



# SAFETY ELEMENT

February 2022

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# City of Hawthorne

# Safety Element Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction to the Safety Element ..... 2
- 2. Related Plans, Programs, and Regulations ..... 2
- 3. Safety Element Goals and Polices..... 3
  - Emergency Operations ..... 3
    - Goal 1: A community that is highly prepared and equipped to handle emergency situations, in order to minimize loss of life, injury, property damage, and disruption of vital services. .... 4
  - Fire Safety ..... 7
    - Goal 2: A City that is safe and adequately prepared for urban and wildfire emergencies..... 7
  - Seismic Hazards ..... 8
    - Goal 3: A community that is adequately prepared for natural hazards related to seismic activity. 8
  - Flood Hazards ..... 8
    - Goal 4: A community that is protected from flood hazards. .... 9
  - Hazardous Waste and Materials ..... 9
    - Goal 5: A community that is protected from the potential for hazardous waste and materials contamination. .... 11
  - Climate Change and Resiliency Planning..... 12
    - Goal 6: A resilient, sustainable, and equitable community where risks to life, property, the economy, and the environment resulting from climate change, including extreme weather events, are minimized. 12

## 1. Introduction to the Safety Element

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The purpose of the Safety Element is to ensure that the community is protected from injuries, property damage, economic loss, or loss of life that may result from natural or human-caused hazards by reducing the risk of exposure. 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 ensure 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-caused 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.

### *Organization of Element*

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

- *Emergency Operations*
- *Fire Safety*
- *Seismic Hazards*
- *Flooding*
- *Hazardous Waste and Materials*
- *Climate Change and Resiliency Planning*

## 2. Related Plans, Programs, and Regulations

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

### *City of Hawthorne*

- **General Plan:** Hawthorne's General Plan is a broad, long-range policy document that serves as a blueprint for future development in the city. It includes the Safety Element, as well as Land Use, Circulation, Conservation, Economic Development, Housing, Noise, and Open Space 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 Hawthorne. The Zoning Code is codified in Chapter 17 of the Municipal Code.
- **Fire Code:** The Fire Code establishes minimum 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. The City's Fire Code is codified in Chapter 8.32 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. 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 2020 to assess the natural caused risks to the City so as to reduce the potential impact of the hazards by creating mitigation strategies. 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.
- **Climate Action Plan (CAP):** The City, in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, 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.
- **Hawthorne Municipal Airport Master Plan:** The master plan provides guidelines for the airport's overall maintenance, development, and operation. It is codified in Chapter 17.22A of the Municipal Code.

### *Los Angeles County*

- **County of Los Angeles All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP):** The AHMP was adopted in 2014 and conforms to the requirements of FEMA Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The County developed the AHMP to cover mitigation responsibilities of County departments (including LACoFD). 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 OA. An OA is defined as a single county and all political subdivisions.
- **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.

## 3. Safety Element Goals and Policies

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### Emergency Operations

Advanced emergency planning and preparedness is essential in responding to natural and human-caused disasters with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities. The City supports a high level of multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency planning and response management. The City contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) for fire and emergency services. Services are provided by three LACoFD fire stations: Station #160 located at 5323 W. Rosecrans Avenue on the west side of the City, Station #161 located at 4475 W. El Segundo Boulevard in the central portion of the City, and Station #162 located at 12151 S. Crenshaw Boulevard on the east side of the City.

**Evacuation Plans**

A major disaster such as a large fire or hazardous-materials spill could necessitate evacuating a portion of the City. Major arterials generally 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.

The City evaluated the presence of hazard areas consistent with Senate Bill 99 to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The following types of hazards were evaluated, and it was determined that none are present within the City:

- 1. FEMA’s 100-year flood zone
- 2. California OES dam inundation area
- 3. California Geological Survey’s Map Sheet 58 Landslide Susceptibility classes 8, 9, or 10
- 4. California Geological Survey’s Potential Liquefaction Zones, Potential Landslide Zones, and Fault Zones, mapped as part of the California Seismic Hazard Zonation Program
- 5. CalFire’s High and Very High Fire Threat zones
- 6. CalFire’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas

Therefore, there are no residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. All residential developments are required to meet City standards, and the City will continue to coordinate with LACoFD and Hawthorne PD to provide ongoing education to residents about how to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency.

