incorporating cool roof systems in the City and train all relevant personnel in processes and requirements. Consider developing and implementing a white roof project, modeled after New York City's in the communities most highly burdened by heat island impacts.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	New; within one year after approval.	2	No
Extreme Heat	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Update Code to Require Air Conditioning	Require air conditioning in all rental units.	Community Development (Planning)	Private Funding (developers pay cost)	Subsequent to City Council action	2	No
Extreme Heat	Population	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Public Education Programs	Develop public education programs for what to do during extreme heat events and how to stay safe and hydrated.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within six months after approval.	2	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Extreme Heat	Population, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Cooling Centers	Develop and expand designated network of cooling centers for use during extreme heat events. Cooling centers should remain open late into the evening when the temperature remains high.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing; evaluation to be completed within one year after approval.	1	No
Extreme Heat	Population, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Generator Backup for Air Conditioning Systems in Cooling Centers and Backup City Facilities	Ensure generator backup for air conditioning systems exists for all cooling centers and City facilities that might be used as backup cooling centers.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Complete within one year of approval.	1	No
Flood	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Flood Infrastructure and Drainage Projects In Conjunction with Road Construction / Expansion	For all future road or pavement expansion or construction, integrate flood control infrastructure and where possible nature-based solutions (swales, etc.)	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund/CalTrans & FHWA grants	Ongoing through projects as completed.	3	No
Flood	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Promote Permeable Surfaces and Water Flow	Design new developments with water retention structures and permeable surfaces to minimize flooding of the surface drainage system by peak flows. Consider the potential for larger-scale capture via diversion to large-scale spreading grounds or other options on a site-by-site basis.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	Ongoing; update to standards based on current best practices within two years after approval.	3	No
Flood	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Sewer Root Control	Annually treat approximately 20% of the citywide sewer system with herbicide to retard tree root intrusion. This prevents sewer blockages and overflows which are a health and safety emergency.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually each June, began in 1995.	4	Yes

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Flood	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Update Engineering Standards considering Climate Change and More Extreme Rainfall	Update engineering standards for water infrastructure to handle increased stress from extreme weather and climate events.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within two years after approval.	3	No
Flood	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Drain Maintenance and Clearance	Maintain routine maintenance of down and bench drains in and around residential and commercial areas to avoid accumulation of debris which could lead to dangerous and destructive flooding.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing; to continue through life of LHMP.	3	No
Hazardous Materials	Environment, Population	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Spill Control Packages in City Vehicles	Allows for faster clean-up to protect the citizens and environment.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within six months after approval.	3	No
Hazardous Materials	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Hazardous Materials User Inventory	Identify hazardous material users and generators within the City using field surveys, inspection programs, and licensing requirements.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within one year after approval.	2	No
Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding	Critical Infrastructure, Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Storm Drain Master Plan update & review	Review and update stormwater plans; communicate recommendations to planning and emergency management departments	Public works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually.	2	No
Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding	Critical Infrastructure, Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Stormwater Infrastructure as part of capital improvement updates	Update stormwater infrastructure as identified in City's capital improvement program.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing; continue to support implementation of stormwater program.	2	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Power Outages	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Storm Hardening to Prevent Power Outages	Storm hardening for critical power and utility facilities	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; to be completed within two years after approval	1	No
Power Outages	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Microgrids and Redundancy Structuring	Isolate partial outages to smallest areas possible	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; outreach to utilities would begin shortly after approval.	2	No
Power Outages	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Renewable Energy for Power Outages	Renewable energy for City infrastructure to reduce dependence on grid and susceptibility to broader power outages.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Formal program to be established within one year after approval.	3	No
Power Outages	Critical Infrastructure, Non-Critical Infrastructure, Population	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Power Capacity Adjustment for High-Risk Heat Days	Explore capacity of adjusting power capacity and redundancy during extreme heat events to increase capacity of grid to run air conditioning.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	New; within one year after approval.	2	No
Power Outages	Changes In Development Since Last Approved Plan, Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Encourage New Construction and Retrofit Consideration of Cooling Without Power	Encourage new construction to include porches, openable windows, and other structural methods to allow cooling without power. Explore a retrofit program to do the same for existing buildings.	Community Development (Planning)	City of West Hollywood General Fund and private developers	New	4	No
Severe Wind	Environment	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Windstorm Preparedness	Maintain local City and utility awareness of tree pruning and code sections relevant to wind-resistant utility operations.	Public Works	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Ongoing; will continue annually.	4	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Terrorism	Impacts on Vulnerable Populations	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Business Emergency Alert and Communications	Explore systems to notify law enforcement and neighboring businesses in case of terrorist event in locations such as LGBTQ+ bars.	Public Safety, Sheriff's Department	City of West Hollywood General Fund; Los Angeles County Funds for Personnel	Within six months of approval	2	No
Terrorism	Impacts on Vulnerable Populations	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Emergency Planning for Events	Regularly update standard operating procedures for potential terrorist or active assailant events.	Public Safety, Sheriff's Department	City of West Hollywood General Fund; Los Angeles County Funds for Personnel	Already existing; updates within six months of approval.	1	No
Terrorism	Impacts on Vulnerable Populations	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Improved Predictive Threat Methods	Software-based analysis to understand both potential events and potential perpetrators.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Unknown; requires evaluation of appropriate software and execution of contracts	2	No
Terrorism	Impacts on Vulnerable Populations	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Professional Mental Health Programs and Early Identification	Establish and promote mental health and anti-bullying programs to reduce chance of event by individuals suffering from mental illness.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within one year after approval; then ongoing.	2	No
Terrorism	Impacts on Vulnerable Populations	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Socialize Lockdown Protocols	Socialize lockdown protocols for businesses in case of terrorist event to isolate extent of event.	Public Safety, Sheriff's Department	City of West Hollywood General Fund; Los Angeles County Funds for Personnel	Within one year after approval; then ongoing.	1	No
Terrorism	Non-Critical Infrastructure	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Advertised First Aid Caches around City	Locate first aid caches around the City, especially at public gathering places, to reduce time immediate medical care could be given during an event	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within three months after approval	1	No

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Responsible Department	Funding Source	Timeframe	Priority Ranking	In 2018 Plan?
Wildfire	Non-Critical Infrastructure, Population, Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Adequate Fire Personnel, Resources and Equipment for Both Regular Events and Major Disasters	Work with L.A. Fire Department to ensure adequate resources and personnel to support West Hollywood. Develop and strengthen plans such as CWPP with Los Angeles City & County and neighboring communities.	Public Safety, Los Angeles County Fire Department	City of West Hollywood General Fund; Los Angeles County Funds for Personnel	Ongoing for cooperation; within 2 years for CWPP and other specific plans.	2	Yes
Wildfire	Population, Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Analysis of Smoke Impacts and Mitigation	Conduct analysis of smoke impacts, trajectory, and best mitigation methods.	Los Angeles County Fire Department	City of West Hollywood General Fund; Los Angeles County Funds for Personnel	Within one year after approval	2	No
Wildfire	Population, Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Fire Safety Education and Partnership Programs	Develop new and expand existing public fire safety education programs and partnerships.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Annually	3	No
Wildfire	Population, Changes in Development Since Last Approved Plan, Impacts on Vulnerable Populations	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	Provide Air Filters to Low-Income Residents	Provide air filtration equipment to lower-income residents at low or no charge.	Public Safety	City of West Hollywood General Fund	Within one year after approval; then ongoing.	1	No

6.4 Status of Prior Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action/Project	Hazards Mitigated	Responsible Department	Status
West Hollywood Emergency Management Plan: Updated as appropriate to reflect current conditions in the city and prepare for expected future growth.	All Hazards	Public Safety (Emergency Preparedness Coordinator)	Continuing
Adoption of new City building code approximately every three years: Includes updating seismic and structural requirements.	All Hazards	Community Development (Building and Safety, Planning)	Continuing
General Plan: Reviews ground surface and shaking, seismically induced hazards, mudslides, landslides, expansive soils and rocks, collapsible soils, ground subsidence, flood and inundation, urban fires, building inventory, emergency response, and post-disaster recovery.	All Hazards	Community Development (Planning)	Continuing
Community Forums for Sheriff/Fire Services Assessment and Community Engagement: Communication forums between police and fire department staff and the community to obtain community feedback regarding service, service needs and, to engage the community in crime prevention.	All Hazards	Public Safety Department	Continuing
Public Safety Education: Host public education programs to enhance public safety about fire safety and crime prevention as well as emergency preparedness	All Hazards	Public Safety Department	Continuing
Sunset Boulevard Reconstruction: Repave roadway, fix broken and damaged sidewalks, upgrade traffic signal equipment, install ADA ramps at the corners of streets, add landscaped medians and storm drain catch basins at locations	All Hazards	Public Works	Complete
Employee Emergency Notification System: Contract with Alert First for a Community Alerting Emergency Notification System and Continue Coordination with County's Emergency Alert system.	All Hazards	Public Safety and Communications (Public Information Officer)	Continuing
Advanced License Plate Recognition (ALPR) camera system: ALPR camera system installed to expand intelligence gathering capabilities, prevent crime and collect evidence.	All Hazards	Public Safety and Sheriff's Department	Continuing

Mitigation Action/Project	Hazards Mitigated	Responsible Department	Status
SafeCity GIS for EOC: Purchased GIS project with EOC to accurately track incidents and their related responses.	All Hazards	Public Safety and Information Technology Division	Continuing
Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction: Complete removal and replacement of three miles of roadway, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, traffic signals, and utility (storm drain and sewer) rehabilitation. This includes pedestrian visibility enhancements (roadway markings and signage; bicycle lane; traffic signal synchronization; and pavement repairs).	All Hazards	Public Works (Facilities Division)	Complete
Continuation of Public Education Campaign "Live, Work, Play, Be Safe": Used to address community emergency preparedness.	All Hazards, with focus on Earthquakes	Public Safety	Continuing
Traffic Signal Battery Back-up: Installed battery back-up systems for traffic signals at eight major intersections and adding an additional 20 in 2014. Under power failure conditions, the traffic signals will continue to operate, rather than go black.	All Hazards	Public Works	Complete
Traffic signal Preemption for Sheriff's Station: Installed pre-emption push button system at the Sheriff's Station to enable the officers to control traffic at the Santa Monica/San Vicente intersection and at the Santa Monica/PDC Road intersection during times of emergency.	All Hazards	Public Works coordinates with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	Complete
Annual Fire Department Structural Inspections: Personnel from Fire Stations 7 & 8 annually inspect each structure in the City.	All Hazards	Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Captain 7 and Fire Captain 8	Continuing
Sidewalk Repair Program: Annually have a staff person walk every sidewalk in the City to identify locations needing repairs to prevent trip/fall hazards and contract the repairs.	All Hazards	Public Works (City Engineer oversees inspection and Urban Forest & Landscape Maintenance Supervisor oversees repairs)	Continuing
New Facility for City Hall: The City purchased and constructed a new City Hall which included several seismic upgrades and installation of an Emergency Operation Center.	All Hazards	Public Works (Facilities Division)	Complete

Mitigation Action/Project	Hazards Mitigated	Responsible Department	Status
Employee Emergency Backpacks: All employees are issued an emergency backpack and supplies are restocked annually.	All Hazards	Public Safety (Emergency Management Coordinator)	Continuing
Area Monitors: Several staff act as Area Monitors in City Hall to assist with employee preparedness, including conducting monthly fire extinguisher checks, maintaining employee lists, practicing evacuations, and assisting the Public Safety Department with other preparedness and response activities.	All Hazards	Public Safety (Emergency Management Coordinator)	Continuing
CERT Program: City coordinates with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to offer CERT training and courses for residents	All Hazards	Public Safety (Administrative Analyst)	Continuing
EOC Drill: Conduct annual EOC drill or exercise to provide City staff with the opportunity to practice their responsibilities during an emergency	All Hazards	Public Safety	Continuing
Mandatory NIMS/SEMS Refresher: Conduct refresher trainings annually for all City staff on NIMS and SEMS	All Hazards	Public Safety	Continuing
New Development Seismic Standards: Evaluate and update seismic standards for all new development based on best practices and needs.	Earthquakes	Community Development (Planning, Building and Safety), Public Works (Engineering)	Continuing
Building and Infrastructure Seismic Retrofits: Evaluate and update the City's existing building stock and infrastructure seismic retrofit program for orderly and effective identification of vulnerable buildings/infrastructure, outreach, education, support and enforcement.	Earthquakes	Community Development (Planning, Building and Safety), Public Works (Engineering)	Continuing

