

## Paramount General Plan

# Health and Safety Element

**City of Paramount**

**Adopted February 8, 2022  
Resolution No. 22:014**

**Amended March 25, 2025  
Resolution No. 25:010**





PARAMOUNT STATION

ENTRANCE



## Health and Safety Element

Public safety and community health are fundamental to long-term community stability. This Health and Safety Element establishes City policy relative to the reduction and mitigation of natural and human-made hazards that must be considered in future planning and decision-making. Due to Paramount's location in a seismically active region, public health and safety has always been a critically important component of the City's General Plan.

Maintaining a safe community requires assessment of the City's public safety needs. The Health and Safety Element identifies, evaluates, and addresses such safety issues and provides the goals, policies, and implementation programs that will help reduce future loss of life, injuries, property loss, environmental damage, and social and economic disruption from natural and human-caused emergencies and other public safety concerns.

This Health and Safety Element meets the State's requirements for a safety element and a noise element. The Health and Safety Element is concerned with identifying natural and human-made hazards and ways to reduce the risk of property damage, injury, or loss of life associated with living in an urban environment. State law requires that every safety element consider the following:

- The identification, mapping, and appraisal of seismic hazards that should be of concern to planning and future development, including areas subject to liquefaction, ground-shaking, surface rupture or seismic sea waves (Government Code Section 65302); and,
- An appraisal of mudslides, landslides, and slope stability that might occur as a result of seismic disturbance (Government Code Section 65302) and,
- The identification of potential for fires and other natural and human-made disasters and measures designed to reduce the loss of life,

injury, and damage to property (Government Code Section 65302(i)).

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for the City of Paramount planning area was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The LHMP is part of this Health and Safety Element and is available to view at:

<https://www.paramountcity.gov/government/departments/planning-department/paramount-general-plan/>

### Early Safety Element Requirements

The seismic safety element was one of the first mandatory general plan elements. Since 1970, changes in planning law require those issues previously considered in the seismic safety element to be incorporated into the 'safety elements,' the scopes of which were broadened to consider other safety-related issues of concern. Seismic hazards, though, continue to be a central theme of the Paramount General Plan Health and Safety Element. As an example, the City has experienced the damaging effect of the 1991 Northridge Earthquake. This earthquake revealed that there was a much more extensive fault system underlying the Los Angeles Basin compared to what was previously known. It is probable that an earthquake of even greater intensity will occur sometime during the "life" of this General Plan.





This element contains a plan that identifies evacuation resources and the locations of emergency shelters. The Element also emphasizes the importance of emergency preparation in reducing the impacts of natural and human-made disasters. Effective disaster response requires the cooperation of many government agencies. A primary goal of the City is to continue working with other agencies, both to prevent accidents (as much as this is possible) and to minimize risk.

As indicated previously, this Element also addresses those issues mandated by the State for consideration in noise elements. The State recognizes that noise may have a significant impact on a community's well-being, and therefore requires all jurisdictions to prepare a noise element to identify ways to minimize exposure to excessive noise levels.

The State guidelines are also very specific as to the content of noise elements. Government Code Section 65302(f) describes requirements for a noise element. At a minimum, the Government Code requires that the Element analyze and project noise levels for the following:

- Highways and Freeways;
- Primary arterial and major local streets;
- Passenger and freight online railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems;
- Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations; aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operations;
- Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards; and,
- Other ground stationary sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.

The State General Plan guidelines further indicate

### Fire Protection in Early Paramount...

One of the endeavors of the public-spirited citizens was the establishment of a fire-protection district in 1925. A 350-gallon pumping engine was purchased and placed in a rented garage on Ocean Avenue in Hynes and a volunteer fire department was formed. There was only one fire hydrant in the district at that time. Water was obtained from irrigation ditches, deep-well pumps, and wherever else it could be found. As this was most unsatisfactory, the people elected to form a water district. In 1927 the Clearwater-Hynes County Water District was formed which later became the Paramount County Water District.

that noise exposure information should be used to develop the Land Use Element to achieve noise-compatible land use patterns (Section 65302(f)). Because land use patterns in Paramount generally are well-established, this Element focused on resolving existing noise concerns. The policies related to noise issues stress the importance of protecting residents from excessive noise. Complementary policies, and programs that address noise impacts, are also found in the other elements.

