



Introduction to Public Safety

The goal of Lawndale’s Public Safety Element is to reduce the risk of death, injury, property damage, economic loss, and harm due to natural and manmade hazards. An effective response to natural and human-caused disasters requires planning, education, coordination and training by multiple government agencies and the public. A resilient community has the capacity to maintain critical functions during hazard events as well as adapt to and reduce future hazard risks.

This Element establishes goals, policies, and actions to minimize and address these potential hazards as well as support an adequate and coordinated response. The goals are statements of the City’s desires and consist of broad statements of purpose and direction. The policies serve as guidelines for reducing risk associated with natural and human activity hazards. The policies also serve to direct and maximize community emergency preparedness. The actions explain how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented.

The Public Safety Element supports the City’s participation in regional and subregional planning efforts including the Lawndale Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, and the Lawndale Climate Action Plan.

Organization of Element

The Public Safety Element will address each of the topics below as they relate to Lawndale. The goals and policies of this element are organized around the following topics:

- Emergency Operations
- Geologic and Seismic Hazards
- Hazardous Materials
- Fire Hazards
- Flood Hazards
- Noise
- Climate Change and Resiliency Planning



Related Plans, Programs, and Regulations

The following Plans, Programs, and Regulations are incorporated by reference into the City of Lawndale's Public Safety Element.

City of Lawndale

- **General Plan:** Lawndale's General Plan is a broad, long-range policy document that serves as a blueprint for future development in the City. It includes the Public Safety Element, as well as the Land Use, Mobility, Housing, Resource Management, Environmental Justice, Economic Development, and Community Facilities Elements.
- **Zoning Code:** The City's Zoning Code implements the goals and policies of the City's General Plan by regulating the uses of land and structures within Lawndale. The Zoning Code is codified in Title 17 of the Municipal Code.
- **Fire Code:** The Fire Code establishes requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises, and provides safety and assistance to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. Lawndale adopts the County of Los Angeles Fire Codes every three years. The City's Fire Code is codified in Chapter 15.20 of the Municipal Code.
- **Building Code:** The Building Code regulates construction and property use to ensure safe, healthy, efficient, and accessible environments for human occupancy and habitation. Lawndale adopts the County of Los Angeles Building and Safety Codes every three years. The City's Building Code is codified in Title 15 of the Municipal Code.
- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP):** The City adopted the LHMP in 2016 to assess natural hazard risk and incorporate mitigation strategies to reduce the potential impact from hazards. It complies with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act (2000), and Federal Register 44 CFR Parts 201 and 206. The City's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator managed preparation of the LHMP in cooperation with the City's other departments, community stakeholders, partner jurisdictions, agencies and organizations, and members of the public.
- **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** The City adopted the EOP in 2011, which was updated in 2015. The EOP addresses the City's planned response to natural or human-caused disasters, provides an overview of operational concepts, and identifies components of the City's emergency/disaster management organization within the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). The EOP also describes the organizational structures, roles, responsibilities, policies and protocols for providing emergency support.
- **Climate Action Plan (CAP):** The City, in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) which was adopted in 2017. The CAP includes measures to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon storage, or sequestration, as a local response to mitigate global climate change and comply with State and Federal legislation.



Los Angeles County

- **County of Los Angeles All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP):** The AHMP was adopted in 2014 and conforms to the requirements of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The County developed the AHMP to cover mitigation responsibilities of County departments (including Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)). It helps ensure the most effective allocation of resources for the maximum benefit and protection of the public in time of emergency.
- **Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP):** The OAERP was adopted in 2012 and establishes the coordinated emergency management system, which includes prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation within the Los Angeles County Operational Area (OA). The OA is defined as the County and all political subdivisions within the County.
- **Los Angeles County Fire Department 2020 Strategic Fire Plan:** The Strategic Fire Plan outlines goals focused on enhancing the protection of lives, property, and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improving environmental resilience to wildland fires through local, State, Federal, and private partnerships. The 2020 Plan is focused on three primary goals: emergency operations, public service, and organizational effectiveness.

