

## ***PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT***

### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

**Overview of Emergency Preparedness and Police and Fire Services.** Preparation for, and timely and adequate response to emergencies are essential community services that require planning and community-wide coordination. Emergency preparedness is the combined responsibility of the City, emergency response organizations, and community residents. Arcata's Volunteer Fire Department and City Police Department provide critical emergency response services and leadership, and serve as the community's primary response agencies in emergency situations. These agencies are most efficient when they can rely on emergency response organizations, such as the State of California's Office of Emergency Services, community groups, and individuals to provide organized support when needed. The Neighborhood Emergency Services Teams (NEST) that exist in several of Arcata's neighborhoods are good examples of local organizations with the resources and training to respond to emergencies.



**Overview of Arcata's Potential Seismic and Geologic Hazards.** The northern coast is one of California's most seismically active regions, and special precautions must be taken to protect residents from the effects of seismic events and hazards. Faults in and around the community, and the offshore Cascadia subduction zone (a 750-mile long major thrust fault) are considered active. Recent geotechnical studies identify fault zones, as well as areas susceptible to ground shaking, liquefaction, and tsunami run-up that represent safety hazards to the community. The potential for a major seismic event has prompted emergency response organizations, such as the Humboldt Earthquake Education Center at Humboldt State University, to provide information promoting earthquake and tsunami awareness and emergency preparedness. Geologic safety hazards also include potential slope instability on Arcata's hillsides and soil erosion. Mapped hazard areas are shown on Figure PS-a, located in a map pocket at the end of this Element.

#### **The Cascadia Subduction Zone**

North of the Mendocino Triple Junction, the Gorda Plate and its northern extension, the Juan de Fuca Plate, move eastward on a collision course with the North American Plate. The Gorda Plate slowly descends beneath the North American Plate along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Most scientists believe that the upper 50 miles or so of the contact between the Gorda Plate and the North American Plate is locked. This boundary is called the megathrust.

Source: [Living on Shaky Ground](#).  
Humboldt State University

**Potential Flooding Hazards Overview.** Arcata is bordered by the Mad River to the north, and bisected by several streams. These watercourses and their associated floodplains have been altered over time and are subject to future change. They have the potential, during peak flows, to overtop their banks with sufficient volume and velocity to damage adjacent structures, facilities, and natural areas. A number of Arcata's creeks have been modified with culverts, channels, and coverings. These structures inhibit natural infiltration and flood protection, resulting in increased flood volumes and velocities downstream. There is strong community interest in returning local creeks to more natural conditions, and incorporating measures, such as detention basins and natural infiltration, that will reduce flood velocities and volumes.



**ARCATA'S DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN GOALS INCLUDE:**

- Minimize increases in the volume and the flow of stormwater runoff associated with new development, so as to minimize increases in the hazards and the costs associated with flooding.
- Minimize the erosion potential from a development or construction site so as to prevent deposition of sediment into streams and other receiving water bodies.
- Maintain the integrity of stream hydrology by preventing stream channel erosion so as to sustain the hydrologic functions of streams.
- Reduce the pollutant load in stormwater runoff from developing and urbanizing areas so as to preserve the natural biological functions of streams and other receiving water bodies (and flood management and stream habitat quality).
- To the extent practical, acquire easements and properties necessary for effective drainage management.

**Hazardous Materials Overview.** Human exposure to hazardous materials and conditions must be minimized to ensure the well being of the community. Reducing this exposure must include cleaning up contamination from the past and avoiding use of hazardous materials in the future. Hazardous materials used primarily in wood products processing and auto-related operations have resulted in site and groundwater contamination that remain today. Minimizing future health hazards can be accomplished by:

1. Elimination of many toxic substances.
2. Substitution of environmentally safe alternatives.
3. Safer handling and disposal procedures of those materials still available.

There is community interest in replacing harmful substances and materials with biodegradable and less damaging substitutes, and cleaning up existing contaminated sites.