**Critical Facilities**

Critical facilities are those facilities in which damage or malfunction during a natural or human-caused disaster would have serious and far-reaching consequences. Generally included in this category are hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities; utility lifeline facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communication and transportation facilities. These facilities are shown in Figure 1.

**Goal 1: A community that is highly prepared and equipped to handle emergency situations, in order to minimize loss of life, injury, property damage, and disruption of vital services.**

Policy 1.1: Provide sufficient levels of all emergency response services to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all persons and to protect property in the City.

Policy 1.2: Regularly practice implementation of the City’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and update it regularly.

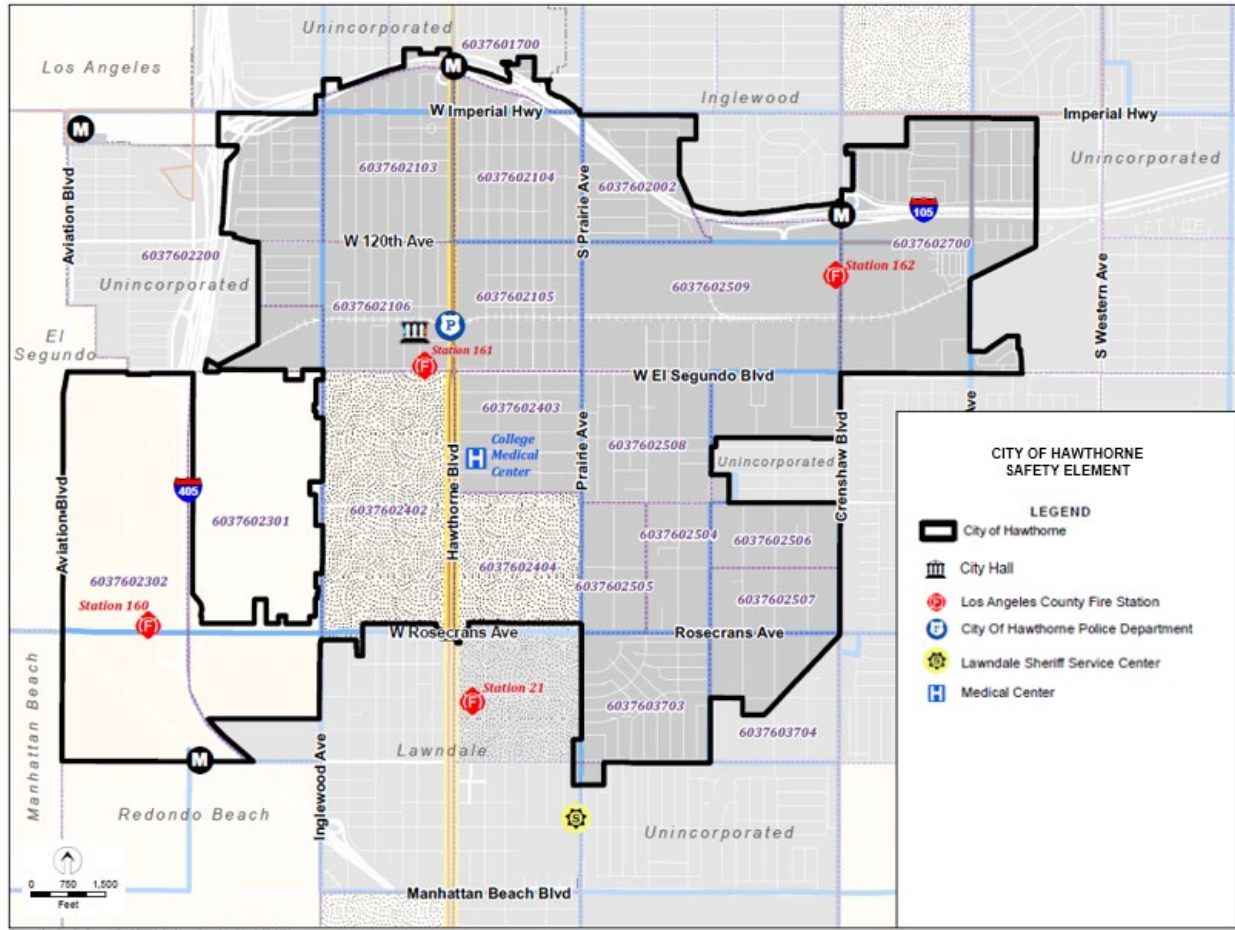
Policy 1.3: Support the development of other local preparedness plans and multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication agreements for emergency situations.