### Health and Safety Element Policies

The Health and Safety Element is organized according to the following sections, reflecting the format of the other Elements included in the Paramount General Plan:

- The Introduction to the Element sections provided an overview of objectives with respect to health and safety, summarizes key issues, and discusses this Element's relationship to the other General Plan elements.
- The Health and Safety Policies section states the City's vision with respect to emergency



preparedness and response, as well as environmental health.

- The Health and Safety Plan indicates standards and plans related to emergency preparedness, response, and environmental health.

The policies included in this section will serve as the foundation for the Health and Safety Element. The following key health and safety objectives will be realized through the implementation of the policies contained in this Element:

- The City's continued commitment to identifying emergency response strategies that will improve the community's overall safety;
- The continuation of efforts to prepare for, and response to emergencies arising from a major earthquake;
- The continued support of the Fire Department and fire prevention programs;
- The ongoing support of law enforcement efforts and crime preventions programs; and,
- The reduction of noise in the community.

### Issue: Emergency Preparedness

The following policies underscore the City's continued commitment to identifying strategies that will improve the community's overall safety. The policies included in this section promote education and prevention as a means to address a number of safety-related issues.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 1.** The City of Paramount will strive to minimize damage to life and property in the event of a major disaster.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 2.** The City of Paramount will work to identify and improve existing buildings that do not meet fire or earthquake standards.

### Long Beach Earthquake...

The Long Beach earthquake on Friday, March 10, 1933, did considerable damage to Hynes-Clearwater. The town was practically closed Saturday and Sunday following the quake, but on Monday people commenced to stir about to remove the wreckage. Some made impromptu camps on lawns and vacant lots. The Red Cross set a tent on Paramount Boulevard.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 3.** The City of Paramount will identify areas of high risk (high densities, older structures, fire hazards) so that disaster response may be prioritized.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 4.** The City of Paramount will maintain an inventory of alternative emergency resources in the City (portable water, water delivery systems, communication, security, waste collection, and emergency power for critical facilities).
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 5.** The City of Paramount will identify critical facilities for use during disasters and inform appropriate disaster assistance agencies of their location and capabilities.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 6.** The City of Paramount will assign disaster response duties to appropriate public employees.

### Issue: Seismic Safety

- The major natural hazard that will face the City and region in the coming years is related to the numerous earthquake faults found in the Southern California region. The following policies underscore the City's recognition of these hazards.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 7.** The City of Paramount will work to minimize serious



injury and loss of life in the event of a major disaster.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 8.** The City of Paramount will strive to prevent serious structural damage to critical facilities and structures, particularly where large numbers of people are apt to congregate.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 9.** The City of Paramount will work to ensure that vital services and functions can continue following a major earthquake.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 10.** The City of Paramount will work to educate the community on how the effects of a major earthquake can be reduced.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 11.** The City of Paramount will develop an information program to familiarize citizens with emergency preparedness in the event of a major earthquake.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 12.** The City of Paramount will require special soils and structural investigations for all larger structures or development involving large groups of people pursuant to State requirements.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 13.** The City of Paramount will continue to employ the code enforcement program, including the identification of pre-1933 structures, and require their rehabilitation.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 14.** The City of Paramount will continue redevelopment efforts, particularly in older commercial and industrial areas.

### Creation of the Fire Department...

A regular fire station was erected later at 345 North Ocean in Clearwater. A fireman's ball was held to supply the station with cooking utensils, dishes and a radio. The sign over the door read "Los Angeles County Fire Department, Engine No. 31." Captain T. F. Mitchell was in charge and he had two assistants. In 1949, the Paramount Fire Protection District merged with nine other county districts to form the Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District. Another larger fire station was constructed on Colorado Street in 1952.