Los Angeles County Fire District Facilities Master Plan: The Master Plan was prepared in 2020 as a collaborative effort between the LA County Fire District and the LA County Chief Executive Office. The Plan evaluates the current capacity, condition, and functionality of the Fire District's facilities and then projecting future capacity deficits utilizing Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) population growth projections and methodologies.



GOAL PS-1 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

A community prepared to provide effective response and recovery efforts in the event of an emergency.

Advanced emergency planning and preparedness is essential in responding to natural and human-caused disasters. The City supports multi-jurisdictional and -agency cooperation and communication for emergency planning and response management. Public safety services in Lawndale are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) South Los Angeles Station and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) Kenny Hahn Memorial Fire Station No. 21.

The City will continue to coordinate with LASD and LACoFD to provide ongoing education to residents about how to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency. While the California Government Code requires jurisdictions to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes, there are not any hazard areas within the boundary of Lawndale and therefore this analysis is not warranted. Major arterials serve as the primary routes for evacuation; however, evacuation routes will depend upon the emergency event and area affected. Law enforcement will identify the appropriate routes and assist residents leaving the City in the event an evacuation of all or part of the City is required.

PS-1 Policies

- PS-1.1 **Citywide Safety.** Support projects, programs, policies, and regulations that help to mitigate potential impacts associated with natural and man-made hazards.
- PS-1.2 **Critical Facilities.** Coordinate with service providers to promote the resilience of critical facilities, lifeline services, and infrastructure, and plan for the use of critical facilities during post-disaster response and recovery.
- PS-1.3 **Emergency Preparedness and Response.** Continue to implement emergency preparedness and response measures in coordination with Los Angeles County including periodic trainings with staff and/or participation in County trainings on emergency operations procedures and responses.
- PS-1.4 **Local Hazard Mitigation.** Regularly maintain and update natural and man-made hazard information relevant to the Lawndale Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- PS-1.5 **Resources.** Support policies and programs that facilitate the availability of adequate resources to respond to health, fire, and police emergencies.
- PS-1.6 **Emergency Access.** Investigate and seek out opportunities to improve emergency access and circulation throughout the community.
- PS-1.7 **Public Safety Education.** Promote public safety education programs to educate on emergency preparedness, reduce accidents, injuries, and fires, and to train members of the public to respond to emergencies.
- PS-1.8 **Cooperation.** Collaborate with the school district, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community members/groups to maintain safety throughout the City.



PS-1 Actions

- PS-1a Regularly review and coordinate emergency response procedures with Los Angeles County and State emergency response procedures.
- PS-1b Continue to implement and update (when relevant) the City’s Emergency Operations Plan.
- PS-1c Continue to implement and update (at least every five years) the City’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- PS-1d Coordinate with local agencies and organizations to develop and distribute informational brochures and give presentations to civic groups and local schools to educate residents and businesses about appropriate actions to take during an emergency situation.
- PS-1e Investigate and pursue available funding sources to fund safety programs, provide services, upgrade/construct facilities, and purchase equipment.
- PS-1f Promote after school programs, volunteer programs, and Business & Neighborhood Watch programs to help maintain a safe environment.



GOAL PS-2 GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARDS

A community protected from loss of life or injury and damage to property due to geologic and seismic hazards.

Lawndale is within the northern margin of the Peninsular Ranges. The topography of Lawndale is relatively flat with an elevation of approximately 59 feet above sea level. Like most cities in the Southern California region, Lawndale is subject to risks associated with potentially destructive earthquakes. Although there are no designated Alquist-Priolo fault zones within the City, regional fault zones may have an impact on the City if the rupture is of a significant magnitude. There are numerous earthquake faults within 15 miles of the City. The most active faults near the City are the Palos Verdes fault located to the south and the Newport-Inglewood fault to the northeast.