Policy 1.4: Coordinate with service providers to ensure the resilience of critical facilities, lifeline services, and infrastructure, and plan for the use of critical facilities during post-disaster response and recovery.

Policy 1.5: Cooperate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other local, state and federal agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response.

- Policy 1.6: Coordinate with local key stakeholders (officials, schools, businesses, and organizations) within the community to make them aware of their role in the emergency plan and the necessary requirements in case of emergency.
- Policy 1.7: Participate in mutual aid agreements with adjacent service providers to ensure efficient and adequate resources, facilities, and support services before, during, and after emergencies.
- Policy 1.8: Evaluate the potential to utilize a comprehensive emergency communication system that allows for efficient connection in case of emergency.
- Policy 1.9: Work with LACoFD and the Hawthorne Police Department to maintain, update, and regularly exercise emergency access, protocols, and evacuation routes to assess their effectiveness under a range of emergency scenarios.
- Policy 1.10: Periodically coordinate with emergency shelter providers to ensure that necessary equipment supplies are available in case of emergency.

FIGURE 1 - CRITICAL FACILITIES



- Policy 1.11: Work with emergency service providers to implement post-disaster recovery plans to return public services to a state of normalcy, address ongoing hazard-specific mitigations, and assist community members in recovering from disasters.
- Policy 1.12: Ensure projects include design features that promote public safety and reduce criminal activity.
- Policy 1.13: The City shall strongly encourage Neighborhood Watch and other similar public-involvement, crime-prevention programs.
- Policy 1.14: Support community-based emergency training programs as a valuable asset to the community.
- Policy 1.15: Educate residents and businesses through programs and outreach materials on hazards pertaining to Hawthorne and appropriate actions to safeguard life and property during and immediately after emergencies.
- Policy 1.16: Coordinate with local schools related to their programs and practices regarding emergency preparedness.

## Fire Safety

Due to its geographic location and topography, the City is not subject to wildland fires. Significant damage occurs infrequently, but it is most likely to occur where industrial chemicals and fuels are used and where these substances are stored or transported.

**Goal 2: A City that is safe and adequately prepared for urban and wildfire emergencies.**

- Policy 2.1: Require that all buildings and facilities within Hawthorne comply with local, state, and federal regulatory standards such as the California Building and Fire Codes as well as other applicable fire safety standards.
- Policy 2.2: Reduce the risk of fire to the community by coordination for emergency preparedness with the LACoFD.
- Policy 2.3: Coordinate with applicable water providers and LACoFD to ensure that water supply and pressure for new and existing development is adequate for structural fire suppression.
- Policy 2.4: Work with LACoFD to identify fire hazards and changes in fire hazard severity zones consistent with changes in hazard designations by CAL FIRE.
- Policy 2.5: Work with LACoFD to maintain an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with multifamily development, critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings.
- Policy 2.6: Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles, neighboring cities, and other fire protection agencies to reduce the potential for fire hazards in the Hawthorne community.
- Policy 2.7: Work with LACoFD to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures, such as evacuation routes, with a special focus on at-risk populations.



Policy 2.8: For all new development:

- Require adequate fire protection services, fire protection plans, and emergency vehicle access for new development.
- Locate, design, and construct new development to provide adequate defensibility and minimize the risk of structural loss from fires.
- Install visible home and street addressing and signage.
- Consider fire safe design (i.e., fire-resistant building and site design, materials, and landscaping) as part of the development review process.

## Seismic Hazards

The City is part of the seismically active Southern California region, probably best known for the 750-mile-long San Andreas Fault, which stretches from the Mexican Border to San Francisco. The City is bounded on the southwest by the Palos Verdes Fault and on the west the Newport-Inglewood Fault. Both faults are less than five miles from the City. A map of the major faults near Hawthorne is provided in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. No Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones have been designated within the city limits. Much of Hawthorne lies atop late Quaternary (Pleistocene) compact-to-very-dense deposits of gravel, silt, and clay. The City is not subject to liquefaction due to the nature of its geological structure. It is also not susceptible to landslides.

**Goal 3: A community that is adequately prepared for natural hazards related to seismic activity.**

Policy 3.1: Enforce State seismic design guidelines and all relevant building codes to reduce the risk of damage associated with seismic activity.