**Human Health Hazards Overview.** Sound physical and mental health are important factors when considering the well being of the community. Access to health care providers, social services, counseling, and facilities such as hospitals, clinics, temporary shelters and food distribution sites, should be taken into consideration when planning the community's future. These services and facilities are typically provided by agencies and organizations other than the City; however, the City can play an important role in minimizing health hazards by identifying locations where treatment and assistance are available, and by promoting accessibility to these services.

**Guiding Principles and Goals.**

- A. Establish and maintain emergency response capabilities and services at both the City and neighborhood levels.
- B. Promote seismic safety by restricting development in high risk areas, and strengthening buildings and infrastructure to withstand seismic events.
- C. Recognize that certain slopes and soils lack stability and are best left undisturbed.
- D. Establish and maintain sufficiently sized flood areas along Arcata's watercourses, to accommodate flood flows without damaging property or injuring residents.
- E. Reduce fire hazards through prevention and suppression.
- F. Protect residents and the natural environment from exposure to hazardous materials and substances.
- G. Promote a sense of security and safety by maintaining and supporting police services.
- H. Promote social services and programs that improve the physical and mental well being of community residents.
- I. Continue participating in the Humboldt joint powers authority, and promote hazardous materials reductions and safe handling.

**NEST GOALS ARE TO:**

- Organize the neighborhood.
- Evaluate your risk at home.
- Practice your skills as a group.
- Learn about disaster-preparedness.
- Prepare your family for any event.
- Train in survival & life saving skills.
- Obtain the necessary equipment & supplies.
- Get the neighborhood ready to support itself.
- Provide accurate information to emergency services.
- Provide skilled volunteer services to the community.
- Recover quickly from any disaster.
- Get positive results in disaster efforts (PRIDE).

## 6.2 POLICIES

The Public Safety Element contains the following policies:

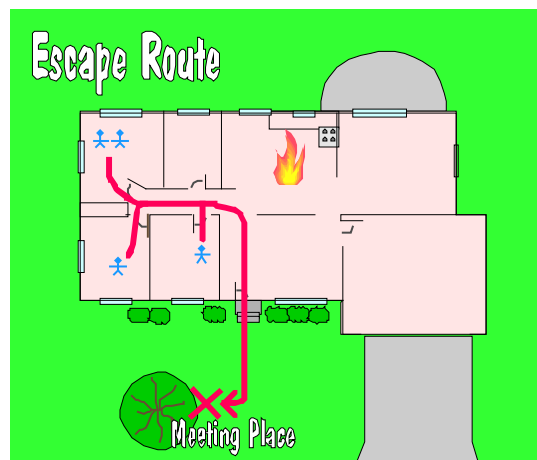
- PS-1 Emergency Preparedness
- PS-2 Seismic Hazards
- PS-3 Other Geologic Hazards
- PS-4 Flood Hazards
- PS-5 Fire Hazards
- PS-6 Hazardous Materials
- PS-7 Crime Prevention and Response
- PS-8 Human Health Hazards

### POLICY PS-1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Objective:** Ensure that the City, its residents, businesses, agencies, and organizations are prepared for emergencies or disasters and have effective response and recovery plans in place.

**PS-1a City Emergency Response Plan.** The City shall maintain a comprehensive response plan for emergencies, including seismic events, tsunamis, slope failures, floods, storms, fires, and materials spills or contamination. The plan will provide for timely and coordinated response to emergencies that threaten community residents, property, and vital services. The plan will identify City and other emergency response agencies that should be contacted, and also identify neighborhood resources available for more localized assistance and relief.


**PS-1b Evacuation routes/transportation facilities.** Emergencies such as floods, storms, fires, distantly generated tsunamis, and hazardous materials spills may necessitate immediate evacuation of affected areas. A map of evacuation routes shall be included in City and neighborhood emergency response plans. These plans will also include evacuation methods for residents who are without, or unable to operate, vehicles. An emergency access plan shall be developed for access to the east side of town (east of State Route 101) after a major seismic event.



- PS-1c **Disaster preparedness coordination using the Standardized Emergency Management System.** City staff responsible for emergency response shall be trained in Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) implementation, which is necessary to receive reimbursement from the State of California for disaster response related costs. This training includes instruction about the Incident Command System (ICS) which is used to manage emergency incidents or non-emergency events.