Mitigation Action/Project	Hazards Mitigated	Responsible Department	Status
Earthquake Insurance for City Hall: The City has secured earthquake insurance coverage for City Hall.	Earthquakes	Finance (Accounting Specialist)	Complete
Unreinforced Masonry Retrofit Program: The City identified 81 URM buildings for retrofitting.	Earthquakes	Community Development (Building & Safety)	Complete
Fault Rupture Hazard Studies: Required for sites located within the City-defined Fault Precaution Zone	Earthquakes	Community Development, in coordination with private developers	Continuing
Participation in Great California Shakeout Drill: Annually, participate in the Great California Shakeout Drill at City Hall and provide prizes for participation	Earthquakes	Public Safety	Continuing
Holly Hills Storm Drain: Construction of a regional County Flood Control Facility (Storm Drain) to eliminate the FEMA designated AO Flood Hazard Zone. This regional project has been constructed in 8 phases. Phases #5, 6, 7 & 8 directly benefit the City of West Hollywood. Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 were to the south of the City in Los Angeles.	Flooding	Public Works	Complete
Sewer Root Control: Annually treat approximately 20% of the citywide sewer system with herbicide to retard tree root intrusion. This prevents sewer blockages and overflows which are a health and safety emergency.	Flooding	Public Works (Engineering Division)	Continuing
Pitch & Purge: The City Clerk conducts an employee “Pitch and Purge Day” where non-structural hazards are mitigated, and non-essential items are disposed of or recycled.	Earthquake, Fire, Flood	City Clerk (Records Management Specialist) and Public Works (Facilities Division)	Continuing
City Hall Roof Repair: Repair and replacement of sections of the roof of City Hall	Earthquake, Flooding, Winds	Public Works	Complete
Tree Trimming: City street trees are pruned once every four years in residential areas and annually along commercial streets. In addition, trees in need of additional care are addressed by “service requests”.	Fire, Winds, Landslides	Public Works (Urban Forest & Landscape Maintenance Supervisor)	Continuing

Previous mitigation projects include retrofits after the Northridge Earthquake, the renovation of Santa Monica Boulevard, the renovation of Sunset Boulevard, the update of traffic signals, and the County of Los Angeles' Holly Hills Storm Drain Project. In addition, the Public Works Department conducts annual maintenance of tree roots affecting sewers and sidewalk/infrastructure repairs.

Capital improvement projects are long-term improvement and maintenance programs designed to preserve the City's physical systems and facilities. The programs have been broad, and have included land and building acquisitions, development of off-street parking, street and sidewalk rehabilitation, sewer reconstruction, information technology systems development, public lighting projects, affordable housing development, and park acquisition and renovations. Capital improvements enhance economic development by attracting new businesses and new customers, bringing increased vitality to the City.

Capital projects may be funded from several sources, including operating capital, grants, joint agency endeavors, public/private partnerships, special district projects, and debt financing. Tax increases and special districts have historically been used to fund capital projects; however, legislation now places severe restrictions on cities abilities to raise revenues in these ways. Special taxes must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the electorate; general taxes must be approved by a majority vote of the electorate.

6.5 Actions Considered But Not Included

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Why Not Included?
Terrorism	Population	Goal 2: Reduce Hazards Impact	School and Professional Mental Health Programs and Early Identification	Establish and promote mental health and anti-bullying programs in schools and elsewhere to reduce chance of event by individuals suffering from mental illness.	More appropriate to school funding and management.
All Hazards	Critical Infrastructure	Goal 3: Maximize Resources	Designate Hazard Mitigation Coordinator to Drive LHMP Implementation	Designate a Hazards Mitigation Coordinator to oversee LHMP implementation.	Long-standing role in city government.
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Hazard Mitigation & Climate Adaptation School Clubs	Can include activities such as developing hazard and capacity maps of school grounds or neighborhoods.	More appropriate to school funding and management.

Hazard	Vulnerability	Goal	Action	Description	Why Not Included?
All Hazards	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Outreach to Local Schools	Work with local schools to create age-appropriate preparedness classes.	More appropriate to school funding and management.
Wildfire	Population	Goal 4: Public Understanding	Fire Safety Education Programs	Develop new and expand existing public fire safety education programs.	More appropriate to partner fire department.

The Planning Team considered a range of actions, and the City has chosen to put forward an extremely comprehensive and broad-based mitigation strategy that focuses on infrastructure but does not neglect the human needs of the City. The City's view of resilience is that it cannot focus solely on the built environment or physical infrastructure. Human systems are as important to hazard mitigation, especially in light of increasing extreme weather events and other threats.

During the course of mitigation action development, several actions were identified that, while worthy of implementation, were felt more appropriate to other funding sources or governmental entities. These actions are listed above.

6.6 Mitigation Prioritization and Implementation

Mitigation actions were prioritized and ranked on a scale from 1-4, 1 being a priority for most immediate implementation and 4 being determined to have the least need for immediate implementation. Please note that this ranking is not a ranking of the overall worth of an action – merely of prioritization over time and actions that may serve as a foundation for other actions to build upon.

The following factors were considered when prioritizing mitigation projects:

- Hazards mitigated
- Political or community support
- Cost
- Effect on overall risk to life and property,
- Ability and practicality of immediate implementation
- Whether an action would be foundational to other actions
- Other issues.

As previously stated, although City Staff make recommendations to the West Hollywood City Council regarding prioritization and funding of future projects, the decision lies ultimately with the Councilmembers to fund and implement each mitigation project, because City Council approves the two year budget. The public has the opportunity to speak about planned mitigation projects

during public hearings, the budget approval process, or City Council meetings. Therefore, while these priority rankings are useful for planning, they may have little ultimate relation to what the City Council chooses to do.

Evaluating the proposed projects will be done by each responsible department by surveying City staff assigned and members of the public, reviewing citizen complaints and public safety records, and conducting a cost analysis. In leaner budget years, some projects may lack funding, but staff will continue to identify potential funding streams as well as to set priorities based on a needs assessment in addition to the costs and benefits.

Capital Improvement Projects

As discussed earlier, capital projects are long-term improvement and maintenance programs designed to preserve the City's physical systems and facilities. Most of West Hollywood's capital improvement projects also address mitigation issues. The following information is provided as a supplement to the official mitigation projects above.

Capital Improvement Projects are rated according to the following priority levels:

- Priority 1: The project is urgent and/or mandated and must be completed quickly. Failure to address the project will impact the health, safety, or welfare of the community, or have a significant impact on the financial well-being of the City. The project must be initiated, or financial/opportunity losses will result.
- Priority 2: The project is important and addressing it is necessary. The project impacts safety, law enforcement, health, welfare, economic base, and/or the quality of life in the community.
- Priority 3: The project would enhance the quality of life and would provide a benefit to the community. Completion of the project would improve the community providing cultural, recreational, and/or aesthetic effects.
- Priority 4: The project would be an improvement to the community but need not be completed within a five-year capital improvement program.

The ability of the City to raise revenues is limited; programs and projects compete for resources, so it is important to have a clear understanding of the City's capital needs, and imperative to strive to maintain a reasonable capital funding level which ensures the preservation of facilities and infrastructure. The cost/benefit analysis of these projects is conducted by the City's finance department which reviews prior insurance claims, estimates of planned work and staff time, and the predicted financial benefit of completed projects.

Other mitigation projects are rated in a similar manner to the City's capital improvement projects. Future mitigation projects are dependent on the following factors: availability of funding; availability of personnel; consistency with the capital improvement project schedule; and the project's ability to mitigate an immediate hazard.

Existing mitigation and capital improvement projects are possible due to identified funding and personnel to appropriately manage each project. The mitigation projects listed in the previous charts have been funded by various resources, including federal funding, state funding, county

funding, and local taxes. Existing mitigation projects are dependent on the following factors: availability of funding; availability of personnel; consistency with the capital improvement project schedule; and the project's ability to mitigate an immediate hazard.

The list of mitigation action discussed in this section is meant to be as comprehensive as possible, not only to guide City actions and priorities but to enable the City to apply for FEMA funding to carry out the broadest possible array of strategies to mitigate hazards and build resilience for the City.

It is, of course, the City's prerogative to determine its own priorities and processes. But from a hazard mitigation planning perspective, there are several strategic options that are worthy of consideration.

- Municipal codes and zoning are powerful tools to drive mitigation actions by the public and by business. These regulations determine the urban form of a city, and by adding elements to require conformance to mitigation and resilience best practices, much good hazard mitigation work can be accomplished. This should be a high priority.
- In terms of infrastructure, piggybacking mitigation actions through other infrastructure such as road repair and upgrades can be highly effective as well. Pavement covers a not-negligible percentage of any community and can be modified and enhanced to deliver a variety of benefits.
- Along those lines, actions that can deliver tangible climate adaptation benefits should be prioritized as well. Climate impacts are accelerating to the point that extreme weather is visible to most people. During the development of this plan, many of the interviewees throughout various City departments reported that the weather was different in one way or another from even a few years ago, and that it was beginning to have impacts on day-to-day operations. One textbook describes climate adaptation as "hazard mitigation ten years in the future". That view is a useful one to drive action.
- The community needs to be engaged at every level. The City may not always be the first in line to support them in a disaster – and in a contract city such as West Hollywood, that may be truer than in other places. Community awareness, both at the individual and group levels, can and should be nurtured. The City's extraordinarily flexible and effective response to COVID-19, reassigning people to fill new needs that no one could have foreseen, should be fostered not only within City government but across the City.
- Finally, hazard mitigation can be expensive. A variety of funding sources, both public and private, should be pursued, and the City should take advantage of favorable financial conditions when available to fund efforts. Insurance is becoming an issue across California, and the City should proactively begin looking into new and innovative models of insurance to protect its citizens before the insurance companies, wary of the growing cost of climate-fueled events, forces it to act.

SECTION 7 – PLANNING PROCESS

Element A Requirements
A1. Does the plan document the planning process, including how it was prepared and who was involved in the process for each jurisdiction? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(1))
A2. Does the plan document an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia, and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(b)(2))
A3. Does the plan document how the public was involved in the planning process during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(b)(1))
A4. Does the plan describe the review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(b)(3))

7.1 Planning Process

This LHMP (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) is designed to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and to ensure that the City is eligible for all appropriate benefits under state and federal law and practices. The LHMP planning process considers natural and human-caused hazards facing the City, making sure that all federal and state requirements are met and supporting HMP review. The LHMP planning team gathered information from a variety of sources, including participating municipal and county agencies, local organizations and utilities, federal and state agencies, and residents of the City. They solicited information from individuals with specific knowledge of natural hazards, historical events, planning and zoning codes, and recent planning decisions affecting hazard mitigation. The natural hazard mitigation strategies were developed through an extensive planning process involving City agencies/officials and City residents.

The planning area consists of the entire area within West Hollywood city limits.. The risk assessment for this hazard mitigation plan was performed for the entire planning area.

As listed on page 4 of the 2024 LHMP Update, the Planning Team consisted of:

City Councilmembers

John Erickson, Mayor
Chelsea Lee Byers, Vice-Mayor

John Heilman, Councilmember
Lauren Meister, Councilmember
Sepi Shyne, Councilmember

Public Safety Commissioners

Tod Hallman, Chair
Brandon Blau
Adam Eramian
Joy Freiberg
Bill Harrison
George Nickle

City Manager

David Wilson

Community Safety Department

Danny Rivas, Director of Community Safety
Margarita Kustanovich, Emergency Management Coordinator

Jacob Green and Associates

Patrick Marchman, AICP, SCR, Project Manager
Raymond Cheung, Director of Emergency Management

All members with the exception of Jacob Green and Associates are affiliated with the City of West Hollywood. The day-to-day Planning Team consisted of Mr. Rivas and Ms. Kustanovich in close cooperation with Jacob Green & Associates. Team members were in close contact throughout the process, with several dedicated meetings in addition to bi-weekly standing meetings to ensure continued coordination taking place.

The City of West Hollywood's Hazard Mitigation Plan was created as a joint effort with City staff, Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's departments, other cities' emergency preparedness staff, and the public. The Planning Team invited staff from other City departments to participate in updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan via email and through a series of meetings. These City departments included Community Development (Building and Safety, Transportation, Planning), Public Works (Code Compliance), Rent Stabilization and Housing, Human Services (Facilities/Landscape/Maintenance, Social Services, and Parks and Recreation), Economic Development, and Finance and Information Systems. The Planning Team also surveyed each division of the City of West Hollywood to discuss past, current, and future mitigation activities via email and in person. The Planning Team incorporated this information from other City departments and divisions into the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In addition, the West Hollywood Emergency Management Coordinator collaborated with counterparts at other Disaster Management Area A cities (Beverly Hills, Culver City, and Santa Monica) to share information via phone and in-person meetings. The three cities represent

neighboring communities of West Hollywood. These counterparts wrote and continue to update the Hazard Mitigation Plans for the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City and Santa Monica. The Planning Team incorporated information gained from this outreach throughout the preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard mitigation planning must include review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information (44 CFR Section 201.6.b(3)). Information from the following plans, studies, reports, and technical information is incorporated as appropriate into the mitigation plan.