### Issue: Fire Protection

The City has maintained a contract with the Los Angeles County Fire Department since incorporation. The Department currently operates one station (Station 31) on Somerset Boulevard in the City, and the fire protection rating overall is very good. The City, through the following policies, remains committed to the Fire Department's ongoing prevention and inspection programs, and the continued maintenance of the high standards related to emergency response.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 15.** The City of Paramount will strive to protect life and property from fire damage.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 16.** The City of Paramount will work to reduce fire danger.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 17.** The City of Paramount will continue to provide efficient fire protection services.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 18.** The City of Paramount will continue code enforcement efforts as a means to reduce fire hazards often associated with older buildings and unpermitted structures.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 19.** The City of Paramount will require contemporary fire protection for multi-story structures and larger industrial facilities.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 20.** The City of Paramount will require all development to comply with established fire safety standards.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 21.** The City of Paramount will require new development to install sprinkler systems and smoke detectors, as appropriate.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 22.** The City of Paramount will encourage improved fire insurance programs.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 23.** The City of Paramount will monitor, review, and improve, as needed, the City's emergency response capabilities.

### Issue: Law Enforcement

The City has also utilized the services of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department since incorporation. The Sheriff's Department maintains a station on Paramount Boulevard. In addition, the Sheriff's Department is able to draw on its extensive resources from nearby communities, should the need arise. As indicated in the following policies, the City remains committed to the support of those services provided by the Sheriff's Department.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 24.** The City of Paramount will strive to provide an atmosphere of security and safety for residents and businesses in the City.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 25.** The City of Paramount will encourage good relations between all residents and police.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 26.** The City of Paramount will cooperate with local law enforcement as a means to suppress crime.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 27.** The City of Paramount will support "neighborhood watch" programs in conjunction with neighborhood improvement associations to encourage cooperation between residents, businesses, and police.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 28.** The City of Paramount will cooperate with police and probation departments in the rehabilitation of residents involved in crimes through



employment assistance, counseling, and related programs.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 29.** The City of Paramount will strive to continue the development of youth programs.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 30.** The City of Paramount will incorporate defensible space design principles and other security measures into new development in the City.

### Issue: Noise Control

Noise levels may be significantly reduced by employing relatively simple design measures, such as the use of sound walls, extra insulation, double-paned windows, etc. The following policies underscore the City's continued efforts to control noise exposure through land use planning and building design.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 31.** The City of Paramount will strive to ensure that public buildings (schools, libraries, etc.) are sufficiently noise insulated to permit their intended function to be uninterrupted by exterior noise.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 32.** The City of Paramount will cooperate with State and Federal agencies so as to minimize transportation related noise.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 33.** The City of Paramount will ensure that the design and improvement of future master planned roadway links in the City are accomplished in a manner that minimizes noise impacts on adjacent noise sensitive land uses.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 34.** The City of Paramount will promote the development of a compatible noise environment throughout the City.

- **Health and Safety Element Policy 35.** The City of Paramount will continue to require noise attenuation in new residential developments that are exposed to significant noise levels from freeway and arterial roadway traffic.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 36.** The City of Paramount will periodically review County and regional plans for land use, transportation, airport operation, etc. to identify any potential noise impacts and to develop corresponding noise attenuation strategies.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 37.** The City of Paramount will continue to promote the application of noise insulation and other noise control techniques in new schools, hospitals, and convalescent homes consistent with State and Federal regulations.
- **Health and Safety Element Policy 38.** The City of Paramount will consider the effects of truck mix, speed limits, and ultimate motor vehicle volumes on noise levels adjacent to master planned roadways when improvements to the circulation system are planned.

### Flooding in the City...

Flooding was one of the big problems facing the Hynes-Clearwater territory. In 1884 the San Gabriel River went out of its bounds. Its tributary became the Rio Hondo. Thousands of acres of farmland were inundated. Bridges and roads were washed out. Some people were stranded for ten days at a time. The Los Angeles river, too, changed its channel many times. One of the most destructive storms in the history of California occurred in February of 1927.