As detailed in the Existing Conditions Report, there are no areas within the City designated as having the potential for liquefaction, in addition Lawndale does not have areas susceptible to earthquake-induced landslides and other slope failures. Most areas in the City are considered to have a low potential for erosion. Generally, erosion potential within the City increases to the south. The majority of the City has 'Low to Medium' expansive soils. Only a small portion of the City has areas with 'Low to High' expansive soils and potential for non-seismically induced landslides. The City of Lawndale does not have any historic or current U.S. Geological Survey-recorded subsidence. Because existing soil types are well-drained and permeability is moderate to slow, the risk for collapsible soils is low. According to the California Geological Survey, there is no naturally occurring asbestos mapped within the City. Lawndale is not within a tsunami or seiche hazard area. Risk of exposure to natural hazards can be reduced through careful land use planning, building construction practices, and implementation of the following policies and actions.

PS-2 Policies

- PS-2.1 **Geologic Hazard Identification.** Continue to incorporate geotechnical hazard data in future land use decision-making, site design, and construction standards.
- PS-2.2 **Earthquake Protection.** Enforce State seismic design guidelines and all relevant building codes to reduce the risk of damage associated with seismic activity, with a special focus on creating resilient critical infrastructure and facilities.
- PS-2.3 **Development Projects.** Monitor and enforce mitigation measures to reduce risks for projects where seismic and geologic hazards can be mitigated and prohibit development in areas where seismic and geologic hazards cannot be mitigated.
- PS-2.4 **Seismic Hazard Education.** Continue to seek out opportunities to educate and encourage the community on ways to implement measures to mitigate potential injury and damage associated with earthquakes.



PS-2 Actions

- PS-2a Review and update (at least annually) the City’s geologic and seismic hazards maps in concert with updates from the California Geologic Survey and local surveys.
- PS-2b Review development proposals to confirm compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 19100 et seq. (Earthquake Protection Law), which requires that buildings be designed to resist stresses produced by natural forces such as earthquakes and wind.
- PS-2c Adopt the latest version of the building codes adopted by the State of California and ensure implementation in all new construction and renovations.
- PS-2d During review of discretionary development and redevelopment proposals, require surveys of soil and geologic conditions by State licensed Engineering Geologists and Civil Engineers where appropriate. When potential geologic impacts are identified, require project applicants to mitigate the impacts per the recommendations contained within the geologic survey.
- PS-2e Reduce the risk to the community from hazards related to geologic conditions and seismic activity by requiring feasible mitigation of such impacts on development projects. Assess development proposals for potential hazards pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Require measures to mitigate all identified significant public safety hazards.



GOAL PS-3 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A community protected from the harmful effects of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and environmental contamination.

Certain types of development and uses within the City utilize hazardous materials, such as gas stations and automobile repair shops. These uses make Lawndale susceptible to hazards from spills of toxic materials. Accidents can occur in the production, use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials. This danger is mitigated, however, by various State and federal legislation regulating the use, storage, and transportation of hazardous materials and the strict enforcement of these regulations. The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFd) Health Hazardous Materials Division maintains an emergency response team that would respond in the event of a hazardous materials spill or other environmental health emergencies.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division enforces the provisions of the Hazardous Waste Control Law of the State of California as set forth in the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations. The City coordinates with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division to effectively manage hazardous materials and waste as well as implement educational programs.

LACoFD maintains the mandatory disclosure file on use (or non-use), handling, and storage practices of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes annually of all businesses. Inventories of hazardous materials are data-processed for immediate availability to fire, police, and other first-responder (i.e. first at the scene of an incident) departments. These potential risks are carefully monitored and controlled through annual inspection.