The Planning Team reviewed several existing City documents and policies to gather Information for the plan.

Plan / Documents	Description
2018 West Hollywood Hazard Mitigation Plan	The 2018 Plan was reviewed for descriptions of hazards and mitigation actions as well as general context.
City of West Hollywood Municipal Code Title 13: Building Code	The City's Municipal Code was reviewed for information relating to capabilities assessments and potential mitigation actions
City Critical Facilities List	This was the basis for the critical facilities list included in the LHMP
City of West Hollywood Climate Action and Adaptation Plan	The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan was reviewed for context of climate hazards and potential adaptation actions.
Los Angeles Hazard Mitigation Plan	The Los Angeles Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed for planning consistency and augmented event history for hazards that extend beyond West Hollywood city limits, such as drought and severe weather.
City of West Hollywood General Plan 2035 and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	General Plan information was referred to in developing the overall community.
City of West Hollywood Emergency Plan	The Emergency Plan was reviewed for information related to response to the assessed natural hazards.
California State Hazard Mitigation Plan	The State Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed for recent updates on state-wide hazard events and hazard information.
California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment	The Assessment was reviewed for specific information on future hazards, with portions included verbatim in this Plan.

Other external resources utilized included maps, histories of California hazards, as well as other city and county hazard mitigation plans. The information gathered from these documents was incorporated into the introduction, the risk assessment, and the mitigation strategies sections of this plan.

A planning meeting was held in advance of the scheduled plan update. At this meeting, members of the planning team outlined and assigned all of the necessary tasks for updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Afterwards, individual follow-up meetings/phone calls were used to complete subsequent edits. Precise documentation of the initial planning team meeting is unavailable, but the process was similar to previous Hazard Mitigation Plan updates.

7.2 Plan Update

Element E: Plan Update Requirements
E1. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in development? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(d)(3))
E2. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in priorities and progress in local mitigation efforts? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(d)(3))

The City of West Hollywood's first hazard mitigation plan was developed in 2004, and subsequently updated in 2010, 2015 and 2018. The Plan grew in depth and utility with each iteration. This update uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Southern California Area Governments to examine the impact of development changes on the residents of the City, with particular attention to renters and lower-income residents. Further information on development patterns can be found in Section 2.

This update to the City's LHMP is a more comprehensive update than previous versions. It expands the scope of the LHMP to reflect new FEMA guidance as of April 2023.

- This LHMP update incorporates climate impacts into every relevant hazard to add a new depth to descriptions as well as into mitigation action to encourage adaptation to climate change.
- This update also weaves equity throughout the plan, centering where appropriate vulnerable populations.

7.3 Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholders were involved at multiple stages in the plan development process. As part of the initial research and analysis setting the foundation for the Plan, documents from not only the City

of West Hollywood but also from neighboring jurisdictions as bodies were used to inform the Plan's context development.

Meetings of the core planning team were held biweekly and as otherwise required. More broadly, the following meetings were held between various City departments, the Emergency Management Coordinator, and Jacob Green & Associates, the consulting firm that produced the revised plan.

- City Manager's Office (CMD) (April 10)
    1. Christine Safriet
    2. Paolo Krespadit
- Community Development (PDS) (April 10)
    1. John Keho
    2. Jennifer Alkire
    3. Francisco Contreras
    4. Ben Galan
- Public Works (DPW) (April 12)
    1. Steve Campbell
    2. Helen Collins
    3. John Gilmour
    4. Richard Garland
- Human Services and Rent Stabilization (HSRS) (April 20)
    1. Christof Schroeder
    2. Corri Planck
    3. Jonathan Holub
    4. Leslie Isenberg
    5. Derek Murray
    6. Francisco Gomez
- Finance and Technology (FIN) (April 24)
    1. Lorena Quijano
    2. Carlos Corrales
    3. Eugene Tsipis
- Community Safety (CSWB) (May 4)
    1. Vyto Adomaitis
    2. Yessica Benitez
    3. Eugene Alper
- Administrative Services (ASD) (May 4)
    1. Janet Jimenez
    2. Melissa Crowder
    3. Nicole McClinton
- Community Services (CSD) (May 8)
    1. Yvonne Quarker
    2. Jennifer Del Toro
    3. Cleo Smith
    4. Stephanie Martinez
- Los Angeles County Sheriff and Los Angeles County Fire Department (May 9)
    1. Drew Smith
    2. Jayd Swendsaid

3. Zachary Cates
4. Sara Rathbun
5. Megan Currier
6. Jason Duron
7. Bill Moulder

- Communications (COM) (May 11)
  1. Joshua Schare
  2. Erin Taylor
  3. Sheri Lunn
  4. Jayce Simpson

City agencies working directly with business and non-governmental entities in West Hollywood, Community Services and Community Safety work on a day-to-day basis with vulnerable populations including the unhoused and the mentally ill.

- **Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities**
  - City of West Hollywood
    - City Manager's Office (CMD)
    - Community Development (PDS)
    - Public Works (DPW)
    - Human Services and Rent Stabilization (HSRS)
    - Finance and Technology (FIN)
    - Community Safety (CSWB)
    - Administrative Services (ASD)
    - Community Services (CSD)
    - Communications (COM)
  - Los Angeles County Fire Department
  - Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department

- **Agencies that have the authority to regulate development**
  - City of West Hollywood Community Development

- **Neighboring communities**
  - Neighboring local governments were contacted at several stages during the process, and copies of the initial draft LHMP were sent for review and comment to the cities of:
    - City of Beverly Hills
    - City of Culver City
    - City of Santa Monica

- **Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations**
  - Outreach took place by phone and by email to entities with both relevant knowledge and major local employers including
    - Southern California Edison
    - West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

- **Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others**
    - Attempts to solicit involvement and comment were made from the following organizations:
        - City of West Hollywood
            - Community Services
            - Community Safety
        - West Hollywood Homeless Initiative
        - Aging in Place/Aging in Community

A Hazard Vulnerability Assessment meeting to create a relative ranking of the City's hazards occurred on May 24, 2023.

Upon completion of the initial draft, a copy of the Plan was made available for review on the City's website. Public comment was invited, as well as further comment from several communities that work closely with West Hollywood to enhance their common resilience from disasters. These communities included:

- City of Beverly Hills
- City of Culver City
- City of Santa Monica

7.4 Public Involvement

The City of West Hollywood provided members of the public several opportunities to participate in the planning, design, and review phases of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Public input and discussion were possible during staff presentations and also during "public comment" at various Public Safety Commission and City Council meetings. The agenda for each Public Safety Commission and City Council meeting is posted inside and outside of City Hall and posted on the City website. Members of the public are given the opportunity to speak for three minutes during "public comment." Members of the Public Safety Commission and Council members are given unlimited time to speak during the item or during Commissioner/Council member comments. In addition, members of the public, Commissioners, and Council members were given the opportunity to provide staff with recommendations both verbally and via e-mail.

Public outreach for input on the Plan took place in several ways.

- An email blast went out to an email list maintained by the City for communication with residents (approximately 4,000 addresses) informing recipients about the upcoming public meetings and survey availability. An advertisement was also placed with the Beverly Press/Park LaBrea News, the major local news outlet for West Hollywood, and notices were also placed on City social media.

- A survey in English, Spanish and Russian was made available on the City's website through July 31, 2023, allowing residents to comment on their views of hazards impacting the City and actions to be taken to mitigate them.
- An in-person public meeting was held in the Aquatic and Recreation Center on June 28, 2023. Public comment was solicited through Kahoot, a public engagement software tool.
- A virtual meeting was held on July 13, 2023, using the same format as the in-person meeting, and allowing residents to comment remotely.
- The Draft LHMP was published to the City's website on September 8, 2023 for a two-week public comment period.

Survey results summaries are included in the Appendices to the Plan as well as notices placed in print and social media as well as the City's website.

Public involvement was influential in the development and refining of mitigation actions as well as the characterization of several hazards, most notably in reference to extreme heat and wildfire. Frequent mention was also made of potential transportation bottlenecks and related issues, and resulted in the development of additional language throughout the LHMP as well as specific mitigation actions focused on mitigating those issues. Overall public feedback also provided greater context to community concerns over hazard impacts beyond the 5-year LHMP planning horizon, per FEMA guidance requiring communities to consider climate impacts which by their nature extend beyond that 5-year cycle.

Outreach to identified vulnerable communities took place through both outreach to local organizations and through relevant City departments as discussed in Section 7.3, Stakeholder Involvement, as well as through direct mailings as described above. For unhoused and populations with behavioral health issues, outreach to organizations working with those populations was the only feasible method to pursue a level of engagement and involvement.

Copies of the Plan will be catalogued and made available at City Hall and West Hollywood Public Library. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized on City websites and social media. A copy of the Plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the City's website. The website will also include an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments, recommendations, and concerns.

The Hazard Mitigation Coordinator will work with stakeholders within City government to provide opportunities for the public to be involved throughout the five-year cycle, not just during the actual plan development phase. Opportunities may include piggybacking off existing public outreach meetings held by police or fire departments, booths at farmer's markets or other public events in the City, and periodic updates to City Council in public meetings.

Specific events that will be promoted as part of hazard mitigation planning public involvement will include:

- The Great California Shakeout
- National Fire Protection Association Fire Week
- City of West Hollywood Police Area Command Meeting

7.5 Plan Incorporation

The effectiveness of the Plan depends on successful implementation of the mitigation actions. This includes integrating mitigation actions into existing City plans, policies, programs, and other implementation mechanisms.

The key plans that reference or incorporate content from both this update and previous updates include:

- **West Hollywood General Plan Safety Element** (2011): This incorporated relevant mitigation mapping and analysis, ensuring that the goals and policies of the plan were reinforced throughout future developments and projects proposed within the City.
- **Climate Action and Adaptation Plan** (2021): This plan guides the City's climate response. As climate impacts and extreme weather intensify, the LHMP and the CAAP refer and amplify one another to the greatest extent possible.

Mitigation strategies are regularly reviewed through the City's existing programs, including the City General Plan review and updates, Building and Safety municipal code review and updates, transportation and public works projects, commercial and residential code compliance, housing authority programs, capital improvement plans and projects, and City Emergency Plan review and updates. Hazard identification and risk assessment is part of the development approval process. In addition, the City's "green building" ordinance is applicable to most future development.

Integration of the LHMP into other City plans and programs has been ongoing since earlier LHMP updates, most recently the 2018 update, and will continue through this update on an ongoing basis to the greatest extent possible. The chart of mitigation strategies will be reviewed at regular intervals to identify funding and to incorporate work into other City projects when possible. Commercial and Residential Code Compliance, with assistance from the Planning and Building and Safety Divisions, will look for ways to strengthen the Municipal Code and other laws to support the City's mitigation strategies. In addition, public meetings which will be used to encourage both public and private input and to adopt or incorporate mitigation projects into community outreach. The City has an active and participatory electorate.

Please see the chart on the following page for a summary of the City's existing programs and the opportunities they provide for mitigation strategy incorporation.

Local Planning Mechanisms	Issues Addressed	Responsible Department	Time Frame	Possibility for Mitigation Strategy Incorporation
General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	Identifies Hazards and Impact, Land Use, Vehicular Transportation, Housing, Environmental	Community Development	Updated in 2011	Examine Plan for Ways to Incorporate Mitigation Strategies
Planning Commission Meetings	Land Use, Development	Community Development	Twice a month	Community Input
Historic Preservation Commission Meetings	Land Use, Development	Community Development	Twice a month	Community Input
Public Safety Commission Meetings	Emergency Management, Hazard Identification	Public Safety	Once a month	Community Input
Emergency Plan	Identifies Hazards and Impact, Vulnerable Populations and Structures, Emergency Response Capabilities	Public Safety	Annual review	Examine Plan for Ways to Incorporate Mitigation Strategies
Building and Safety Codes	Development, Construction Standards	Building and Safety	Every 3 years	Strengthen Code to Support Mitigation Strategies
Municipal Code	Identifies Hazards and Impact, Land Use, Vehicular Transportation, Housing, Environmental	Various Departments (Community Development, Administrative Services, etc.)	Updated as necessary	Strengthen Code to Support Mitigation Strategies
Commercial Code Compliance	Zoning, Encroachment	Commercial Code Compliance	Updated as necessary	Enforce Code
Residential Code Compliance	Property Maintenance Standards	Residential Code Compliance	Updated as necessary	Enforce Code
Fire Department Building Inspections	Fire and Life Safety	Fire Department	Annual inspections	Enforce Code

7.6 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

Element D: Plan Maintenance Requirements
D1. Is there discussion of how each community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(iii))

D2. Is there a description of the method and schedule for keeping the plan current (monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle)? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(i))
D3. Does the plan describe a process by which each community will integrate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(ii))

The Hazard Mitigation Plan will continue to be tracked by the Emergency Management Coordinator. This person will make a record of necessary revisions yearly to ensure that the most accurate and up to date information is included in the Plan. The Emergency Management Coordinator will also review the mitigation actions yearly and revise the plan based on progress towards the outlined mitigation actions or new mitigation actions that were identified for existing hazards. The Coordinator will also reach out to relevant City departments to integrate their tracking updates for those actions that overlap with the LHMP – for example, the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and its actions related to hazard mitigation and climate adaptation. After this initial review, the Emergency Management Coordinator will convene a meeting with stakeholders and the core planning team to discuss progress towards mitigation objectives and potential plan revisions. Stakeholders, members of the public, and Public Safety Commissioners will be providing recommendations at the November Public Safety Commission meeting.