### Issue: Climate Adaptation

Climate change is a long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns. Climate adaptation refers to the process of preparing for these evolving environmental conditions. The leading cause of the changing climate are greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In response, California law requires that the cities throughout the State, take actions to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions toward State reduction goals. State legislation under AB 320 (2006) set out goals to reduce emissions by at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, with this target date subject to change based on measured progress. Thus, it is critical that the General Plan include policies not merely to comply with State requirements but to be part of the California-wide solution. The Paramount City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2021 to guide local reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

state continues to get warmer. Given higher temperatures, the City is expected to experience more extreme heat events, and these are expected to occur more frequently and to persist for longer time periods. City residents will face increased risk of death from dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heart attack, stroke and respiratory distress caused by extreme heat. In response, the City will need to designate more cooling centers and take preventive actions such as planting more trees to help cool buildings and neighborhoods.

### Vulnerability Assessment: Climate Adaptation:

By itself, the mitigation of greenhouse gases as required by State law will not be enough to protect the community from the dangerous effects of climate change.

In particular, climate change will exacerbate numerous natural hazards that face the Paramount community. A vulnerability assessment, as developed with the Paramount Climate Action Plan, helps identify priority climate vulnerabilities. The vulnerability rating identified here identify the potential impact and adaptive capacity. Table 5-1 identifies risks that could affect Paramount and the impact it could pose to the community.

**Extreme Heat.** A study by the California Energy Commission states that "over the past 15 years, heat waves have claimed more lives in California than all other declared disaster events combined," and the

**Extreme Storms.** According to the California Climate Adaptation Study (CAS), climate change is expected to only cause a slight increase or decrease in average annual rainfall. However, the intensity of individual rainfall events is anticipated to increase. The prospect of more intense rainfall events increases the likelihood that these storms will overwhelm stormwater systems built to historic rainfall averages, making localized flooding more likely. In addition, more intense thunderstorms as a result of climate change are also likely to bring stronger more destructive winds.

**Droughts and Water Shortages.** Given warmer temperatures, droughts are more likely to become more frequent and persistent in coming decades. The CAS notes that climate change is likely to significantly diminish California's future water supply and create greater competition for limited water supplies needed by the environment, agriculture, and cities. Given the increasing vulnerability of its water supply, the City will need to verify that new developments will have access to a reliable water supply. Long-term conservation efforts will be critical to maintaining economic and social well-being, especially in light of the impacts of climate change on

**Table 5-1 Vulnerability Assessment**

Table 5-1 Vulnerability Assessment		
Risk	Potential Impact	Adaptive Capacity
Extreme Heat (EH)	Medium	Low
Extreme Storms (ES)	Medium	Low
Droughts and Water Shortages (D)	Medium	Medium
Power Outage (P)	Medium	Medium
Flooding (F)	Low	High
Dam Failure (DF)	Low	Low
Score	Potential Impact	Adaptive Capacity
Low	Impact is unlikely based on projected exposure; would result in minor consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern.	The population lacks capacity to manage climate impact; major changes would be required.
Medium	Impact is somewhat likely based on projected exposure; would result in some consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern.	The population has some capacity to manage climate impact; some changes would be required.
High	Impact is highly likely based on projected exposure; consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern	The population has high capacity to manage climate impact; minimal to no changes are required.



California's water supply. Additionally, droughts will also cause local trees to dry out and become more vulnerable to falling over during storm events.

The Central Basin Water District, which services the City of Paramount (Division V) has prepared a Drought Response Plan that identifies actions to address changes in future water supplies as a result of climate change and increase in regular drought conditions.

**Flooding and Dam Failure.** Climate change can influence variables that contribute to floods such as the more intense rainfall events described above. In early 1995, heavy winter rains caused local flooding events in Los Angeles County in close proximity to the City of Paramount. Typically, portions of the City of Paramount have been prone to occasional urban flooding due to debris accumulation on storm drains and aged drainage systems. Otherwise, the City of Paramount has long had a high degree of flood protection due to the construction of dams along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers and the channelization of the Los Angeles River in the 1950s.