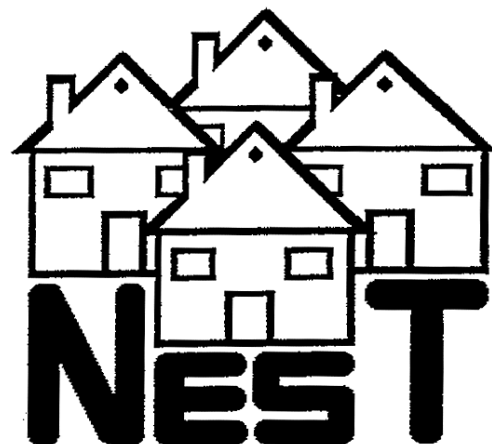
**APPLICATIONS FOR THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM:**

- Fires, hazardous materials (HAZMAT), and multicasualty incidents.
- Multijurisdiction and multi-agency disasters.
- Wide area search and rescue missions.
- Pest eradication programs.
- Oil spill response and recovery incidents.
- Single and multi-agency law enforcement actions.
- Air, rail, water, and ground transportation accidents.
- Planned events (celebrations, parades, concerts).
- Private sector emergency management programs.
- State or local major natural hazards management.

- PS-1d **Siting and design of critical facilities.**  Adequate shelter and continued operation of essential services, including communications, medical treatment, water delivery, fire and police services, and key transportation facilities are vital for responding to emergencies. These facilities and services shall be located and designed to withstand disaster impacts and have backup systems, such as emergency generators and water storage (including private and open water sources), that allow for their continuous operation during emergencies. New critical facilities shall not be located in areas with high physical hazards, including high liquefaction potential, flood zones, and tsunami hazards. Critical facilities shall be designed to be functional at peak capacity, following a magnitude 7.7 earthquake in the Mad River fault zone.

- PS-1e **Development & design standards for emergency response.** New and renovated structures, as well as streets, driveways, and alleyways, shall be designed to provide adequate entry and exit by emergency vehicles and personnel. This includes visible street numbering, emergency vehicle turn-arounds, accessible building entry points and stairways, lighting, and interior evacuation routes.

- PS-1f **Citizen training/Neighborhood and Business Emergency Services Teams.** The City of Arcata Police Department coordinates the organization and training of Neighborhood Emergency Services Teams and Business Emergency Services Teams (NEST and BEST). The NEST program is essential for mobilizing neighborhood response to emergencies. The NEST program shall be expanded to all neighborhoods.



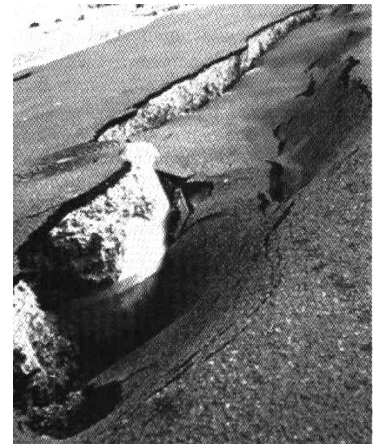
## POLICY PS-2 SEISMIC HAZARDS

**Objective:** Protect existing and new structures from seismic hazards. Identify and map seismic hazards and assure that any development within such hazard areas does not proceed until geologic and soils conditions are adequately investigated and appropriate mitigation measures, if any, are incorporated into development plans.

### PS-2a **Development within fault zone/surface rupture areas.**



The City shall maintain current seismic information that identifies fault zones and probable surface rupture areas. Development in these areas shall be avoided, unless it can be demonstrated that structures and facilities can be designed to withstand effects of faulting and surface rupture. Building setbacks from faults, surface ruptures, and other seismic hazards, as specified in the most current Uniform Building Code, shall be maintained.



### PS-2b **Mitigation of ground-shaking hazards.** Arcata will



experience ground-shaking during an earthquake. The City maintains seismic data files that identify areas where ground-shaking will most likely damage buildings and infrastructure. New construction and renovation shall incorporate the most current and effective seismic engineering measures to strengthen building foundations and infrastructure in these areas.