Each mitigation action will be reviewed to determine its continued relevance to changing situations and land developments in the City, as well as changes in State or Federal policy, and to ensure that each action is addressing current and expected conditions. The risk assessment portion of the Plan will also be reviewed to determine if this information should be updated or modified. Factors to be reported on will include:

- Any changes in the nature or magnitude of risks identified in the Plan.
- The status of these actions, and, where applicable, will report on which actions worked well.
- Whether difficulties have been encountered, and if so, what they are.
- How coordination efforts have been proceeding, and which actions should be revised.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluation process will be led by the Emergency Management Coordinator. The Emergency Management Coordinator will meet with key stakeholders, such as neighborhood groups, fire and law enforcement agencies, community groups, social service agencies, transportation, and public works to gather updated hazard mitigation information. After the initial review and key stakeholder meetings, Public Safety personnel will present the plan with any recommendations from the core planning team to the Public Safety Commission.

During the Public Safety Commission's review, members of the public will be able to attend a public meeting and voice any concerns or ideas for revisions to the plan. The agenda for each Public Safety Commission and City Council meeting is posted inside and outside of City Hall, faxed/emailed to the posting locations, and posted on the City website. Links to the agenda will

also be shared using social media. At that point, the core planning team will meet and make all changes necessary and present an updated document to the Public Safety Commission and the West Hollywood City Council. In addition, the Community Safety Department will informally involve members of the public as well through presentations at neighborhood meetings, key informant interviews, public meetings, and existing public safety programs.

Prior to these Commission and Council meetings, the Emergency Management Coordinator will lead the monitoring and evaluating efforts to ensure that there is adequate funding for the mitigation activities. After the City's two year budget is passed by City Council, the Emergency Management Coordinator will collaborate with the plan development team to apply for hazard mitigation grants that will help the City implement the mitigation activities that are not included in the City's two year budget. Starting at year four, the Emergency Management Coordinator will begin to go through a formal update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The formal five year update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be brought to the Public Safety Commission and then to the City Council for formal approval of the updated plan. These meetings will be widely advertised using social media and open to residents, property owners, business owners, and other stake holders. Copies of the Plan will be catalogued and kept in appropriate departments and public locations.

7.7 Plan Adoption

Element F: Plan Adoption
F1. For single-jurisdictional plans, has the governing body of the jurisdiction formally adopted the plan to be eligible for certain FEMA assistance? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(5))
F2. For multi-jurisdictional plans, has the governing body of each jurisdiction officially adopted the plan to be eligible for certain FEMA assistance? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(5))

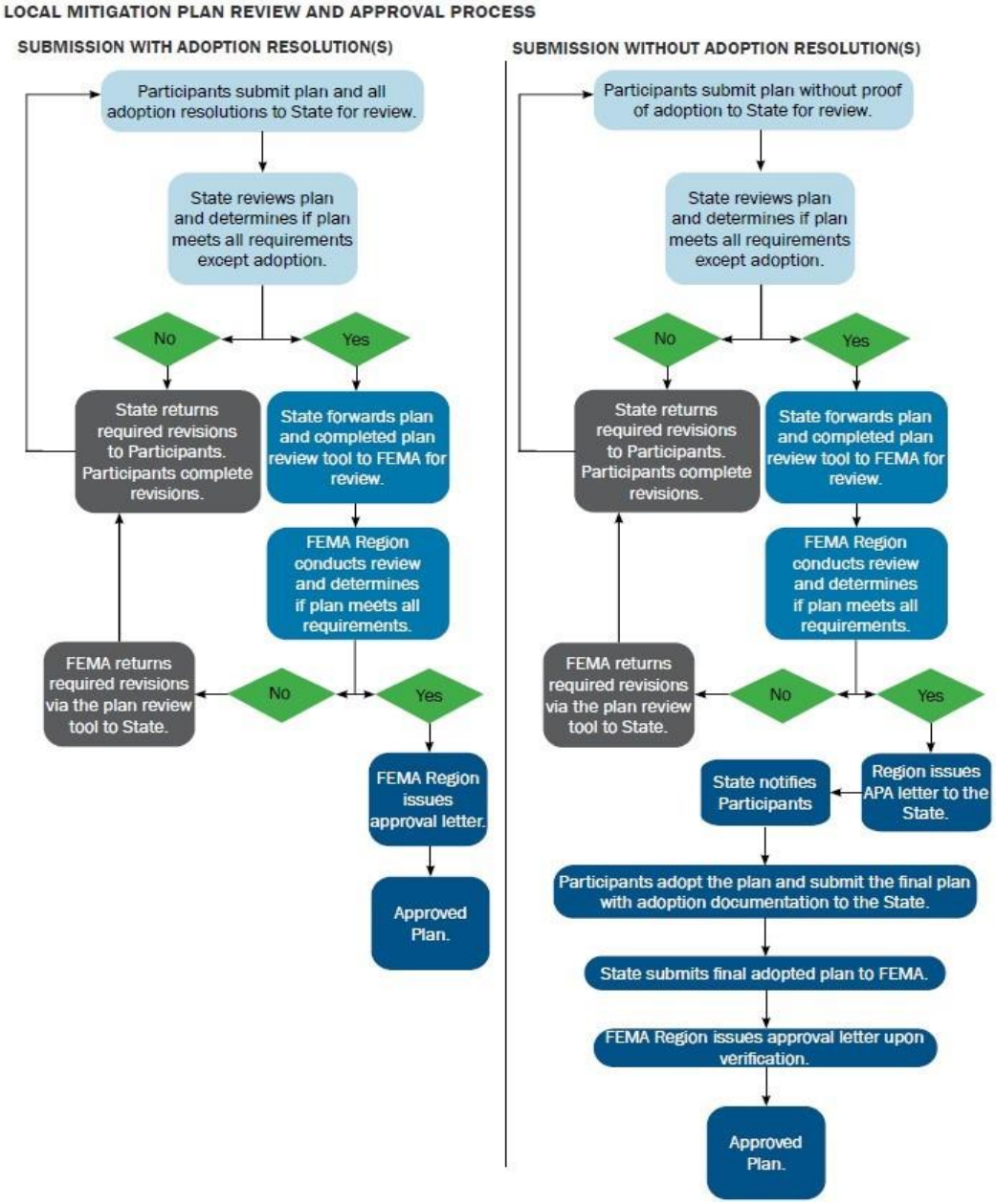
On November 20, 2023, during the monthly city council meeting, the West Hollywood City Council formally adopted the West Hollywood Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Primary Point of Contact

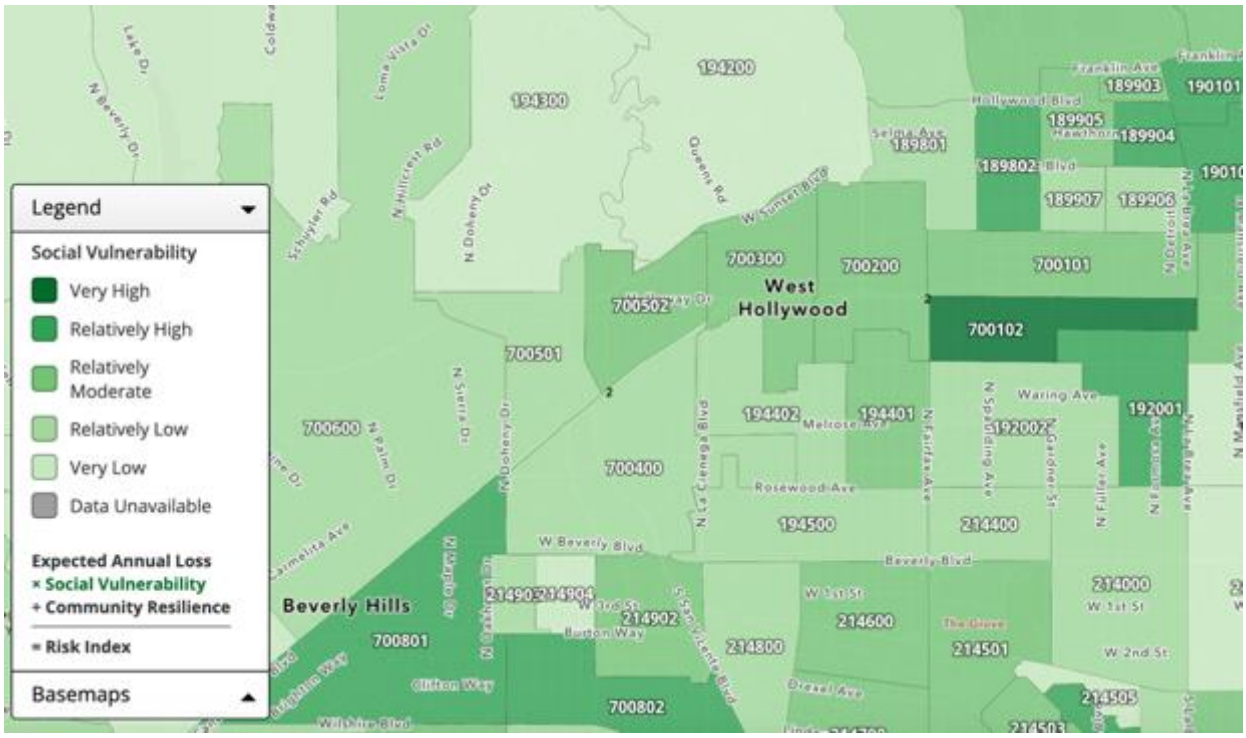
The Point of Contact for information regarding this plan is:

Margarita Kustanovich
Emergency Management Coordinator
City of West Hollywood Community Safety Department
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069-6216
mkustanovich@weho.org

Appendix A: LHMP Approval Process



Appendix B: National Risk Index Social Vulnerability



Appendix C: Public Engagement Survey Results

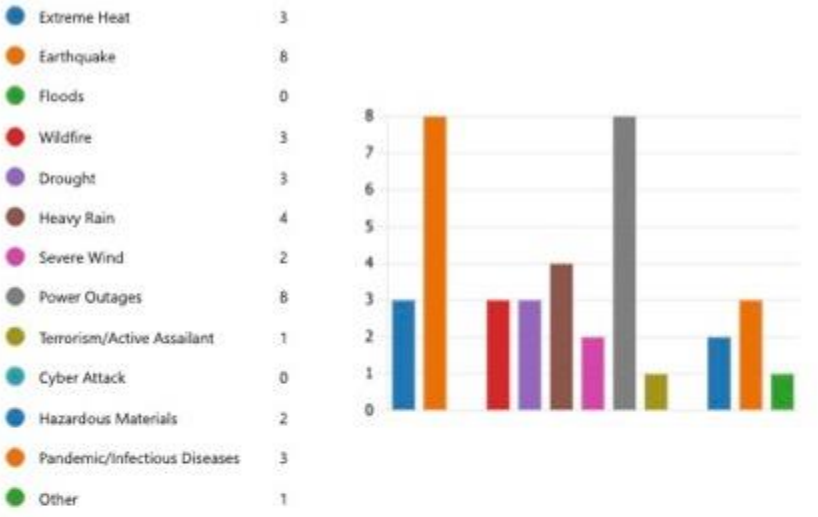
West Hollywood Community Hazard & Risk Assessment Survey

30	191:16	Active
Responses	Average time to complete	Status

1. Have you or someone you know in the City of West Hollywood been directly impacted by a significant adverse event or disaster (other than the COVID-19 pandemic)?