Policy 3.2: Encourage landscaped open space uses for areas within identified fault zones and limit residential development in these areas.

Policy 3.3: Reduce the risk of impacts from seismic hazards by applying proper and up to date land use planning, development engineering, building construction, and retrofitting requirements.

Policy 3.4: Maintain and periodically review, in sequence with the Capital Improvement Project budget, an inventory of public buildings and infrastructure within the City of Hawthorne at risk of seismic hazard impacts and evaluate potential mitigation projects to address risks, as financially feasible.

Policy 3.5: Require new critical infrastructure and facilities that may be built in the City to incorporate site specific seismic structural design as required by applicable building codes.

## 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. The City is not in a dam inundation zone so is not at risk of flooding from dam or reservoir failure.

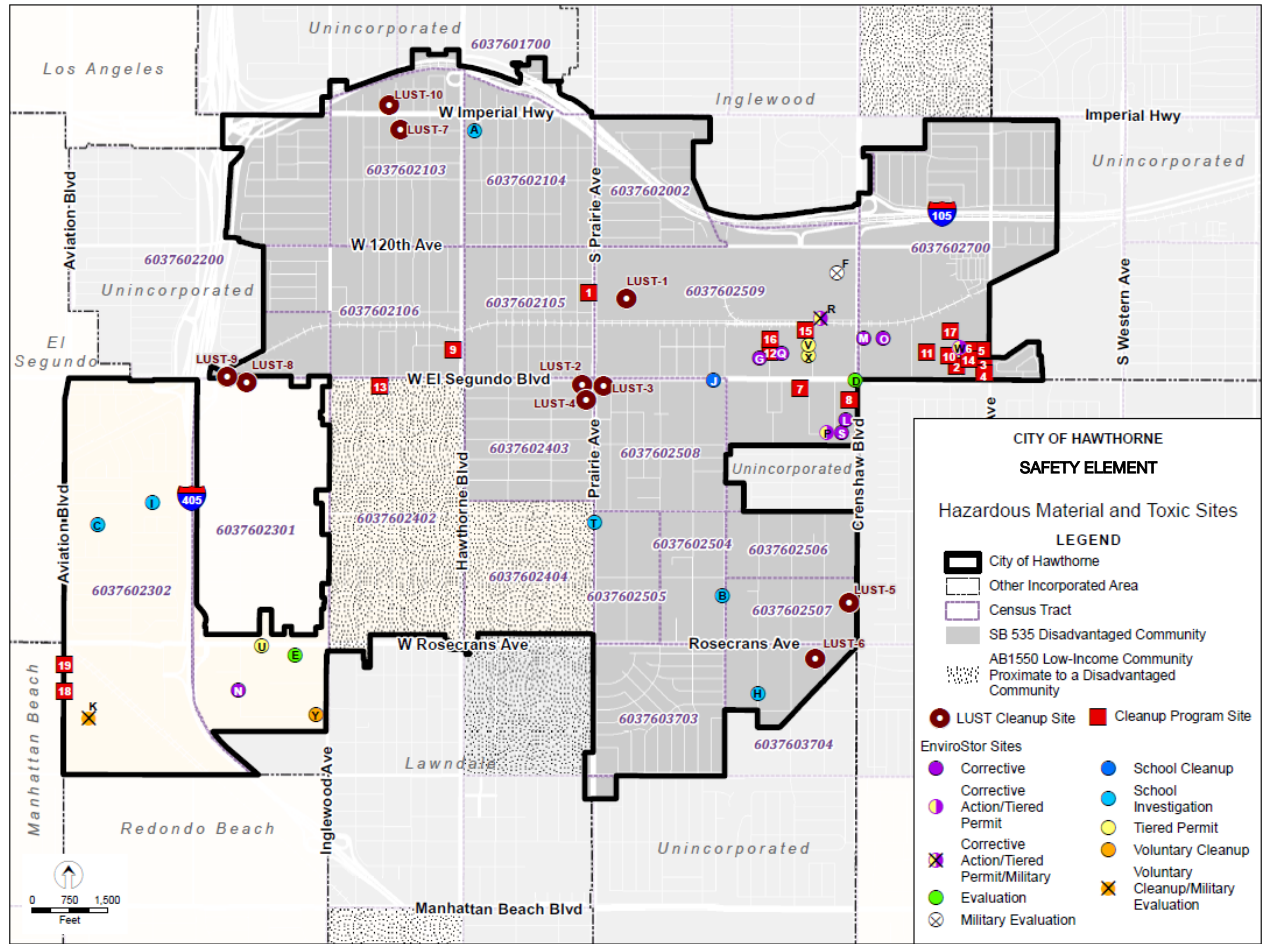
**Goal 4: A community that is protected from flood hazards.**

