

General Plan Addendum

Flood Hazards

On Page PS-1 of the Public Safety Element, floods are among the hazards listed to be included in the General Plan, “However, in a planning context safety also means addressing environmental conditions such as potential earthquakes, floods, and the presence of hazardous materials.” Discussion of flood hazards and related goals and policies consistent with State law was inadvertently left out. The discussion text and map proposed for the Draft General Plan originated from the Existing Conditions Report released last year (pp. HM-18 to HM-20) and remain relevant to the planning context of Walnut with regards to the flooding hazard it faces. The following text should be inserted into the Public Safety Element following the discussion of Hazardous Materials.

Flood Hazards

Flooding can lead to property damage and personal injury. Under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), flood-prone areas have been mapped throughout the country. The most common flood hazard zone in the NFIP is Zone A, indicating that the area is subject to 100-year flooding. This means that under the strongest storm anticipated within a 100-year span, the area will flood. This can also be interpreted as being subject to a one percent annual chance of flooding. Another common flood zone is Zone X, indicating that the area is not subject to flooding. Zone D indicates that flood potential for the area has not been determined but is possible. Zone AE is designated to those areas subject to 100-year floods and also have had base flood elevations established. Base flood elevation indicates the anticipated height of floodwaters during the 100-year storm event. This becomes important when developing in the floodplain fringe because FEMA regulations limit development within the floodplain fringe that would raise base flood elevations by more than one foot.

According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the City of Walnut (Map Panel No. 06037C1725F and 06037C1695F), much of the northern and eastern portions of the City closest to the San Hose Hills are located within Zone D, where flooding hazard is undetermined but possible. The southern portion of the City is located within Zone X, which indicates areas outside the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain (Exhibit HM-8). According to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, flooding along, with severe weather, drought, and landslides, is considered a High Priority Risk.²⁵

Portions of the City are prone to urban flooding, also sometimes referred to as ponding, due to low areas along traffic lanes, with an occasional problem of debris accumulation in storm drains. Flood control channels and basins are at risk of overflowing their banks during times of heavy rainfall. The following areas are considered at risk to urban flooding:

- Temple Avenue between Bonita Drive and the east city border (both directions)

- La Puente Road between Gartel Drive and Pierre Road (westbound)
- Valley Boulevard between Lemon Creek Drive and the Lemon Creek Overpass (westbound)
- Valley Boulevard between Lemon Avenue and Paseo Tesoro (westbound)
- Vejar Road between Ricci Avenue and Scherer Avenue (eastbound)