Yes	9
No	21

2. Which of these events specifically have you experienced (select all that apply)?



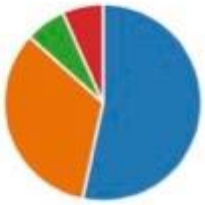
3. If you chose "Other", please identify the type of significant adverse event or disaster that affected you.

2
Responses

Latest Responses

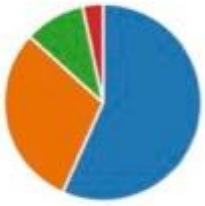
4. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Extreme Heat.

Very Concerned	16
Somewhat concerned	10
Neither concerned nor unconce...	2
Somewhat unconcerned	2
Very unconcerned	0



5. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Earthquakes.

Very Concerned	17
Somewhat concerned	9
Neither concerned nor unconce...	3
Somewhat unconcerned	1
Very unconcerned	0



6. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Floods.

Very Concerned	3
Somewhat concerned	5
Neither concerned nor unconce...	7
Somewhat unconcerned	12
Very unconcerned	3

7. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Wildfire.

Very Concerned	8
Somewhat concerned	8
Neither concerned nor unconce...	7
Somewhat unconcerned	3
Very unconcerned	4

8. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Drought.

Very Concerned	15
Somewhat concerned	12
Neither concerned nor unconce...	0
Somewhat unconcerned	3
Very unconcerned	0

9. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Heavy Rain.

Very Concerned	3
Somewhat concerned	12
Neither concerned nor unconce...	10
Somewhat unconcerned	4
Very unconcerned	1

10. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Severe Wind.

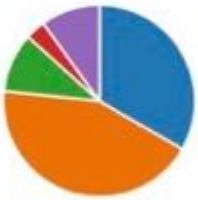
Very Concerned	3
Somewhat concerned	8
Neither concerned nor unconce...	9
Somewhat unconcerned	7
Very unconcerned	3

11. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Power Outages.

Very Concerned	14
Somewhat concerned	11
Neither concerned nor unconce...	1
Somewhat unconcerned	4
Very unconcerned	0

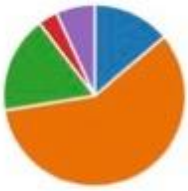
12. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Terrorism/Active Assailant.

Very Concerned	10
Somewhat concerned	13
Neither concerned nor unconce...	3
Somewhat unconcerned	1
Very unconcerned	3



13. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Cyberattack.

Very Concerned	4
Somewhat concerned	17
Neither concerned nor unconce...	5
Somewhat unconcerned	1
Very unconcerned	2

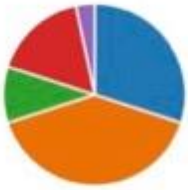


14. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Hazardous Materials.

Very Concerned	4
Somewhat concerned	10
Neither concerned nor unconce...	11
Somewhat unconcerned	4
Very unconcerned	1

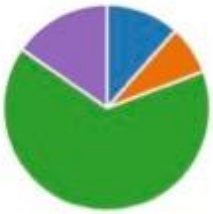
15. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Pandemic/Infectious Diseases.

Very Concerned	9
Somewhat concerned	12
Neither concerned nor unconce...	3
Somewhat unconcerned	5
Very unconcerned	1



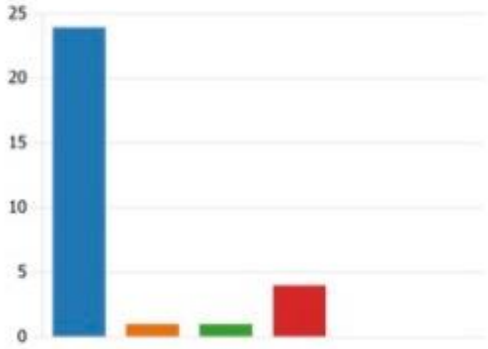
16. Please rate your level of concern for yourself or the City as a whole for each hazard over the next 10 years: Other.

Very Concerned	3
Somewhat concerned	2
Neither concerned nor unconce...	17
Somewhat unconcerned	0
Very unconcerned	4

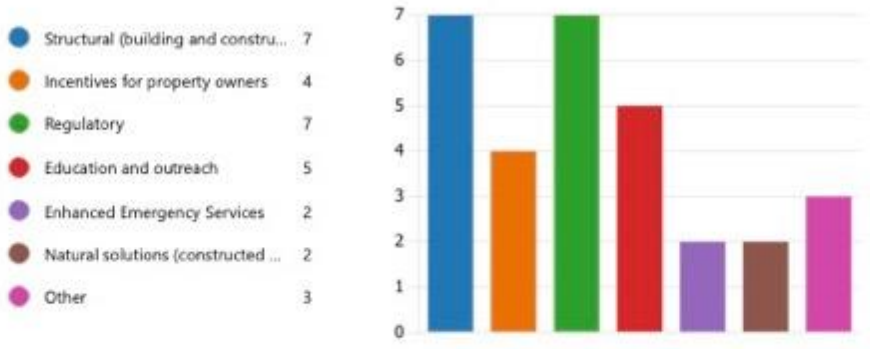


17. Where are the greatest areas of threat that these hazards pose?

Homes and individuals	24
Businesses	1
Industrial & warehouses	1
Utilities	4
Other city infrastructure	0
Transportation (freeways and rail)	0



18. In your view, what categories of actions should the City take to reduce risk for those hazards?



19. If you chose "Other", please add more details here.

5
Responses

Latest Responses

2 respondents (**40**%) answered **water** for this question.

20. Is there anything else you'd like us to consider? If so, please include your comments here.

6
Responses

Latest Responses
"The city should once gun fully sponsor and fund an enhance...

2 respondents (**33%**) answered **CERT programs** for this question.

Appendix D: Public Comment on Draft LHMP

City's website: https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/community-safety/public-safety/emergency-preparedness/hazard-mitigation-plan

City Government » City Departments » Community Safety » Public Safety » Emergency Preparedness »

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Print Share & Bookmark Font Size:

The City's Community Safety Department is working on next steps to update the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City is making the draft Plan available to collect community feedback. The draft plan will be posted online for a three-week public review and feedback period from Thursday, September 7, 2023 to Monday, September 25, 2023.

The community can provide feedback in two ways:

- Local Hazard Mitigation Draft Plan - Feedback Form
- Email at Safety@weho.org

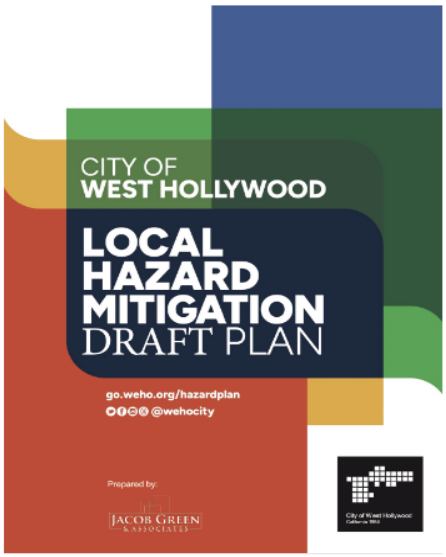
Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are intended to serve as guides for communities to reduce adverse impacts from natural and human-caused hazards.

Community outreach on updating the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan began in Spring 2023. The City of West Hollywood's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been thoroughly revised from earlier versions, with particular attention given to Federal Emergency Management Agency's recent guidance from April 2023 requiring a sharper focus on climate impacts and equity. The Plan will allow the City of West Hollywood to further champion the actions needed to meet the global and local challenges of hazardous materials and reaffirm West Hollywood as a vibrant, sustainable, and resilient leadership city for current and future generations.

For more information about the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, please contact Margarita Kustanovich, the City of West Hollywood's Emergency Management Coordinator, by phone at (323) 848-6414 or by email at safety@weho.org. For people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (323) 848-6496.

Draft Local Hazard Mitigation

Click on the image to view the draft.



2018 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Click here to view the current local hazard mitigation plan from 2018

Background

The City of West Hollywood invited community members to complete a survey and participate in two public meetings on Wednesday, June 28 and Thursday, July 13 to gather public input on updating the **City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

A hazard mitigation plan provides a road map for a community to identify hazards that could impact a community and to take actions to reduce negative impacts on residents, businesses, and the community as a whole. Hazard mitigation plans also provide an opportunity to access funding for specified actions to mitigate hazards identified in the plan. Hazards included for consideration in this update will include wildfire, earthquake, extreme heat and rainfall, flooding, high winds, drought, terrorism, and hazardous materials incidents. To remain approved, plans must be updated every 5 years and reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the public meeting was to allow community members to provide input to the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan, ensuring that your input and experiences are included as the process moves forward.

Press release:

City of West Hollywood

City Hall
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA
90069-6216
(323) 848-6400

Contact

Sheri A. Lunn
Public Information Officer
(323) 848-6391
slunn@weho.org

Joshua Schare
Director of Communications
(323) 848-6431
jschare@weho.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of West Hollywood Invites Community Members to Participate in Updating the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan

Community May Participate in One of Two Public Meetings:
In-Person Meeting will Take Place on Wednesday, June 28 and
Virtual (Zoom) Meeting will take place on Thursday, July 13

Community is Encouraged to Take an Online Survey
Available in English, Spanish, and Russian:
https://go.weho.org/hazardsurvey

RSVP at safety@weho.org

WEST HOLLYWOOD, June 21, 2023 – The City of West Hollywood will hold two public meetings to gather input from the community as the City updates its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The first meeting will be held in-person at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center Doheny Room, located 8750 El Tovar Place, adjacent to the West Hollywood library. RSVP by emailing safety@weho.org. The second meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom platform at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2023. Community members interested in participating may log in at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89732737882.

A hazard mitigation plan provides a road map for a community to identify hazards that could impact a community and to take actions to reduce negative impacts on residents, businesses, and the community as a whole. Hazard mitigation plans also provide an opportunity to access funding for specified actions to mitigate hazards identified in the plan. Hazards included for consideration in this update will include wildfire, earthquake, extreme heat and rainfall, flooding, high winds, drought, terrorism, and hazardous materials incidents. To remain approved, plans must be updated every five years and reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These meetings will allow community members to provide input to the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan, ensuring that community concerns are represented as the process to update the Plan moves forward. For those not able to attend either meeting, participation is also available by taking a survey in either English, Spanish, or Russian by visiting http://go.weho.org/hazardsurvey through July 31, 2023.

For more information, please contact Margarita Kustanovich, the City of West Hollywood's Emergency Management Coordinator, by phone at (323) 848-6414 or by email at safety@weho.org. For people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (323) 848-6496.

For up-to-date information about City of West Hollywood news and events, follow @wehocity on social media, sign-up for news updates at www.weho.org/email, and visit the City's calendar of meetings and events at www.weho.org/calendar. West Hollywood City Hall is open for walk-in services at public counters or by appointment by visiting www.weho.org/appointments. City Hall services are accessible by phone at (323) 848-6400 and via website at www.weho.org. Receive text updates from the City by texting "WeHo" to (323) 848-5000.

For reporters and members of the media seeking additional information about the City of West Hollywood, please contact the City of West Hollywood's Public Information Officer, Sheri A. Lunn, at (323) 848-6391 or slunn@weho.org.

###

Flyer

West Hollywood's Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City of West Hollywood is working on updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan so that we're best prepared for earthquakes, fires, floods, and other events. As we update our plans, we invite the community to share your input. For more information, visit weho.org or contact Margarita Kustanovich, the City of West Hollywood's Emergency Management Coordinator, at (323) 848-6414 or safety@weho.org.

We want your input! Three ways to get involved:

Public Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6PM
Aquatic and Recreation Center
West Hollywood Park in the Doheny Room
8750 El Tovar Place

Virtual Meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 6PM
Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89732737882

Survey Link
http://go.weho.org/hazardsurvey

PLAN DE MITIGACIÓN DE RIESGOS DE WEST HOLLYWOOD

La Ciudad de West Hollywood está modernizando su plan de mitigación de riesgos para estar mejor preparada en caso de terremotos, incendios, inundaciones, u otros eventos. La Ciudad invita a los vecinos a participar del proceso de modernización de este plan para que compartan sus puntos de vista sobre el mismo.
Para más información, visite weho.org o contacte a Margarita Kustanovich, la Coordinadora de Emergencias de la Ciudad de West Hollywood al (323) 848-6414 o por email: safety@weho.org

¡Queremos su opinión! Tres maneras de participar:

Asambleas Públicas
Miércoles, 28 de Junio de 2023 a las 6PM
Sala Doheny del Centro Acuático y Recreacional
en el Parque de West Hollywood
Dirección: 8750 El Tovar Place

Jueves, 13 de Julio de 2023 a las 6PM
Enalce zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89732737882

Complete a la encuesta
http://go.weho.org/hazardsurvey

Муниципалитет Вест-Голливуда работает над обновлением Плана снижения рисков, чтобы город был лучше подготовлен к землетрясениям, пожарам, наводнениям и другим бедствиям. В процессе работы над Планом мы приглашаем жителей города поделиться с нами своим мнением. Для получения дополнительной информации посетите weho.org или свяжитесь с Маргаритой Кустанович, координатором управления чрезвычайными ситуациями города Вест-Голливуда, по телефону (323) 848-6414 или по электронной почте safety@weho.org.