PS-3 Policies

- PS-3.1 **Compatible Land Uses.** Require land uses involved in the production, storage, transportation, handling, or disposal of hazardous materials be located and operated in a way to reduce risk to neighboring land uses.
- PS-3.2 **Safe Residential Uses.** Discourage the development of residential uses adjacent to or near potentially hazardous land uses.
- PS-3.3 **Emergency Operations.** Coordinate with Los Angeles County to review and update, as appropriate, the County's Emergency Operations Plan Hazardous Materials Annex so that the Plan adequately addresses and responds to potential hazardous materials incidents within the City.
- PS-3.4 **Cleanup Sites.** Require that developers coordinate with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division and the LACoFD to confirm that hazardous waste cleanup sites located within the City are remediated by the property owner in a manner that keeps the public safe.
- PS-3.5 **Monitoring.** Monitor through the planning and business permit processes the operations of businesses and individuals that handle hazardous materials.
- PS-3.6 **Transportation.** Promote the routing of vehicles transporting hazardous materials to transportation corridors posing the minimum risk to the public and prohibit the parking of vehicles transporting hazardous materials on City streets.



- PS-3.7 **Pipelines.** Require new pipelines or other similar facilities that would transport hazardous materials to avoid residential areas to the greatest extent possible.
- PS-3.8 **Rail Lines.** Coordinate with Metro and Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Rail (BNSF) on opportunities to maintain and improve the safety of the transport of hazardous materials by rail.
- PS-3.9 **Public Education.** Educate residents and businesses on how to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials and products as well as appropriate disposal methods.

PS-3 Actions

- PS-3a As part of the development review process, require projects that result in significant risks associated with hazardous materials to include measures to address the risks and reduce the risks to an acceptable level.
- PS-3b Require the submittal of information regarding hazardous materials manufacturing, storage, use, transport, and/or disposal by existing and proposed businesses and developments to LACoFD.
- PS-3c Protect the community from hazards related to air pollution, hazardous materials, and ground and air transportation by requiring feasible mitigation to be incorporated into new development and redevelopment proposals to address safety impacts associated with those proposals.
- PS-3d Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Public Works Department to implement and advertise the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program to protect residents from dangers resulting from the use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials used in the home. Provide informational materials at public locations and links on the City's website about the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection program, collection facilities, drop-off centers, and the 24-hour Household Hazardous Waste hotline.
- PS-3e Continue to coordinate with the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources for any development proposed to occur near oil wells.



GOAL PS-4 FIRE HAZARDS

A community protected from loss of life or injury and damage to property due to fire hazards.

There are no Fire Hazard Severity Zones located within Lawndale and no threat of wildland fire. Due to the urbanized character of the City, fires would primarily be associated with structures, trash/debris, and vehicle fires. Structure fires, including homes, industrial and commercial buildings, and other facilities are of the greatest concern due to the potential for loss of life as well as property. Generally, the risk of injury and damage is greater for higher occupancy structures, such as condominiums, apartment buildings, hotels, and churches. In addition, higher density areas are of increased concern due to the large number of people residing within a concentrated area and the potential for fires to spread from one structure to another. Lawndale is one of the most densely populated areas within Los Angeles County. Development of the City has resulted in small lot development with multiple structures on single lots and narrow streets. Emergency access is limited between the closely spaced structures and along the narrow streets that occur throughout the City. On-street parking, especially during the evening hours, further restricts the access and maneuverability of fire equipment. Due to the nature of the development that has occurred, many structures do not meet current emergency access requirements.

PS-4 Policies

- PS-4.1 **Fire Protection Services.** Coordinate fire protection services with LACoFD so that sufficient capacity, stations, personnel, and equipment are available to meet needs in Lawndale for fire protection and related emergency services.
- PS-4.2 **Development Review.** Involve LACoFD in the development review process so that fire safety is addressed in new and modified developments.
- PS-4.3 **Emergency Access.** Require all new developments provide adequate access for emergency vehicles and evacuation as part of the development review process.
- PS-4.4 **Building Fire Codes.** Require that all buildings and facilities within the City comply with local, State, and federal regulatory standards such as the California Building and Fire Codes, as well as other applicable fire safety standards.
- PS-4.5 **Hazard Mitigation Plans.** Coordinate with local, State, and federal agencies to update emergency, evacuation, and hazard mitigation plans, as necessary.

PS-4 Actions

- PS-4a Require all new habitable structures be designed in accordance with the most recent California Building and Fire Code with local amendments adopted by the City.
- PS-4b Work with LACoFD to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures.