- Policy 4.1: Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the City’s regulations related to flood control are in compliance with federal, state, and local standards.
- Policy 4.2: Coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that Federal Insurance Rate Maps correctly depict flood hazards in the City.
- Policy 4.3: Implement the standards and requirements defined in the Municipal Code to reduce flood hazards within Hawthorne.
- Policy 4.4: Adhere to the latest building, site, and design codes in the California Building Code and FEMA flood control guidelines to avoid or minimize the risk of flooding hazards in the community.
- Policy 4.5: Encourage new developments that add substantial amounts of impervious surfaces to integrate low impact development best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Policy 4.6: Maintain dialogue with the County of Los Angeles regarding regional flood facilities.
- Policy 4.7: Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Flood Control and Waterworks Districts on changing flood conditions associated with climate change and extreme weather.
- Policy 4.8: Maintain and regularly assess the status of local storm drainage infrastructure to ensure that the system is functioning properly.

## **Hazardous Waste and Materials**

Certain types of development and uses within the City utilize hazardous materials. These uses make Hawthorne susceptible to hazards from spills of toxic materials and vulnerable to the byproducts of waste generated in manufacturing and agricultural areas. 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 location of hazardous material and toxic sites in Hawthorne is shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2 - HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND TOXIC SITES



To protect the public from exposure to hazardous materials, the City has implemented the following measures:

- Zoning controls over permitted uses to carefully regulate hazardous use;
- Conditions for approval by the Planning Commission for conditional use permits and site plan review;
- Hazardous materials disclosure and regulatory procedures;
- The appointment of a hazardous materials specialist (assigned to the Fire Department).

The County of Los Angeles Department of Environmental Health 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 County of Los Angeles Environmental Health Department 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.

The principal area of sites and facilities for the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials is bounded on the north and south by 120th and 132nd Streets, respectively, and east and west by Crenshaw Boulevard and Prairie Avenue. The biggest user of hazardous materials in Hawthorne is Northrop Corporation which has its own waste-control management system and therefore its own transfer system, plus its own response team. There are no major refineries located within the City.

**Goal 5: A community that is protected from the potential for hazardous waste and materials contamination.**

Policy 5.1: The City shall identify existing or previously existing hazardous waste generators or disposal sites.

Policy 5.2: The City shall identify all producers, users, and transporters of hazardous material and wastes within the City and establish a system to monitor the handling, transport, and disposal of such wastes.

Policy 5.3: Ensure that LACoFD enforces the Uniform Fire Code relating to the use of hazardous materials and ensure that appropriate regulations are followed, and precautions are taken for the type and amount of hazard being created.

Policy 5.4: Require that developers coordinate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health 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.

Policy 5.5: Utilize the Los Angeles Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan to ensure that local regulation and practices are consistent with the policy direction and action programs that the County recommends.

Policy 5.6: Promote the routing of vehicles carrying potentially hazardous materials to transportation corridors posing the minimum risk to the public.

Policy 5.7: Reduce the per capita production of household hazardous waste in Hawthorne in concert with the County of Los Angeles plans for reducing hazardous waste.

- Policy 5.8: Require appropriate environmental analysis to be conducted for any proposed hazardous waste materials treatment or transfer, in accordance with environmental review requirements.
- Policy 5.9: Work with LACoFD and other responding agencies to ensure that emergency personnel respond safely and effectively to a hazardous materials incident in the city.
- Policy 5.10: Coordinate with the City’s waste service provider(s) and the County of Los Angeles to increase public awareness about proper disposal related to household hazardous waste and inform the Hawthorne community regarding relevant services and programs to address issues related to hazardous waste and materials.

## Climate Change and Resiliency Planning

As a result of climate change, California is experiencing more intense and frequent heat waves, drought, wildfires, severe storms, and extreme weather events. In addition to climate change imperatives, resiliency planning is becoming necessary on its own merits. Senate Bill 379 requires each city in California to update their Safety Element to consider climate impacts facing the state as well as methods to adapt and increase resiliency to climate change at the city level.