Нам нужен ваш вклад! Три способа принять участие:

Очное собрание
В среду, 28 июня 2023 года,во вечера
The Aquatic and Recreation Center
West Hollywood Park in the Doheny Room
8750 El Tovar Place

Виртуальная встреча:Четверг, 13 июля 2023 г., 6PM
См. https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89732737882 для регистрации

Ссылка на опрос
http://go.weho.org/hazardsurvey

@WeHoCity

City of West Hollywood
California 1984

Beverly Press/Park La Brea News meeting notice: https://beverlypress.com/2023/06/weho-invites-community-members-to-hazard-mitigation-plan-meetings/

Download Latest Issue

BEVERLY PRESS
PARK LABREA NEWS
Serving the Park Labrea, Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood communities since 1946.

NEWS CRIME DINING & ENTERTAINMENT LIFE, STYLE & ART SCHOOLS CALENDAR LETTERS

JUNE 29, 2023

WeHo invites community members to Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings

The city of West Hollywood is holding two public meetings to gather input from the community as the city updates its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The first meeting was held on June 28 at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center Doheny Room. The second meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom platform at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2023. Community members interested in participating may log in at us06 web.zoom.us/j/89732737882.

A hazard mitigation plan provides a road map for a community to identify hazards that could impact a community and to take actions to reduce negative impacts on residents, businesses and the community as a whole. Hazard mitigation plans also provide an opportunity to access funding for specified actions to mitigate hazards identified in the plan. Hazards included for consideration in this update will include wildfire, earthquake, extreme heat and rainfall, flooding, high winds, drought, terrorism and hazardous materials incidents. To remain approved, plans must be updated every five years and reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These meetings will allow community members to provide input to the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan, ensuring that community concerns are represented as the process to update the Plan moves forward. For those not able to attend either meeting, participation is also available by taking a survey in either English, Spanish or Russian by visiting go.weho.org/hazardsurvey through July 31, 2023.

For information, contact Margarita Kustanovich, the city of West Hollywood's emergency management coordinator, by phone at (323)848-6414 or by email at safety@weho.org. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call TTY (323) 848-6496.

Facebook:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0hwNG9bR9EEE8G9bm1axvXXKLpNw4mfrLKeZyTRUGHpYmpsPVAvMq3jiL9ZSq3SdMl&id=100064544057342

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wehocity/p/CxLg6jzOaJZ/

City website: https://www.weho.org/Home/Components/News/News/10977/23

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Sign up for email notifications when News is posted.

City of West Hollywood Releases Draft of the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for Public Input

Post Date: September 07, 2023 6:48 PM

The City of West Hollywood is committed to engagement efforts on projects and plans that impact community members. The City's Community Safety Department is working on next steps to update the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City is making the draft Plan available on the City's website to collect community feedback. The draft Plan will be posted online for a public review and feedback period from Thursday, September 7, 2023 to Monday, September 25, 2023.

Community members who wish to learn more and provide feedback may visit https://go.weho.org/hazardplan.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are intended to serve as guides for communities to reduce adverse impacts from natural and human-caused hazards. The City of West Hollywood's updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will provide a roadmap that identifies hazards that may impact the community and outlines actions that can be taken to reduce negative impacts on residents, businesses, and the community as a whole. Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, additionally, provide an opportunity to access funding for specified actions to mitigate identified hazards.

Community outreach on updating the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan began in Spring 2023. Hazards included for consideration in this Plan update include wildfire, earthquake, extreme heat and rainfall, flooding, high winds, drought, terrorism, and hazardous materials incidents. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated every five years and reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City of West Hollywood's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been thoroughly revised from earlier versions, with particular attention given to FEMA's recent guidance from April 2023 requiring a sharper focus on climate impacts and equity. The Plan will allow the City of West Hollywood to further champion the actions needed to meet the global and local challenges of hazardous materials and reaffirm West Hollywood as a vibrant, sustainable, and resilient leadership city for current and future generations.

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Return to full list >>

September 9, 2023 - WeHo ReCERT

Many West Hollywood civilians have taken advantage of emergency training supplied by the City of West Hollywood. If these civilians are to put their training to good use in the case of an emergency or cooccurring multiple emergencies where communications are knocked out, they will need radios.

If the radios, I may or may not have purchased, are buried under rubble, individual and team rescue efforts are up a creek without a paddle.

What can our City do to ensure that emergency communication devices are available to those trained individuals who will assume leadership roles when the worst does happen?

September 16, 2023 – WeHo ReCERT

The description of current conditions and risks is comprehensive and appears to mention all the significant local hazards that can contribute a community-wide emergency. My comments below address points in Section 5.2, Mitigation Actions. Reference to a mitigation action that is not currently in the table means that one should be added.

> *p. 84: 1.25 – Transportation: establish alternative means of transportation for personnel and light-duty supplies when roads are blocked due to debris and/or fuel is unavailable due to interrupted deliveries. Bicycles are employed worldwide for this purpose as they can maneuver around obstacles, require no fuel, and can carry large bags; the rider can also shoulder a backpack. The emergency services and critical city staff should have access to bicycles that can be rapidly loaded with emergency supplies.*
>
> *p. 88: 2.4.1 – Incentivize attic thermal insulation in all rental units.*
>
> *p. 88: 2.4.2 – Cooling centers should remain open late into the evening when the temperature remains high.*
>
> *p. 94: 3.2.7 – Public WiFi: ensure battery backup at critical city facilities, including parks.*
>
> *p. 94: 3.3.1 – New Building codes: Attic insulation should be required in existing rental units.*
>
> *p. 95: 3.3.6 – Code: require air conditioning in all rental units (c.f. current discussion by City of L.A.)*
>
> *p. 96: 4.17 – Resilience Centers: Backup power and outlets for personal device charging.*

General comments on the above are provided below.

1) Extreme heat. It is well known that illness and death from extreme heat events affects more people than earthquakes, floods, and storms combined. Their increasing frequency puts renters living in the top floors of buildings at risk when there is no attic insulation, which is true of many

older buildings in West Hollywood. Furthermore, many rental units do not have air conditioning, and the City should require retrofitting of all such units with air conditioning provided by the building owner. The City's "cooling center" is woefully inadequate as it is only open until 5 p.m., which in midsummer often leaves many hours of high temperatures in people's homes.

2) Transportation. Review of major disasters around the world shows that people use bicycles for transportation when fuel is unavailable and roads are obstructed.

3) Power for personal device charging, public WiFi and cell phone towers. It is obvious from news reports showing people crowding around locations with power that when power goes out, more people are affected by losing the ability to communicate than anything else.

September 17, 2023 – public commenter via website

There is an extra "s" at the end of the second line at the very top of page 18.

Appendix E: LHMP Adoption City Council Minutes November 20, 2023 (Resolution 2.O)

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD

6:00 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Shyne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgment.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Danielle Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:	Councilmember Byers, Councilmember Heilman, Councilmember Meister, and Mayor Shyne.
ABSENT:	Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson.
ALSO PRESENT:	City Manager Wilson, City Attorney Langer, Administrative Services Director Jimenez, City Clerk Crowder, and Assistant City Clerk Morales.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA:

City Attorney Lauren Langer reported that the Closed Session was called to order at 5:30 pm. She stated that there were no members of the public that spoke under Public Comment. She reported that the City Council discussed the two (2) items of business on the posted agenda. The City Council voted to initiate litigation on the first item of business. There was no reportable action on the second agenda item, "conference with real property negotiators".

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

City Clerk Crowder noted that there were no changes to the agenda from staff.

Councilmember Heilman requested that Items 5.B., 5.C., 6.A., and 6.D. be moved to the Consent Calendar as Items 2.P., 2.Q., 2.R., and 2.S., respectively.

Councilmember Meister requested that Item 2.G be combined with Item 6.B.

Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Meister, to approve the November 20, 2023 agenda, as amended.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

Councilmember Meister requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Carol Kossin Cleaveland and Robert Voakes.

Councilmember Heilman requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Tamara Goldenberg.

Mayor Shyne requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

PRESENTATIONS:

Councilmember Byers presented a Proclamation to Safer WEHO Coalition in honor of National Meth Awareness Day.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

NICHOLAS ROYBAL, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke regarding follow-up, perception of public safety, and unhoused community members as outlined in Item 2.G. He noted the "theories" identified in Item 5.B.

JERARD WRIGHT, Director of Government Affairs for Greater LA Realtors, spoke in support of Item 5.B.

LUCIAN TUDOR, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Item 5.C., political campaign donations, and abstentions from policy matters.

JACOB SHAW, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Item 5.C., noting that business owners need more time to convert Out Zones to permanent outdoor dining.

TOKEYO PETERSON, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Item 5.C.

MARK LEHMAN, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Items 5.B. and 5.C. and requested an extension for the conversion of Out Zones to permanent outdoor dining until April 2024.

JIMMY PALMIERI, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Item 6.D. and expressed concern with the staff analysis in the staff report.

KATY ORELLANA, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Item 6.D.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke in support of Items 5.B. and 5.C. She requested an extension for business owners to convert Out Zones to permanent outdoor dining.

KEVIN BURTON, WEST HOLLYOOD, speaking on behalf of WeHo ReCERT, spoke regarding 2.O., noting that the staff report did not identify a timeline for implementation for the proposals identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

JULIA CAMARA CALVO, West Hollywood Business Owner, spoke regarding the Melrose Streetscape Project and the disruption to the businesses along Melrose.

EDDIE NAVARRETTE, Executive Director of the Independent Hospitality Coalition, spoke in support of Item 5.B.

ANTHONY VULIN, WEST HOLLYOOD, spoke regarding the importance of supporting businesses in West Hollywood and shared a list of West Hollywood businesses that have closed over the last couple of years.

JOAN HENEHAN, West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged people to enjoy the businesses and restaurants in West Hollywood.

SCOTT SCHEFFER, on behalf of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, spoke regarding their campaign to convince President Biden to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

KAREN EYRES, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on behalf of the Human Services Commission regarding various social services offered by the City, specifically Transgender services in honor of Transgender Awareness Month.

ADAM DARVISH, WEST HOLLWYOOD, spoke regarding former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and her effect on him as a young immigrant in America.

DAVID EICHMAN, West Hollywood Business Owner, spoke regarding concerns about the number of vacant and closed businesses.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager David Wilson announced that the City will celebrate 39 years of Cityhood next Wednesday, November 29th. Everyone is invited to the free State of the City event at the West Hollywood and Aquatic Recreation Center and encouraged the community to RSVP at http://www.weho.org/day. Secondly, he noted that the City is hosting a WeHo Mobility Pop-up which will take place on Monday, November 27, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bicycle lights will be given to people who have their bikes with them, on a first-come, first-served basis and supplies are limited along Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevard.

FISCAL IMPACT ON CONSENT CALENDAR:

City Clerk Crowder stated that the Fiscal Impact on the Consent Calendar with the removal of Item 2.G. and the addition of Items 5.B., 5.C., 6.A., and 6.D. was $1,461,660 in expenditures, $0 in revenue, and ($1,674) in waived fees.

City Clerk Crowder noted changes to Item 2.E. from the November 6, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes (Item 2.B.) and read the Ordinance Title of Item 5.C. into the record.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

2.A.,B.,C.,D.,E.,F.,H.,I.,J.,K.,L.,M.,N.,O.,P.,Q.,R.,S. Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Mayor Shyne, and approved (4/0).

2.A. POSTING OF AGENDA:
SUBJECT: The agenda for the meeting of Monday, November 20, 2023 was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the Sheriff's Station, and at the West Hollywood Library on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.
ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
SUBJECT: The City Council is requested to approve the minutes of the prior Council meeting.
ACTION: Approved the minutes of November 6, 2023. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.C. APPROVAL OF DEMAND REGISTER NO. 937:
SUBJECT: The City Council shall receive the Demand Register for period ending November 10, 2023 pursuant to Sections 37201 to 37210 of the Government Code of the State of California.
ACTION: Approved Demand Register No. 937 and adopt Resolution No. 23-095, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING PAYMENT OF DEMANDS PRESENTED ON DEMAND REGISTER NO. 937". **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.D. CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER]:
SUBJECT: The City Council is receiving notification that the City's third-party administrator Carl Warren & Co. has denied one (1) Claim for Damages from Robert Ochoa.
ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.E. COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSES [M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive Synopses from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Public Facilities, Recreation & Infrastructure Commission, and the Women's Advisory Board regarding actions taken at their recent meetings.
ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.F. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 [L. QUIJANO, C. CORRALES, K. BARENG, S. STEPHENS]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive the Treasurer's Reports for the month ended September 2023 pursuant to Section 53646 of the Government Code of the State of California.
ACTION: Received and filed the September 2023 Treasurer's Report. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.G. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES [L. BIERY]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an updated on various economic development initiatives to focus the City's attention on the retention of existing business in West Hollywood and attracting new ones.
ACTION: This Item was heard with Item 6.B.