GOAL PS-5 FLOOD HAZARDS

A community that is protected from flood hazards.

The City has been designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), as being in Zone X, which is a Non-Special Flood Hazard Area. Zone X includes areas that are:

- Outside the 1% annual flood risk floodplain
- Of 1% annual shallow flooding risk where average depths are less than 1 foot
- Of 1% annual stream flooding risk where the contributing drainage area is less than 1.0 square mile
- Protected by levees from the 1% annual flood risk

These areas are not in any immediate danger from flooding caused by overflowing rivers or hard rains. However, it is noted that structures within a Non-Special Flood Hazard Areas are still at risk, particularly to localized flooding. The City is not in a dam inundation zone so is not as risk of flooding from dam or reservoir failure.

PS-5 Policies

- PS-5.1 **Flood Control Regulations.** Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies so that the City's regulations related to flood control are in compliance with Federal, State, and Local standards.
- PS-5.2 **Flood Maps.** Coordinate with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) so that Federal Insurance Rate Maps correctly depict flood hazards in the City.
- PS-5.3 **Site Design.** Adhere to the latest building, site, and design codes to avoid or minimize the risk of flooding hazards in the community.
- PS-5.4 **Best Management Practices.** Encourage new developments that add substantial amounts of impervious surfaces to integrate low impact development Best Management Practices to reduce stormwater runoff.
- PS-5.5 **Changing Conditions.** Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Flood Control and Waterworks Districts on changing flood conditions associated with climate change and extreme weather.
- PS-5.6 **Local Storm Drainage Infrastructure.** Maintain and regularly assess the status of local storm drainage infrastructure to confirm that the system is functioning property.

PS-5 Actions

- PS-5a Monitor changes in Federal and State laws and regulations related to local flood protection, including the National Flood Insurance Program and incorporate necessary changes into the Municipal Code and building codes as required.
- PS-5b Communicate with FEMA annually regarding updates to Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Letter of Map Revisions.
- PS-5c Periodically review County, State, and Federal flood control best practices and incorporate appropriate standards into the Municipal Code.



GOAL PS-6 NOISE

An environment where excessive or harmful noise pollution is limited.

Noise levels within the community can affect the quality of life experienced by people living and working in Lawndale. High noise levels can create stress and irritation. The following policies and actions address other potential sources of excessive noise by creating effective strategies to reduce and limit the community’s exposure to loud sources of noise.

PS-6 Policies

- PS-6.1 **California Building Code.** Adhere to the latest standards related to noise in the most current edition of the California Building Code to avoid or minimize noise pollution in the community.
- PS-6.2 **Noise Exposure.** Consider the noise compatibility of existing and future development when making land use planning decisions. Require development and infrastructure projects to be consistent with the land use compatibility standards contained in Table PS-1 and the Lawndale Municipal Code to facilitate acceptable noise exposure levels for existing and future development.
- PS-6.3 **Noise Mitigation.** Require new development to mitigate excessive noise to the standards indicated in Table PS-1 and the Lawndale Municipal Code through best practices, including building location and orientation, building design features, placement of noise-generating equipment away from sensitive receptors, shielding of noise-generating equipment, placement of noise-tolerant features between noise sources and sensitive receptors, and use of noise-minimizing materials.
- PS-6.4 **Acoustical Studies.** Require acoustical studies for new discretionary developments and transportation improvements that have the potential to affect existing noise-sensitive uses such as schools, hospitals, libraries, care facilities, and residential areas; and for projects that would introduce new noise-sensitive uses into an area where existing noise levels may exceed the thresholds identified in this element. For projects that are required to prepare an acoustical study, the following mobile and stationary noise source criteria shall be used to determine the significance of those impacts.