### PS-2c **Mitigation of surface rupture and groundshaking hazards.** The City's Alquist-Priolo



Special Studies Zone map (Figure PS-a) and Geologic Hazard Land Use Matrix (Table PS-1) identify areas highly susceptible to surface rupture and groundshaking. Construction in these areas shall be restricted, unless it can be demonstrated, in geotechnical reports prepared by qualified personnel, that structures and facilities can be designed to withstand liquefaction hazards induced by seismic events.

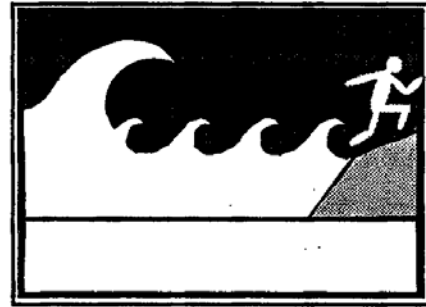
### PS-2d **Requirement for and review of "Geotechnical Reports."** New building and



infrastructure construction, and substantial renovations in areas with seismic hazards, shall incorporate geotechnical report specified measures into project design. Geotechnical reports shall be required for structures or infrastructure in seismic hazard areas. Required reports, prepared by a registered geologist, certified engineering geologist, or registered engineer with expertise in seismic engineering, shall recommend mitigation for seismic impacts and identify alternative solutions. The City may require independent review of the geotechnical reports.

**PS-2e Shoreline hazards (tsunami, tidal flooding).**

State of California study (*Planning Scenario in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, California, for a Great Earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, Special Publication 115, California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines & Geology, 1995*) indicates that the Arcata Bay shoreline and adjacent areas, between McDaniel Slough and Mad River Slough, could be inundated by tsunami run-up. The City shall prohibit the location of critical facilities in the tsunami run-up area, and use available emergency broadcasting systems to communicate tsunami warnings. Should coastal access within the tsunami run-up zone be provided in the future, appropriate evacuation route signage shall be posted.



**PS-2f Failure of Matthews Dam.** All new buildings designed for human occupancy or use that are located in the area of potential inundation resulting from a catastrophic failure of Matthews Dam shall have an early-warning system and evacuation plan in place for those persons living and working there.

**PS-2g Earthquake-resistant building and infrastructure standards.** The current Uniform Building Code standards for strengthening buildings and infrastructure to withstand earthquakes shall be enforced. The competency of existing road and utility networks shall be evaluated and, where necessary, upgraded to withstand the most current ground acceleration standards.

**PS-2h Public information and disclosure.** The Humboldt Earthquake Education Information Center, at Humboldt State University, and the City of Arcata have earthquake/tsunami awareness information that is available to the public. The Center and the City will continue to make the most current information available to help the community prepare for and respond to seismic events.

**THE HUMBOLDT EARTHQUAKE EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTER:**

- Prepares and distributes earthquake education materials.
- Provides information when significant earthquakes occur.
- Conducts workshops for emergency planners, teachers and others.
- Has speakers for community group conferences and meetings.
- Operates the Humboldt earthquake hotline.
- Maintains a website.
- Conducts intensity studies of regional earthquakes.

### GEOLOGIC HAZARD LAND USE MATRIX – KEY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Explanation
P	Development prohibited
R1	Engineering geologic report and soils engineering report required. Engineering geologic report must be prepared by a Certified Engineering Geologist®. Soils engineering report may be prepared by a Registered Civil Engineer® with appropriate geotechnical knowledge and experience or by a Certified Engineering Geologist® with appropriate geotechnical knowledge and experience.
R2	Engineering geologic report required. Engineering geologic report may be prepared by a Registered Geologist® with appropriate geotechnical knowledge and experience.
®	All registrations and certifications must be licensed by the State of California.
D	Report requirement is left to the discretion of the City Building Inspector.
*	Fault Rupture Hazard. “SSZ” refers to Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone. “PAF” refers to Potentially Active Fault. See Hazards Map (Figure PS-a) and Seismic Safety Policies
**	See Slope Stability Hazard Map (Figure PS-b)
***	High Liquefaction indicates soil saturation and instability in moderate seismic events. Medium Liquefaction indicates soil saturation and instability in major seismic events. Low Liquefaction indicates soil saturation and instability in major seismic events. See Hazards Map (Figure PS-a)


## POLICY PS-3 OTHER GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

**Objective.** Protect existing and new structures from non-seismic geologic hazards such as unstable slopes and soils. Require that all non-seismic geologic hazards be adequately addressed and mitigated.