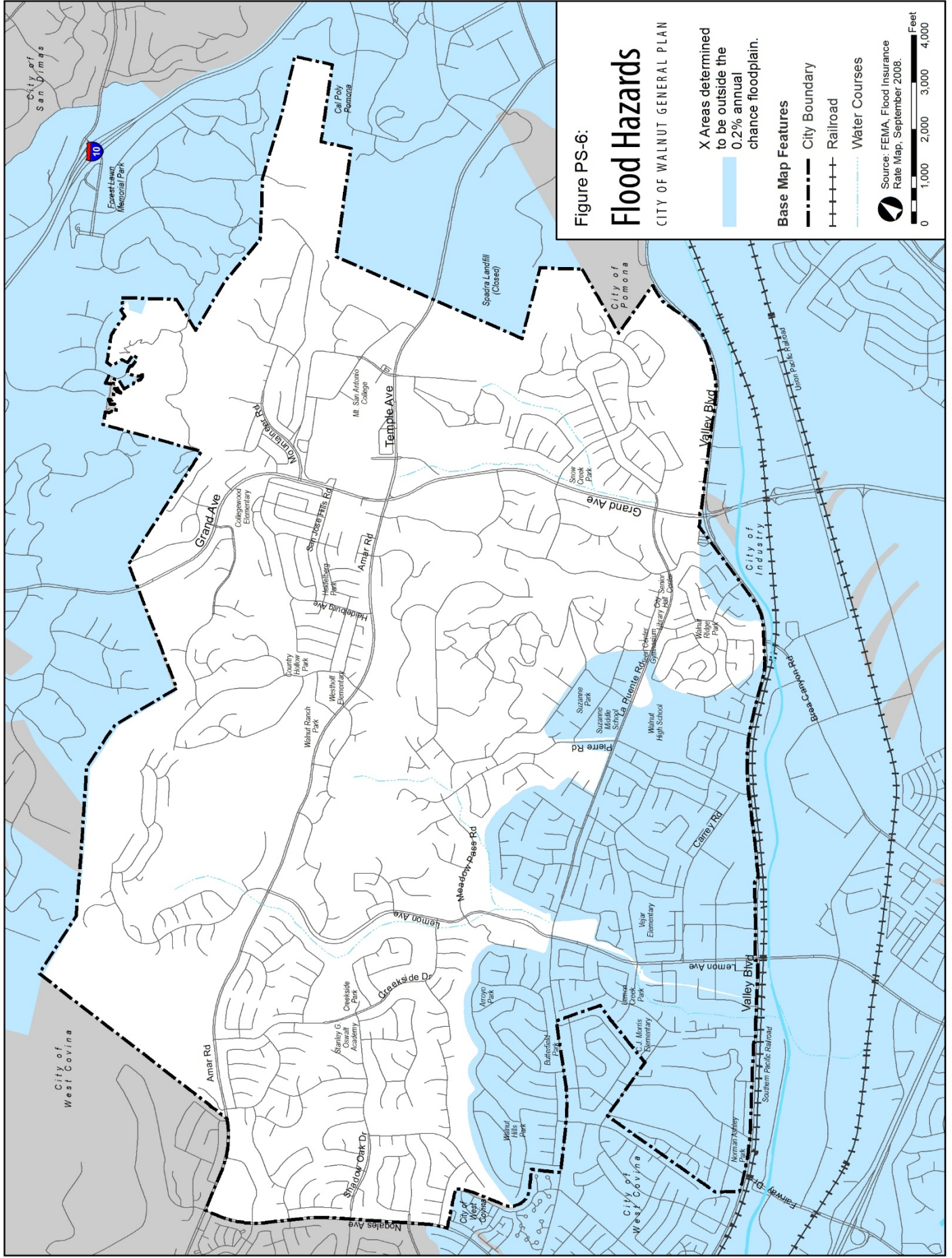
Dam and Levee Failure

Throughout Los Angeles County, a total of 103 dams provide flood protection and impound water for domestic use. These dams are owned by 23 agencies and organizations, ranging from the federal government to homeowner associations. Collectively, these dams hold billions of gallons of water in reservoirs. Seismic activity can compromise the dam structures, and the resultant flooding could cause catastrophic flooding. Walnut, however, does not lie within a dam inundation area, per the Los Angeles County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Puddingstone Reservoir is located several miles to the north, but the reservoir's inundation area would not affect the City due to the intervening topography.

Mud and Debris Flows

A mudflow (or debris flow) is a rapidly moving slurry of water, mud, rock, vegetation, and debris. Larger debris flows are capable of moving trees, large boulders, and even cars. This type of failure is especially dangerous, as it can move at speeds in excess of 10 miles per hour, is capable of crushing buildings, and can strike with very little warning. As with soil slips, the development of debris flows is strongly tied to exceptional storm periods of prolonged rainfall. Ground failure occurs during an intense rainfall event, following saturation of the soil by previous rains. Even relatively small amounts of debris can cause damage from inundation and/or impact. Due to Walnut's hillsides and steep slopes, mud and debris flow can be a factor, particularly after prolonged rainfall.

PS-6: Flood Hazards (next page)



GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal PS-6: Avoid and minimize flood risks, dam inundation, and other flood events

Policy PS-6.1: Locating Public Facilities

Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying mitigation measures.

Policy PS-6.2: Keeping Current with Flood Regulations

Continue to enforce, and update when necessary, the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance. Periodically review maps prepared by FEMA and the State Department of Water Resources to identify changes in mapping of areas subject to flooding and amend the General Plan or Municipal Code as warranted.

Policy PS-6.3: Coordination with Other Agencies

Cooperate and coordinate with federal, State, and local jurisdictions and agencies involved in the mitigation of flood hazards from dam inundation, and other flood events.

Policy PS-6.4: Informing the Public About Flood Hazards

Integrate flooding-related topics into emergency planning education and emergency operation programs.