A. Mobile Noise Sources:

- Where existing traffic noise levels are within or below the “normally acceptable” noise criteria at the affected land use (see Table PS-1), a readily perceptible 5 dBA CNEL or greater increase in roadway noise will be considered significant;
- Where existing traffic noise levels falls within the “conditionally acceptable” noise criteria at the sensitive land use, a +3 dBA CNEL or greater increase in roadway noise levels will be considered significant; and
- Where existing traffic noise levels exceed the “conditionally acceptable” noise criteria at the sensitive land use, a + 1.5 dBA CNEL or greater increase in roadway noise levels will be considered significant



B. Stationary and Non-Transportation Noise Sources

A significant impact will occur if the project results in an exceedance of the noise level standards contained in this element, or the project will result in an increase in ambient noise levels by more than 3 dB, whichever is greater.

- PS-6.5 **Roadway Noise.** Encourage nonmotorized transportation alternatives for local trips and the implementation of noise sensitivity measures in the public realm, including traffic-calming road design, lateral separation, natural buffers, and setbacks to decrease excessive motor vehicle noise.
- PS-6.6 **Freeway Noise.** Coordinate with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to achieve maximum noise abatement in the design of new freeway projects or improvements along I-405.
- PS-6.7 **Railroad Noise.** Coordinate with Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Rail (BNSF) to support and maintain reasonable limits on the use of bells and whistles, and the speed and hours of rail operation in affected areas of the City and maintain adequate setbacks and buffer zones along rail lines to reduce adverse noise impacts on sensitive receptors.
- PS-6.8 **Commercial Noise.** Require the use of noise attenuation measures, including screening and buffering techniques, for all new commercial development expected to produce excessive noise; in existing cases where the City's noise standards are exceeded, work with Code Enforcement to require compliance.
- PS-6.9 **Construction Noise.** Require construction activities to reduce noise impacts on adjacent uses to the criteria identified to the maximum extent feasible by complying with Chapter 8.20 of the Lawndale Municipal Code and use best practices.
- PS-6.10 **Special Events.** Temporary special events which generate noise in excess of local noise standards including, but not limited to, festivals, concerts, parades, and other similar activities may be considered on a case-by-case basis through issuance of a temporary use permit.
- PS-6.11 **Temporary Emergency Operations and Emergency Equipment Usage.** Temporary emergency operations or emergency equipment usage are exempt from noise standard criteria set by this element.
- PS-6.12 **Interjurisdictional and Multiagency Coordination.** Coordinate with neighboring cities and transportation providers such as Caltrans to minimize noise conflicts between land uses along the City's boundaries.
- PS-6.13 **Community Education.** Provide education to the community regarding potential noise sources and how to reduce them or report violations.
- PS-6.14 **Vibration Studies.** Require vibration impact studies for new discretionary development and transportation improvements whose construction utilizes pile drivers within 200 feet of existing buildings or vibratory rollers within 50 feet of existing buildings.



PS-6 Actions

- PS-6a Monitor changes in the California Building Code and other Federal and State laws and regulations related to noise and incorporate necessary changes into the Municipal Code and building codes as required.
- PS-6b Review the Lawndale Municipal Code and update as necessary so that the noise standards are consistent with this General Plan, including Table PS-1, and to require new residential, mixed-use with a residential component, and other noise-sensitive development to be designed to minimize noise exposure to noise sensitive uses through incorporation of site planning and architectural techniques. The update shall also include noise standards for residential uses within a mixed-use development, which may differ from other adopted residential noise standards.
- PS-6c Review new development and transportation projects for compliance with the noise requirements established in this General Plan, including the standards established in Table PS-1 and the Lawndale Municipal Code. Where necessary, require new development to mitigate excessive noise through best practices, including building location and orientation, building design features, placement of noise-generating equipment away from sensitive receptors, shielding of noise-generating equipment, placement of noise-tolerant features between noise sources and sensitive receptors, and use of noise-minimizing materials such as rubberized asphalt.
- PS-6d Require acoustical studies for all new discretionary projects, including those related to development and transportation, which have the potential to generate noise impacts which exceed the standards identified in this General Plan. The studies shall include representative noise measurements, estimates of existing and projected noise levels, and mitigation measures necessary to facilitate compliance with this element.
- PS-6e Review the locations of proposed projects with the potential to generate stationary noise in relation to sensitive receptors through the discretionary project review process. Limit delivery or service hours for stores and businesses with loading areas, docks, or trash bins that front, side, border, or gain access on driveways next to residential and other noise sensitive areas. Only approve exceptions if full compliance with the nighttime limits of the noise regulations is achieved.
- PS-6f Require all construction activity to comply with the limits (maximum noise levels, hours and days of allowed activity) established in the Lawndale Municipal Code in order to reduce impacts associated with temporary construction noise to the extent feasible.
- PS-6g Actively enforce the standards identified within the Lawndale Municipal Code to reduce impacts to the extent feasible. Update and amend the Lawndale Municipal Code as appropriate. Provide a link on the City's website for those to file complaints against activities and uses that may be violating the Municipal Code.