There are, however, two major dams that could potentially affect the City in the event of a dam failure. The Whittier Narrows Dam on the San Gabriel River at the southern end of the San Gabriel Valley, and the Hansen Dam located on the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley. In particular, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the 60-year-old Whittier Narrows Dam is structurally unsafe and poses a potentially catastrophic risk to the communities along the San Gabriel River floodplain, including the City of Paramount, which is geographically located in the flood inundation area should a dam failure occur.

**Power Outage.** Climate change is causing an increase in many types of extreme weather. Heat waves are hotter, heavy rain events are heavier, and

winter storms have increased in both frequency and intensity. To date, these kinds of severe weather are among the leading causes of large-scale power outages in the United States.



## Vulnerable Population: Climate Adaptation

Due to the rise and frequency of extreme weather and climate-related events, it's important to emphasize the health threats and challenges imposed by climate change. While most residents and businesses will be faced with the health impacts inflicted by climate change, certain groups will disproportionately feel the health impacts, as they can be less climate resilient. Evacuation scenarios are particularly difficult for seniors and people with disabilities who may be physically unable or prepared to leave their homes.

Secondary health impacts that are indirectly exacerbated by climate change include air pollution complicated by warmer weather and increase in vector-borne diseases with the prolonged stay of mosquitos.

Table 5-2 identifies specific populations in Paramount the potential climate effects that will impact them the most.

**Table 5-2 Vulnerable Population**

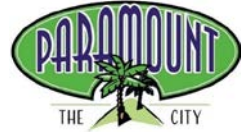
Population (2019)	Percent of Total		Climate Effects
	Paramount	LA County	
Total	54,205	10,012,895	DW, P, AP, V
Children (age 0 to 17)	28.7%	22.1%	AP, EH, DW, V
Older Adults (age 65 and over)	8.2%	13.1%	AP, EH, F PO, DW, DF, V
Disability	15.4%	20.7%	AP, EH, F PO, DF, V
Below Poverty	16.7%	14.9%	EH, P, AP, V

Notes: Climate Effects acronym: Extreme Heat (EH), Extreme Storms (ES), Droughts and Water Shortages (DW), Flooding (F), Dam Failure (DF), Power Outage (P), Air Pollution (AP), Vector (V).



## Policies

- **Health and Safety Policy Element 39.** Integrate climate change hazards, adaptation, and resiliency into the update of city plans, regulatory codes, and policies
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 40.** Evaluate, identify, and implement strategies to reduce the negative effects of climate change on the health of disadvantaged communities and socially vulnerable populations lacking adaptive capacities (e.g., older population, children, low-income households, disability, etc.)
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 41.** Set up systems to predict and communicate with the public about heat waves and severe storm events.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 42.** Establish cooling centers and emergency shelters to reduce City of Paramount residents' vulnerability to extreme heat events and severe storms.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 43.** Update the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan regularly to assess hazard vulnerabilities and identify mitigation to pursue in order to reduce the level of injury, property damage, and community disruption. The current Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as adopted by the City Council is incorporated as part of this General Plan Health and Safety Element and can be accessed via this link:  
<https://www.paramountcity.gov/government/departments/planning-department/paramount-general-plan/>
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 44.** Maximize the resiliency of essential public facilities to risks and hazards of flooding.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 45.** Evaluate the need to expand the capacity of flood control facilities to minimize flood hazards resulting from extreme weather events.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 46.** Monitor the work of the Army Corps of Engineers' and other federal agencies' response plan to repair the Whittier Narrows Dam.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 47.** Encourage natural flood control infrastructure and techniques to capture storm water, recharge aquifers, and prevent flooding near established drainage systems and channels.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 48.** Conduct appropriate outreach and engagement efforts with community residents and businesses for community feedback and buy-in, particularly targeting vulnerable populations.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 49.** Decrease the urban heat island effect, especially in areas with populations most vulnerable to heat.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 50.** Enhance resilience of community tree canopy and urban forest.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 51.** Enhance the resilience of buildings within the community to extreme heat, weather, and energy disruptions.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 52.** Improve the energy efficiency and weatherization of homes and businesses to reduce energy costs and carbon pollution.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 53.** Consult with Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District to address the potential increased risk of disease due to changes in vector populations.