2.H. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR YEAR 1 OF THE 2023-2024 REGULAR SESSION OF THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS [Y. QUARKER, H. MOLINA]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive the second legislative update report on the City's lobbying efforts in the California State Legislature during Year 1 of the 2023-2024 regular legislative session and a brief description of current advocacy efforts at the federal level.
ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.I. AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH WOLFE ENGINEERING AND DESIGN, INC. [S. CAMPBELL, J. GILMOUR]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for services with Wolfe Engineering and Design, Inc. for on-call staff augmentation services increasing the not-to-exceed amount of the Agreement.
ACTIONS: 1) Approved Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for services with Wolfe Engineering and Design, Inc., to increase the amount of the Agreement by $50,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of $125,000; and 2) Authorized the City Manager or designee to execute documents incident to the Agreement. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.J. AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE AGREEMENT FOR ON-CALL PLUMBING AND DRAIN REPAIR SERVICES WITH H.L. MOE CO. INC. [S. CAMPBELL, H. COLLINS, E. HAMANT]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving Amendment No. 3 with H.L. Moe. Co. Inc. to provide on-call plumbing and drain repair services.
ACTIONS: 1) Approved Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement with H.L. Moe Co. Inc. to provide on-call plumbing and drain repair services for an increased amount of $200,000 and a new total not-to-exceed amount of $322,600; and 2) Authorized the City Manager or designee to execute

documents incident to the award of the Amendment. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.K. AUTHORIZE THE USE OF A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH BEAM GLOBAL TO PURCHASE MOBILE SOLAR PANEL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER SYSTEMS [S. CAMPBELL, V. GUARINO, H. COLLINS, E. HAMANT]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving the use of a cooperative purchasing agreement with Beam Global to purchase mobile solar panel electric vehicle charger systems.
ACTION: Authorized the Finance & Technology Services Department to issue a Purchase Order to Beam Global, pursuant to the California Department of General Services' Cooperative Purchasing Agreement, to purchase mobile solar panel electric vehicle charger systems in an amount not-to-exceed $336,000. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.L. AWARD OF AGREEMENT FOR MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES [S. CAMPBELL, H. COLLINS, E. HAMANT]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider the award of an Agreement for Professional Services to Waveguide LLC, to provide multimedia technology support services at City-owned and City-leased locations including on-site technical support for audiovisual (AV) operations. **ACTIONS:** 1) Approved an Agreement for Professional Services with Waveguide LLC, to provide multimedia technology support services at City-owned and City-leased locations for a total not-to-exceed amount of $803,589; and 2) Authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents incident to the Agreement. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.M. REJECT ALL BIDS RECEIVED AND RE-ADVERTISE FOR CITYWIDE WATER FEATURES MAINTENANCE SERVICES [S. CAMPBELL, H. COLLINS, E. HAMANT]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider rejecting all bids received to provide Citywide Water Features Maintenance Services and authorizing staff to re-issue and re-advertise the bid.
ACTIONS: 1) Rejected the bid to provide Citywide Water Features Maintenance Services, as submitted on August 23, 2023, and return the associated bid bond; and 2) Authorized staff to re-issue and re-advertise the bid solicitation for Citywide Water Features Maintenance Services. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.N. RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CITY'S DEADLINE TO ESTABLISH AN ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM FOR POST-ENTITLEMENT PHASE PERMITS [N. MARICICH, B. GALAN]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider adopting a Resolution to extend the City's deadline to establish an online permitting system for post-entitlement phase permits in accordance with State law.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution No. 23-096, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF WEST HOLLYWOOD TO EXTEND THE CITY'S DEADLINE TO ESTABLISH AN ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM FOR POST-ENTITLEMENT PHASE PERMITS TO JANUARY 1, 2026." **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.O. **RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S UPDATED LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN [D. RIVAS, M. KUSTANOVICH]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving and adopting the City of West Hollywood's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan.
ACTIONS: 1) Adopted Resolution No. 23-097 "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE UPDATED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN;" 2) Directed staff to forward copies of the approved and adopted City of West Hollywood Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution No. 23-097 to the California's Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency management Agency; 3) Authorized staff to make modifications to the City of West Hollywood Hazard Mitigation Plan as necessary or as required by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency before next formal five-year update; and 4) Directed staff to process an amendment to the City of West Hollywood's General Plan to incorporate the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan as an appendix to the Safety and Noise Element of the West Hollywood General Plan 2035. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.P. *(5.B.)* **SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN [D. WILSON, J. ROCCO, A. MCINTOSH, N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN, L. BIERY]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive a Small Business Initiatives Implementation Plan prepared by staff in response to a series of recommended initiatives by the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, as well as previous City Council directives, and additional solutions identified by staff.
ACTIONS: 1) Affirmed the guiding principles for implementing the Small Business Initiatives, included below; 2) Approved the Phase One Implementation Plan and direct staff to begin work on the actions; 3) Provided direction on the Phase Two plan and direct staff to incorporate a proposed work plan and budget for the FY 2024-26 Two-Year Budget Cycle; and 4) Provided direction on the Phase Three plan and direct staff to do further research on the costs associated with these actions for future consideration. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.Q. *(5.C.)* **EXTENSION OF DEADLINE TO REMOVE OR CONVERT TEMPORARY OUTZONES TO PERMANENT OUTDOOR DINING [D.**

WILSON, J. ROCCO, R. ABRAMSON, N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN, S. CAMPBELL, J. GILMOUR, L. BIERY]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider a proposal to extend the deadline to remove or convert temporary OUTZones to permitted permanent outdoor dining, and to amend the West Hollywood Municipal Code to reflect the date by which temporary outdoor dining areas shall convert to permitted permanent outdoor dining.
ACTIONS: 1) Approved the outlined proposal to extend the deadline to convert temporary OUTZones to permanent outdoor dining; and 2) Introduced on First Reading, by title only, the following Ordinance: Ordinance No. 23-24: "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE DATE BY WHICH TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING AREAS SHALL CONVERT TO PERMANENT OUTDOOR DINING." **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.R. ***(6.A.)*** **PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF TWO SCULPTURES FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY'S URBAN ART COLLECTION [L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN, M. MITCHELL]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider the acquisition of two sculptures, "ONE LOVE" and "RELAX UR OK" by artist Scott Froschauer, for inclusion in the City's Urban Art Collection.
ACTIONS: 1) Approved the purchase Agreement for acquisition of artworks RELAX UR OK and ONE LOVE from Wallspace LLC; 2) Authorized the Director of Finance and Technology Services to allocate $55,676.25 from unallocated reserves in the Public Beautification & Art Fund to account number 209-4-10-12-704024 for costs associated with the purchase Agreement; and 3) Authorized the City Manager to sign any necessary documents required for the acquisition. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

2.S. ***(6.D.)*** **CO-SPONSORSHIP OF "VIBEZ: A SOBER NEW YEAR CELEBRATION" [J. ERICKSON, Y. QUARKER, J. DEL TORO, J. DUCKWORTH]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider a request to co-sponsor "VIBEZ: A Sober New Year Celebration" organized by The Phoenix and members of the sober community on December 31, 2023, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in West Hollywood Plummer Park's Fiesta Hall.
ACTIONS: 1) Approved co-sponsorship of "VIBEZ: A Sober New Year Celebration" organized by The Phoenix on December 31, 2023, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in Plummer Park's Fiesta Hall; 2) Authorized the use of the City name and logo on invitations, programs, and other collateral materials; 3) Waived any Facility Use Fees, Special Event Permit Fees, Encroachment Permit Fees, and the 3-hour parking limit at the Plummer Park parking lot for event participants (estimated $1,674); 4) Directed the Communications Department to utilize all appropriate communications tools to promote the event such as the City's website and social media tools; 5) Authorized the City Manager or his designee to execute documents incident to the Co-

Sponsorship Agreement between the City and the Phoenix; and 6) Authorize the Director of Finance and Technology Services to approve the use of $1,395 from Fiscal Year 2023-24 budgeted funds in the Special Council Programs account number 100-1-01-00-531001 for costs associated with the event. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar (4/0).**

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

4. LEGISLATIVE: None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

5.A. ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH POLICY TO PROHIBIT THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD FROM USING THE ELLIS ACT ON CITY-OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES [L. LANGER]:
SUBJECT: The City Council directed staff to develop a City policy restricting the City from utilizing the Ellis Act to remove units from the housing market in residential properties acquired by the City, thereby displacing tenants. Staff has developed said policy as reflected in the attached proposed resolution for the City Council's consideration and adoption.

Councilmember Heilman inquired if the proposed policy allowed for commercial buildings acquired by the City to be Ellised if there was one unit with a current tenant. City Attorney Langer stated that if it was a standard residential unit, it would be covered under this policy, noting that the policy was intended to govern only the City's actions for properties that the City owned and not intended to cover affordable housing providers or other private property owners.

Councilmember Heilman further inquired if there was interest in exempting the City from affordable housing developments or homeless shelters, noting that the proposed ordinance only exempts non-profit organizations. City Attorney Langer clarified that the language of the ordinance ensured that private property owners who were granted loans from the affordable housing trust fund by the City were not covered; however, the City Council could place provisions or value statements that were more in line with their objectives.

The following speaker came forward:

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding his concerns with this item and requested further analysis be conducted.

Councilmember Meister stated that the intent of this ordinance is to prevent the City from Ellising rent stabilized units and spoke in opposition of

permitting non-profit organizations from Ellising buildings using the City's affordable trust fund.

Councilmember Byers spoke in support Tabling this Item so that Councilmembers Heilman and Meister's concerns can be addressed.

Councilmember Heilman requested that this item be Tabled.

Mayor Shyne echoed her colleagues' comments. She also supports Tabling the Item.

ACTION: This Item was Tabled. **Motion by Councilmember Byers, seconded by Councilmember Meister and approved (4/0).**

*****The City Council recessed at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.***

5.B. SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN [D. WILSON, J. ROCCO, A. MCINTOSH, N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN, L. BIERY]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive a Small Business Initiatives Implementation Plan prepared by staff in response to a series of recommended initiatives by the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, as well as previous City Council directives, and additional solutions identified by staff.
ACTION: This item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

5.C. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE TO REMOVE OR CONVERT TEMPORARY OUTZONES TO PERMANENT OUTDOOR DINING [D. WILSON, J. ROCCO, R. ABRAMSON, N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN, S. CAMPBELL, J. GILMOUR, L. BIERY]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider a proposal to extend the deadline to remove or convert temporary OUTZones to permitted permanent outdoor dining, and to amend the West Hollywood Municipal Code to reflect the date by which temporary outdoor dining areas shall convert to permitted permanent outdoor dining.
ACTION: This item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.A. PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF TWO SCULPTURES FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY'S URBAN ART COLLECTION [L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN, M. MITCHELL]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider the acquisition of two sculptures, "ONE LOVE" and "RELAX UR OK" by artist Scott Froschauer, for inclusion in the City's Urban Art Collection.
ACTION: This item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

6.B. SUPPORT FOR WEST HOLLYWOOD'S LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY [D. WILSON, J. ROCCO, C. SAFRIET, P. KERSPRADIT, L. BIERY]

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider measures to provide support to West Hollywood's local business community and provide direction.

**Items 2.G. and 6.B. were combined during Approval of the Agenda*

City Manager David Wilson provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated November 20, 2023.

Director of Economic Development Laura Biery shared a Power Point presentation outlining staff's recommendations.

Mayor Shyne asked staff to confirm that hotel workers and businesses are exempt from staff's recommendations. City Manager Wilson confirmed that it exempts hotel workers as defined in the Minimum Wage Ordinance (MWO).

The following speakers came forward:

LUCIAN TUDOR, West Hollywood Business Owner, spoke on concerns regarding the minimum wage ordinance and the effects on La Boheme.

MIKE ILIC, ON BEHALF OF CATCH RESTAURANT, spoke regarding his confusion that staff is not recommending reconsidering the minimum wage ordinance.