- PS-6h Require new residential projects located adjacent to railroad lines to follow the FTA vibration screening distance criteria to prevent residential uses from being exposed to vibrations exceeding 72 VdB for frequent events (more than 70 events per day), 75 VdB for occasional events (30-70 events per day), or 80 VdB for infrequent events (less than 30 events per day).
- PS-6i Enforce the provisions of the most current California Motor Vehicle Code regarding muffler maintenance and exhaust systems.
- PS-6j Limit truck traffic in noise sensitive areas.
- PS-6k Require vibration impact studies for all new discretionary projects, including those related to development and transportation, whose construction utilizes pile drivers within 200 feet of existing buildings or vibratory rollers within 50 feet of existing buildings. The studies shall include a detailed mitigation plan to avoid any potential significant impacts to existing structures due to groundborne vibrations, based on the California Department of Transportation’s Construction Vibration Guidance Manual.



Table PS-1: Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure (dBA, CNEL)

Land Use	55	60	65	70	75	80
Residential	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Hotel, Motels, Mixed Use	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Churches	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Schools, Libraries, Museums	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Sports Arenas, Outdoor Spectator Sports	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Office Buildings, Businesses, Commercial and Professional	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable		
<p>Normally Acceptable: Specified land uses is satisfactory based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation or requirements.</p> <p>Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning will normally suffice. Outdoor environment will seem noisy.</p> <p>Normally Unacceptable: New construction and development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made with needed noise insulation features included in the design. Outdoor areas must be shielded.</p> <p>Clearly Unacceptable New construction or development should generally not be undertaken. Construction costs to make the indoor environment acceptable would be prohibitive and the outdoor environment would not be usable.</p>						
<p>Source: California Office of Noise Control. Guidelines for the Preparation and Content of Noise Elements of the General Plan. February 2017.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where a proposed use is not specifically listed, the use shall comply with the standards for the most similar use as determined by the City. Outdoor activity areas for residential development are considered to be the backyard patios or decks of single-family units and the common areas where people generally congregate for multi-family developments. Where common outdoor activity areas for multi-family developments comply with the outdoor noise level standard, the standard will not be applied at patios or decks of individual units provided noise-reducing measures are incorporated (e.g., orientation of patio/deck, screening of patio with masonry or other noise-attenuating material). Outdoor activity areas for non-residential developments are the common areas where people generally congregate, including pedestrian plazas, seating areas, and outside lunch facilities; not all residential developments include outdoor activity areas. 						



GOAL PS-7 CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY PLANNING

A resilient, sustainable, and equitable community where risks to life, property, the economy, and the environment resulting from climate change are minimized.

The impacts of climate change pose an increasing and growing challenge to the safety and well-being of the residents of Lawndale. California will continue to experience effects of climate change in different ways, including increased likelihood of drought, heat waves, severe weather, flooding, and wildfires. In addition to climate change planning becoming necessary on its own merits, Senate Bill 379 requires Lawndale to update the Public Safety Element to address climate change adaptation and resilience strategies applicable to the City.

Lawndale developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments in 2017. The CAP serves as a guide for action by setting GHG emission reduction goals and establishing strategies and policy to achieve desired outcomes over the next 20 years.