- **Health and Safety Policy Element 54.** Consult with Central Basin Water District to implement Drought Response Plan.
- **Health and Safety Policy Element 55.** Monitor progress of implementation of the Paramount Climate Action Plan and update the plan regularly.



## Health and Safety Element Plan

The graphic depiction of the City of Paramount's official policy relative to emergency preparedness is presented on Exhibit 5-1 that includes an identification of critical facilities and potential evacuation centers as well as evacuation routes. The COVID-19 pandemic and the local emergency response highlighted the need to prepare for and adapt to unique and unusual emergencies. The areas of the City that may be impacted by natural hazards is indicated in the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared for the General Plan. The information contained in the EIR includes the existing seismic hazards, soil constraints, and flood hazards that impact the community. These hazards are identified to alert the City to the naturally occurring hazards that are to be mitigated in order to reduce the risk to life and property in the City.

The City seeks to control noise levels within those areas of Paramount that include noise sensitive receptors. These areas are shown in Exhibit 5-2.

Appropriate measures should be implemented as a means to reduce the effects of noise exposure in these areas.

### Noise and Land Use Compatibility

The State Office of Noise Control has prepared Guidelines for the Preparation and Content of Noise Elements of General Plans. These guidelines serve as a guide for compatibility of noise-sensitive land uses. Residential uses should not be located in areas exceeding 70 dB CNEL. Schools, libraries, hospitals, and nursing homes are treated as noise-sensitive land uses, requiring mitigation when such development occurs in areas where the ambient noise levels exceed 60 dB CNEL. These guidelines are shown in Table 5-3.

**Table 5-3 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines**

Land Use	Maximum Desirable Noise Level	Maximum Acceptable Noise Level
Low Density Residential	55 dBA	65 dBA
Medium Density Residential	60 dBA	65 dBA
High Density Residential	65 dBA	70 dBA
Schools	60 dBA	70 dBA
Office and Commercial	65 dBA	75 dBA
Industrial	70 dBA	75 dBA