JOAN HENEHAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMMERCE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, spoke regarding eliminating the paid time off (PTO) for part time workers, suspending the CPI increase until California State law catches up, and adopt a Total Compensation Model as implemented in Seattle.

MAYAH NUNN, UNKNOWN, spoke regarding concerns with fair wages.

LOURDES NALASCO, UNITE HERE LOCAL 11, spoke in opposition to decreasing the minimum wage for hotel workers.

MARCUS MOLINA, UNITE HERE LOCAL 11, spoke as a banquet server at One Hotel in opposition to this item and mentioned the removal of service charge payments from the One Hotel to banquet servers.

DAVID STOOKEY, UNITE HERE LOCAL 11, spoke as a front desk agent at One Hotel in opposition to amending the minimum wage.

DANIELLE WILSON, UNITE HERE LOCAL 11, spoke in opposition to amending the minimum wage and staff's recommendations.

DAVID FANAROF, on behalf of Z Pizza, spoke in support of staff's recommendations.

GEORGE NICKLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of this item and expressed concern with the adoption of the minimum wage ordinance.

MORENA HERNANDEZ, UNITE HERE LOCAL 11, spoke as a worker at the Andaz Hotel in opposition to reducing the minimum wage.

EDDIE DIAZ, Unite Here Local 11, spoke as a worker at Cecconi's and in opposition to reducing the minimum wage.

COLIN THOMAS, on behalf of John Reed Thomas, spoke regarding the other John Reed Thomas locations in other cities and that employees at those other locations want to move to the WeHo location. He further shared that there is a lack of businesses along Santa Monica Boulevard.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, President/CEO West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of this item.

MARK LEHMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding his concerns with the economic environment in the City. He also spoke in support of this item and finding a fair balance for both employees and business owners.

BRETT LATTERI, West Hollywood Business Owner, spoke in support of this item.

JERARD WRIGHT, Director of Government Affairs for Greater LA Realtors, spoke in support of this item.

BUFFALO, UNKNOWN, spoke regarding the City's Core Values and the common issue in the City with the high residential and retail rent as well as low wages necessitating working multiple jobs.

JOSH JENNINGS, WEST HOLLYWOOD and Unite Here Local 11, spoke in support of the minimum wage ordinance as it was initially established.

GRAHAM NORTHWOOD, West Hollywood Business Owner, spoke regarding his concern with the paid time off as a small business owner, especially around the holidays. He further stated that the biggest issue is affordable housing.

NICHOLAS ROYBAL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of staff's recommendations. He noted that the minimum wage ordinance had policy issues at implementation.

PATRICK DIAMOND, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of this item and the unintended consequences of the minimum wage ordinance.

AIMEE E., WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of this item.

JULIA CAMARA CALVO, West Hollywood Business Owner, thanked the City Councilmembers who spoke with the business owners over the last few months. She shared some of the challenges that businesses have faced over the last three years and in support of this item.

Mayor Shyne outlined the nine (9) recommendations in the staff report to see which items there was consensus by her colleagues.

Councilmember Meister inquired about the new and closed business tax certificates for pre-COVID conditions for 2018 and 2019. Director of Economic Development Biery indicated that staff can provide that information at a later date.

Mayor Shyne noted that there is consensus with Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as numbered in the original staff report and subsequent approved actions. Mayor Shyne stated that she is not ready to make a decision on Recommendations 6 (compensated leave) and 7 (exploration of restaurant and bar industry exemptions) this evening because workers were not consulted. The City Council further discussed Recommendations 8 (survey of current conditions of local businesses) and 9 (funding).

Councilmember Meister requested that for Recommendation 4 (Agreement with Visit West Hollywood) that the scope include residents in the advertising plan.

Councilmember Byers is interested in discussing and further modifying the paid time off (PTO) provision. She shared some potential changes such as number of employees, size of business, etc. and noted that staff needs to work on this issue further.

Councilmember Meister spoke in support of Recommendations 6 (compensated leave) and 7 (exploration of restaurant and bar industry exemptions) and clarified that these changes do not affect hotel workers. She recommended that staff speak with bar and restaurant workers and other employees impacted by the minimum wage ordinance. She further recommended that staff and the City Attorney analyze a high wage earner or total compensation model. She asked staff to bring back info on new and

closed business tax certificates for pre-COVID conditions for 2018 and 2019.

Councilmember Heilman thanked everyone for speaking this evening. He reiterated that there is consensus for Recommendations 1 through 5 as well as Recommendations 8 (survey of current conditions of local businesses) and 9 (funding). He noted that Council hasn't discussed Item 2.G., but he supports that item. He agrees with taking additional time on Recommendations 6 (compensated leave) and 7 (exploration of restaurant and bar industry exemptions). He clarified that staff is not recommending lowering the minimum wage. With respect to Items 6 (compensated leave) & 7 (exploration of restaurant and bar industry exemptions), we need to evaluate paid time off for part-time employees. He expressed his concern with high-end restaurant tip earners, and the issue that the Council needs to address is the lowest wage workers. He noted that he supports all the Recommendations generally.

Mayor Shyne requested that for Recommendation 8 (survey of current conditions of local businesses) that the scope of services is expanded to include outreach to workers. A discussion ensued regarding how to conduct a survey to receive feedback from West Hollywood workers. City Manager Wilson inquired about specific questions the City Council would like asked in the survey. Mayor Shyne provided sample questions.

City Manager Wilson noted that a survey of workers would likely require a separate consultant from the survey of businesses, and staff will return in March or April to report on the survey of current conditions of local businesses and outreach to employees.

ACTIONS: 1) Approved a waiver of renewal fees for Business Tax Certificates in FY 2023-24 for all businesses that are not delinquent as of December 31, 2023 for a total estimated loss in revenue of $2,000,000; 2) Approved a waiver of Parking Credit Fees in FY 2023-24 for all businesses that are not delinquent as of December 31, 2023 for a total estimated loss of revenue of $400,000; 3) Approved a waiver of fees associated with Outdoor Dining Fees for applications, administrative permits, and annual encroachment permits, excluding any structure-related permits or plan check and on-street parking space encroachment fees, in FY 2023-24 for all businesses that are not delinquent as of December 31, 2023 for a total estimated loss of revenue of $100,000; 4) Directed staff to prepare an Agreement for Services with Visit West Hollywood in an amount not to exceed $300,000 for marketing support for local businesses including advertising to West Hollywood residents and return to City Council for approval; 5) Directed staff to prepare an Agreement for Services with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) in an amount not to exceed $17,750 for a statistically valid survey of the current conditions of local businesses; 6) Directed staff to conduct a survey with West Hollywood

employees to receive feedback on paid time off and high wage earners; 7) Directed staff to provide new and closed business tax certificate information for 2018 and 2019 when staff returns with an update; and 8) Authorized the Director of Finance and Technology Service to allocate $317,750 from General Fund Reserves with $300,000 to account number 100-3-10-13-533057, Business Retention & Attraction, for marketing support for local businesses and $17,750 to account number 100-3-10-13-531004, Professional Services, for a statistically valid survey of the current conditions of local businesses. **Motion by Mayor Shyne, seconded by Mayor Byers and approved (4/0).**

2.G. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES [L. BIERY]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an updated on various economic development initiatives to focus the City's attention on the retention of existing business in West Hollywood and attracting new ones.

Councilmember Meister indicated her reason for pulling this item. She inquired what type of metrics we're using to determine if what steps we are taking are working. Regarding the summary of business retention and outreach meetings, she stressed the impacts of rooftop uses on residential quality of life. She also noted that staff mentions that businesses they spoke with have concerns, but they don't specify what those concerns are. She would like a spreadsheet of why businesses are closing and/or leaving the City.

The following speaker came forward:

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding exit interviews and the need for real data.

Director of Economic Development Laura Biery provided information on the quarterly reports to the City Council.

ACTIONS: 1) Directed staff to provide a table without business names that includes the reason that businesses left the City; 2) Share any recommended policy proposals resulting from those meetings with the City Manager, City Attorney, and the City Council; 3) Provide information on the types of businesses closing and the types of businesses opening. **Motion by Councilmember Meister, seconded by Councilmember Heilman, approved (4/0).**

6.C. COMMERCIAL VACANCY TAX [L. MEISTER, S. SHYNE, Y. QUARKER, H. MOLINA, M. WATSON]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing staff to negotiate an Agreement for Services with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates to perform a statistically significant community survey and analysis of voters' opinions on a potential tax on prolonged commercial vacancies. Staff

to return to City Council with the results of the polling data and next steps for consideration to place a commercial vacancy tax measure on the November 2024 ballot.

Councilmember Meister introduced the item and provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated November 20, 2023.

The following speakers came forward:

JERARD WRIGHT, Director of Government Affairs for Greater LA Realtors, spoke in opposition to additional taxation. He spoke regarding opportunities to bring back businesses as well as incentivizing property owners.

GEORGE NICKLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the item.

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of the item.

JULIA CAMARA CALVO, West Hollywood Business Owner, spoke in opposition of the item.

Councilmember Meister suggested conducting a poll.

Councilmember Heilman stated that the poll will tell the Council that residents do not like vacancies. He shared that commercial leasing is different than residential leasing. He provided the Barry's Bootcamp example at the Kings Road space. He does not support this item.

Councilmember Byers shared that she does not support this item. She noted that San Francisco implemented this and has a 97% non-compliance rate which has created a burden on its staff to address the non-compliant commercial owners. She shared that there are many opportunities identified in the Small Business Plan that we have not explored yet.

Mayor Shyne commented that she is interested in exploring and suggested that staff meet with the realtors' association.

Councilmember Meister suggested hosting focus groups with commercial property owners. She recommended that FM3 provide a proposal to conduct qualitative research among commercial owners and commercial realtors.

Mayor Shyne suggested also including commercial tenants.

Councilmember Heilman requested that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with an appropriate surveyor.

Councilmember Byers recommended that the City issue a Request for Interest to commercial real estate leasing brokers.
ACTIONS: 1) Conduct a qualitative survey of commercial owners, tenants, and realtors; 2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with an appropriate vendor and return with an agreement for services and funding request as part of the FY24 Midyear Budget Update; and 3) Issue a Request for Interest to commercial real estate leasing brokers to identify other uses for commercial spaces. **Motion by Councilmember Meister, seconded by Mayor Shyne and approved (4/0).**

6.D. CO-SPONSORSHIP OF "VIBEZ: A SOBER NEW YEAR CELEBRATION" [J. ERICKSON, Y. QUARKER, J. DEL TORO, J. DUCKWORTH]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider a request to co-sponsor "VIBEZ: A Sober New Year Celebration" organized by The Phoenix and members of the sober community on December 31, 2023, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in West Hollywood Plummer Park's Fiesta Hall.
ACTION: This item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the conflict in Gaza.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORTS:

Councilmember Meister shared that she attended the Veterans Day Ceremony, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Creative Business Awards and congratulated the Sunset Marquis. She also attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) event and commented on the lack of participation. She commented on Item 2.O. She announced various upcoming City events and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Councilmember Byers reported her attendance at the National Legue of Cities Summit in Atlanta where she had the opportunity to sit on a panel to discuss the City's decarbonizing delivery, specifically the City's robot delivery program. She commented that before the lifting of the City's travel ban, she would not have been able to attend this Summit due to its location. This Summit provided her with an opportunity to share the City's progress. She attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance and shared that it was well recognized. She announced that it is World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and shared statistics on the lives lost this past year. She concluded her comments by announcing various City events and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Heilman mentioned that he attended the Veterans Day Ceremony, the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and the Chamber of Commerce Creative Business Awards event. He noted that he met with representatives from Pride House for West Hollywood to host celebrations during the Word Cup and the 2028 Olympics celebrating

the LGBTQ community and athletes participating in these events. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Shyne reported her attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony of DELITALY Potato Chips Deli, the Veterans Day Ceremony, the Once Upon a Cocktail Book signing event, the Trans Vagina Diaries, the GARRAS Fashion Show, and the Transgender Day of Remembrance. She shared the City's advocacy and support of the Trans community and the events throughout Transgender Awareness Month. She announced various upcoming City events, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT: The City Council adjourned at 9:42 p.m. in memory of Carol Kossin Cleaveland, Robert Voakes, Tamara Goldenberg, and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter to its next Regular City Council meeting, which will be on Monday, December 4, 2023, at City Hall, First Floor Community Meeting Room.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 4th day of December 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	Byers, Heilman, Meister, Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson, and Mayor Shyne
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.

DocuSigned by:

SEPI SHYNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Melissa Crowder

MELISSA CROWDER, CITY CLERK