Hawthorne 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.

Hawthorne’s updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) also includes a discussion of climate change and associated risks. The following policies supplement the CAP and LHMP.

**Goal 6: A resilient, sustainable, and equitable community where risks to life, property, the economy, and the environment resulting from climate change, including extreme weather events, are minimized.**

- Policy 6.1: A well-prepared City that can effectively overcome natural disasters and scarcity of resources due to climate change.
- Policy 6.2: Develop a public outreach and education program to provide information regarding the City’s emergency preparedness efforts related to natural disasters and climate change.
- Policy 6.3: Collaborate with local, regional, state and/or federal jurisdictions and agencies on climate resiliency and adaptation strategies.
- Policy 6.4: 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.
- Policy 6.5: Promote plans and programs that increase sustainable energy sources.
- Policy 6.6: Implement necessary actions and programs to improve drought preparation and response for the most vulnerable community members.
- Policy 6.7: 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).
- Policy 6.8: Provide access to flood protection resources and services (signage, sandbags, etc.) as feasible at designated public facilities during and after extreme weather events.

- Policy 6.9: 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.
- Policy 6.10: Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions locally by actively supporting regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases throughout the county.
- Policy 6.11: Encourage new developments, major remodels, and redevelopments to address urban heat island issues and reduce urban heat island effects for the proposed project site and adjacent properties.
- Policy 6.12: Minimize damage associated with wind-related hazards and address climate change and urban heat island effects through the development of an urban forestry plan and proper landscaping planting and management techniques.
- Policy 6.13: Develop a climate resiliency plan that integrates and builds upon the strategies identified in the General Plan and Climate Action Plan.

TABLE 1: RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY ELEMENT POLICIES

P = Primary responsibility, O = Oversight/Advisory, S = Support role

POLICY#	CITY MANAGER	ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	PLANNING	FINANCE	LICENSING	BUILDING & SAFETY	PUBLIC INFO. OFF	INFO TECH.	HUMAN RESOURCES	PUBLIC WORKS	ELECTED OFFICIALS	LACOFD	HAWTHORNE PD
<b>EMERGENCY OPERATIONS</b>													
1.1	S										O	P	P
1.2	P		S								O		
1.3	P		S								O		
1.4	O					P				S			
1.5	P		S								O		
1.6	P						S				O		
1.7	S										O	P	
1.8	S										O	P	
1.9	O		S									P	P
1.10	P											S	S
1.11	S										O	P	P
1.12			P										S
1.13	P												S
1.14	S						S					P	P
1.15	S						S					P	P
1.16	S											P	P

POLICY#	CITY MANAGER	ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	PLANNING	FINANCE	LICENSING	BUILDING & SAFETY	PUBLIC INFO. OFF	INFO TECH.	HUMAN RESOURCES	PUBLIC WORKS	ELECTED OFFICIALS	LACOFD	HAWTHORNE PD
<b>FIRE SAFETY</b>													
2.1						P						P	
2.2	S					S						P	
2.3										S		P	
2.4			S									P	
2.5						P						P	
2.6	S		S									P	
2.7							S					P	
2.8						S						P	
<b>SEISMIC HAZARDS</b>													
3.1						P							
3.2			P										
3.3			P			P							
3.4						P				P			
3.5						P							
<b>FLOOD HAZARDS</b>													
4.1			S							P			
4.2			S							P			
4.3			S							P			
4.4			P			P							
4.5			P										
4.6										P			
4.7										P			
4.8										P			
<b>HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MATERIALS</b>													
5.1			P										
5.2			P										
5.3						S						P	
5.4			P										
5.5			P										
5.6			P										
5.7	P											S	
5.8			P										

POLICY#	CITY MANAGER	ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	PLANNING	FINANCE	LICENSING	BUILDING & SAFETY	PUBLIC INFO. OFF	INFO TECH.	HUMAN RESOURCES	PUBLIC WORKS	ELECTED OFFICIALS	LACOFD	HAWTHORNE PD
5.9	S											P	
5.10							P						
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY PLANNING</b>													
6.1	S		P								O		
6.2							P					S	S
6.3	S		P										
6.4	S		P										
6.5			P										
6.6			P										
6.7	P												
6.8	S									P			
6.9	S		P										
6.10	S		P								O		
6.11			P			S							
6.12			P										
6.13	S		P								O		