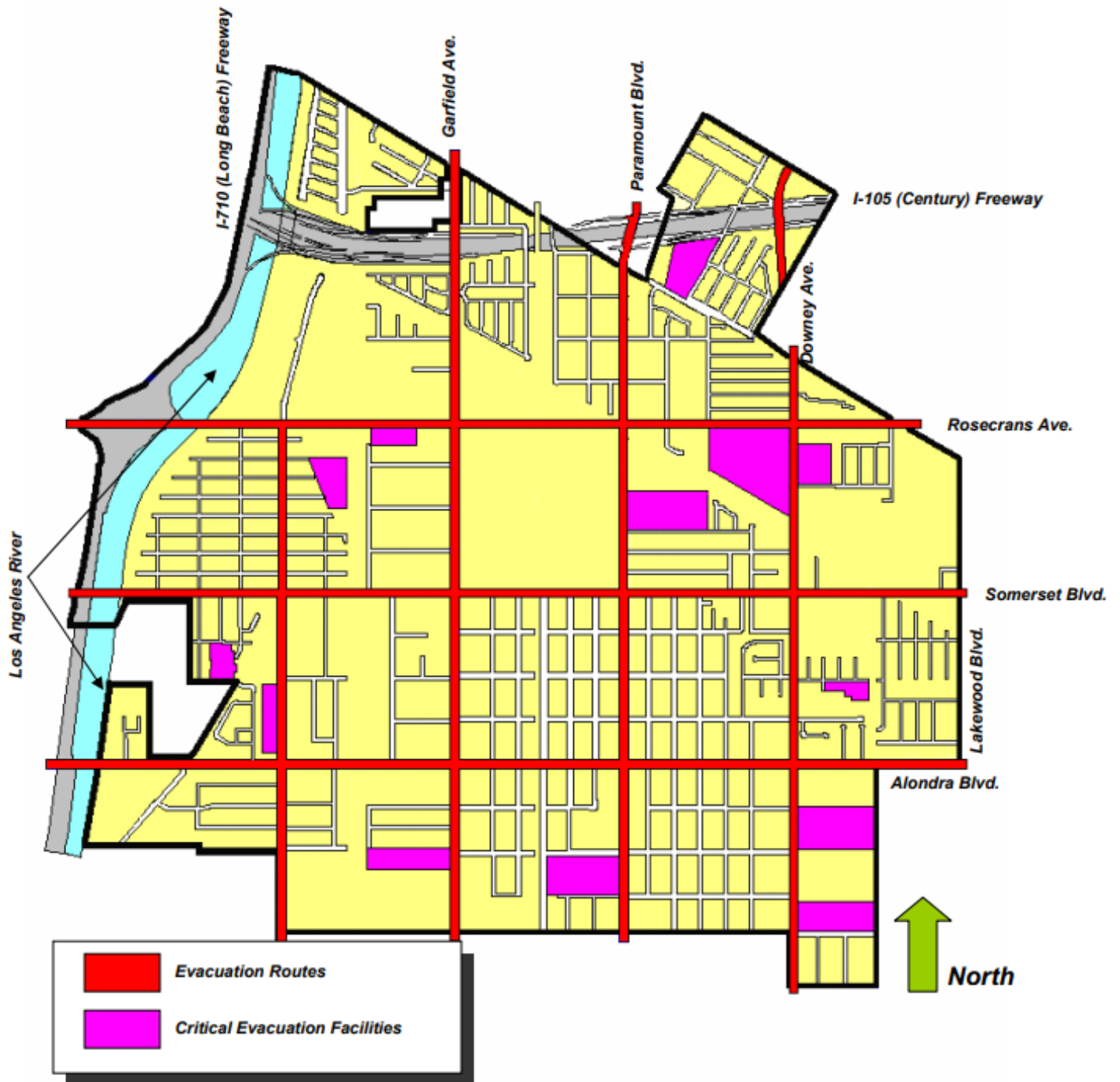
### Noise Control Regulations

A number of other federal, state, and local agencies have adopted standards and recommended noise criteria to protect people in both the working and home environments. A summary of major existing noise regulations is provided below:

- The **Federal Highway Works Administration (FHWA)** has established noise exposure standards for different land uses. These standards apply to the planning and design of federally funded highway projects and are expressed in terms of both Equivalent Noise Level (Leq) and L<sub>10</sub>.