Lawndale’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) assesses climate change vulnerability and identifies risks that climate change pose to the City. The following policies are informed by, and intended to supplement, the CAP and LHMP.

PS-7 Policies

- PS-7.1 **Community Preparedness.** Promote a well-prepared City that can effectively overcome natural disasters and scarcity of resources due to climate change.
- PS-7.2 **Collaboration.** Collaborate with local, regional, State and/or Federal jurisdictions and agencies on climate resiliency and adaptation strategies.
- PS-7.3 **Ecological Recovery.** Coordinate with Federal, State, and local agencies to establish ecological recovery programs.
- PS-7.4 **Air Pollution.** Work with responsible Federal, State, and County agencies to decrease air pollution emissions occurring within the air basin to reduce the risk posed by air pollution.
- PS-7.5 **Energy Supply.** Promote plans and programs that increase sustainable energy sources.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Lawndale looks to the future, State law requires the City to consider climate impacts facing California as well as methods to adapt and increase resiliency to climate change effects. As a result of climate change, Lawndale may experience more intense and frequent heat waves, drought, and wildfires, and more severe storms and extreme weather events.

Emissions scenarios used in the General Plan and Environmental Impact Report are the same as those used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Sixth Assessment Report and are called Representative Concentration Pathways, or RCPs. There are five RCPs: SSP1-1.9, SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0, and SSP5-8.5. Each represents a set of possible underlying socioeconomic conditions, policy options, and technological considerations, spanning from a low-end scenario that requires significant emissions reductions resulting in zero global emissions by 2050 (RCP 1.9) to a high-end, “business-as-usual,” fossil-fuel-intensive emissions scenario (RCP 8.5). The low-end scenario is most closely aligned with California’s ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets and the aspirational goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015 Paris Agreement. Thus far, global emissions continue to follow the business-as-usual trajectory.



- PS-7.6 **Drought Preparation.** Implement necessary actions and programs to improve drought preparation and response for the most vulnerable community members.
- PS-7.7 **Cooling Centers.** Designate public buildings, specific private buildings, or institutions with air conditioning as public cooling shelters; extend hours at air-conditioned sites during periods of extreme heat or power outage (if the site is supported by a backup generator).
- PS-7.8 **Storms.** Provide access to flood protection resources and services (signage, sandbags, etc.) as feasible at designated public facilities during and after extreme weather events.
- PS-7.9 **Special Assistance.** Address the needs of individuals with limited mobility or limited access to transportation for access to safe and comfortable shelter during extreme heat events or other severe weather events.
- PS-7.10 **Leadership.** Demonstrate leadership in local climate planning efforts through a range of tangible actions and policies at the municipal operations level.
- PS-7.11 **Greenhouse Gas Reductions.** Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions locally by actively support regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases throughout the region.
- PS-7.12 **Extreme Heat Vulnerabilities.** Require that new developments, major remodels, and redevelopments address urban heat island issues and reduce urban heat island effects for the proposed project site and adjacent properties.
- PS-7.13 **Ongoing Monitoring.** Monitor climate change-related effects with local, regional, state, and/or federal partners to provide information of effectiveness of existing infrastructure and programs.

PS-7 Actions

- PS-7a Provide information and resources to the public and businesses regarding steps the City is taking to address the issue of climate change.
- PS-7b Expand the use of energy-efficient lighting, such as LEDs, for City-owned light facilities.
- PS-7c Consider purchasing only electric or alternative-energy vehicles for the City vehicle fleet, as appropriate, based on the intended use of the vehicle.
- PS-7d Evaluate the feasibility for government-constructed and/or -operated new development to exceed the California Green Building Standards Code CalGreen Tier 1, or successor program, standards.
- PS-7e Promote the use of sustainable and carbon-neutral energy sources in new development.
- PS-7f Explore using renewable energy and clean generation technologies such as solar, wind, biogas, or fuel cells to power City facilities where appropriate.