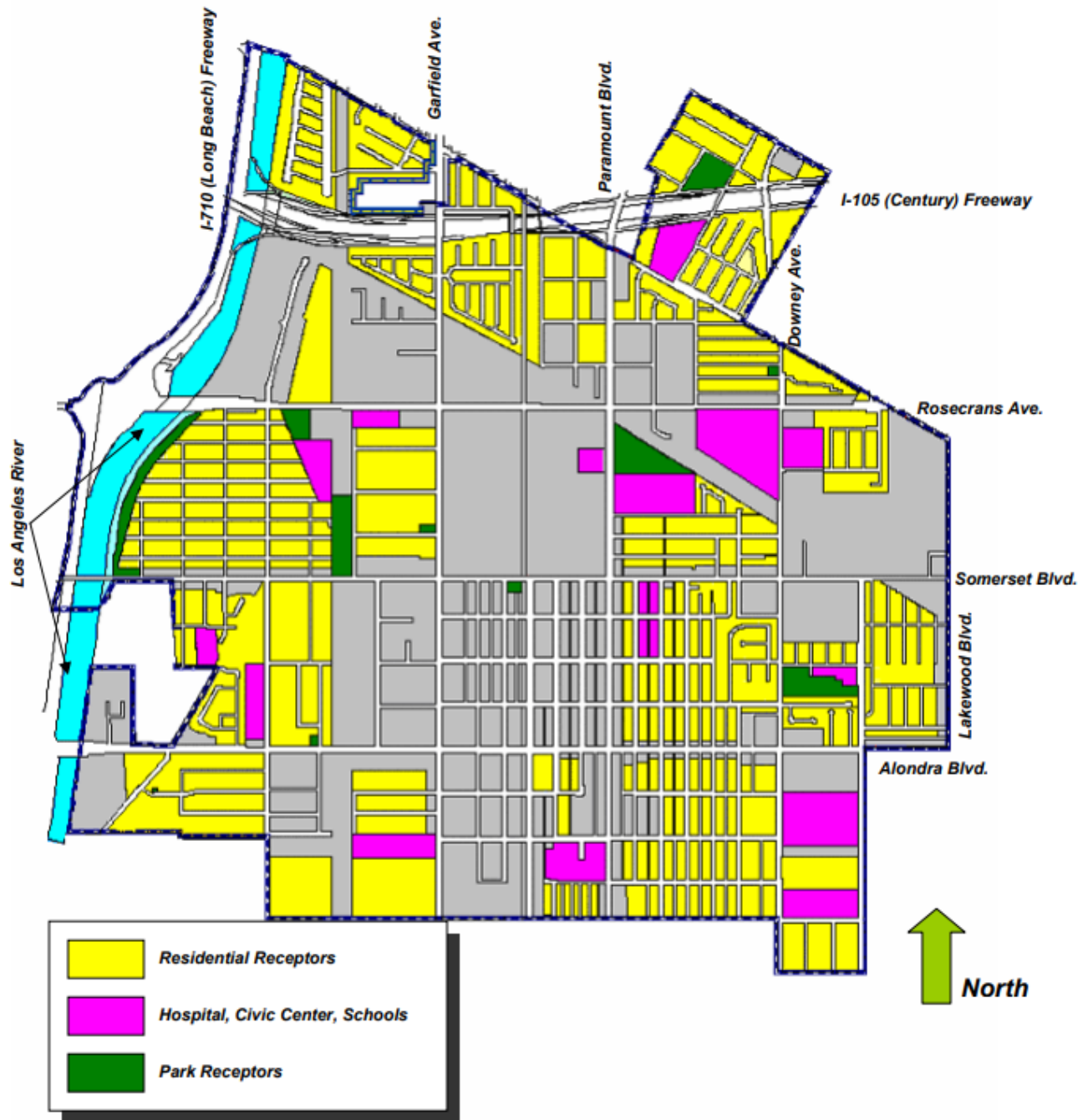


- The **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** has adopted environmental criteria and standards for determining project acceptability and necessary mitigation measures to ensure that projects assisted by HUD provide a suitable living environment. Standards include maximum levels of 65 dB Ldn for residential areas.
- The **Noise Control Act of 1972** authorized the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish descriptive data on the effects of noise and establish levels of sound "requisite to protect the public welfare with an adequate margin of safety." These levels are separated into health (hearing loss levels), and welfare (annoyance levels), with an adequate margin of safety.
- The **California Motor Vehicle Code** establishes noise standards for those areas not regulated by the federal government. State standards regulate the noise levels of motor vehicles and motorboats; establish noise impact boundaries around airports; regulate freeway noise affecting classrooms, sound transmission control, and occupational noise control; and identify noise insulation standards. The California Motor Vehicle Code sets operational noise limits according to the type of vehicle and date of manufacture.
- **Sound Transmission Control Standards** contained in the California Administrative Code, Title 24, Building Standards, Chapter 2.35, outline noise insulation performance standards to protect persons within new hotels, motels, apartment houses, and dwellings other than detached single-family dwellings. These standards require an interior noise level of 45 dB CNEL or less for residential projects. For residential buildings or structures within the 60 dB CNEL of an airport, or vehicular or industrial noise source, an acoustical analysis must be conducted to show compliance with the standards.
- The **California Occupational Noise Control Standards** contained in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Industrial Relations, Chapter 4, outline permissible noise exposure at a workplace. Employees should not be exposed to noise levels of 90 dBA for more than eight hours in any workday.



**Exhibit 5-1**  
**Health and Safety Plan –Critical Facility & Evacuation Routes**  
 City of Paramount General Plan





**Exhibit 5-2**  
**Noise Exposure-Noise Sensitive Land Uses**  
 City of Paramount General Plan