**PS-3a Slope stability hazards.** Slope areas greater than 15%, shown on Figure PS-a, and certain less steep slopes with erosive soils may become unstable if disturbed. The City shall restrict grading, vegetation removal, and new construction in areas with unstable soils unless it can be demonstrated that these activities can occur without impacts. All grading of slope areas shall follow natural contours to maximize stability.



BUILDING TYPE/ LAND USE			EARTH- QUAKE SHAKING HAZARD	FAULT RUPTURE HAZARD*		SLOPE STABILITY HAZARD**					LIQUEFACTION POTENTIAL ***		
				SSZ	PAF	V	IV	III	II&I	LOW	LOW → HIGH	LOW → HIGH	
Critical	Hazardous	Hazardous substance storage, reservoirs, natural gas storage tanks	R1	R2	R2	D	D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	P
	Essential	Hospitals, fire and police stations, emergency control centers, power plants, power and communications substations, schools, theaters											
	Private	Auditoriums, hotels, large motels, major office buildings, high density residential											
	Moderate Risk	Residential structures on existing lots with footing loads greater than typical 2 story wood frame dwellings or residential structures with 3 stories or more											
Non Critical	Low Risk	Major Subdivisions	D	R2	R2	D	R2	R1	R1	D	R1	R1	R1
		Heavy Industrial	R2	R2	R2	D	R2	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	
		Multi family structures greater than 4-plexes	D	R2	R2	D	R2	R1	R1	D	R1	R1	
	Low Risk	Minor subdivisions	D	R2	R2	D	R2	R1	R1	D	R1	R1	
		Light industrial, warehousing, commercial	D	R2	R2	D	R2	R2	R2	D	R1	R1	
		Residential wood frame structures 2 stories or less on existing lots	D	D	D	D	R2	R2	R2	D	D	D	

 **PS-3b Grading standards for erosion and sedimentation control.** The design, extent, and location of grading shall minimize disturbance of the natural terrain and land features and shall not impact offsite areas. Trees and native vegetation shall be retained around graded areas to stabilize hillsides; retain moisture; reduce erosion, siltation and nutrient runoff; and retain the natural beauty of the area. Cleared areas susceptible to erosion shall be stabilized so that no materials are transported offsite.


**PS-3c Hillside development standards.** The land areas subject to hillside development standards are shown in Figure PS-a. Development on lands within these areas shall be subject to the following standards:

1. Each new lot created in areas subject to hillside development standards shall be required to contain a contiguous buildable area of at least 4,000 square feet. All parts of the building area shall have a natural slope of less than 15%. No more than 4,000 square feet of any existing lot which was legally created prior to adoption of this plan, and does not meet the preceding 15% standard, may be disturbed for development.
2. At least 50% of the area of any lot undeveloped as of the date of this plan shall be included in a "natural area" which shall remain in a natural, ungraded, undeveloped state. All slopes in excess of 25% shall be included in the natural area.
3. Vegetation removal in the natural area of each lot shall be subject to review and approval by the City.
4. All access roads and driveways shall be kept to the minimum feasible width and shall be designed to minimize grading and disruption of vegetation.
5. Access roads shall not exceed 15% slope for any distance. Individual driveways shall not exceed 17% slope.
6. Access roads or driveways shall be designed to avoid steep slopes and shall not have cuts exceeding fifty feet (50') nor fills exceeding twenty-five feet (25') in height.
7. The design, scope and location of grading for development should cause the minimum disturbance of the terrain and natural features of the land. Unavoidable grading should complement natural land forms. Mass grading of large pads and terraces shall not be permitted.
8. All manufactured slopes shall be planted or otherwise protected from the effects of storm run-off and erosion.
9. Time limits to avoid extensive grading during the wet season shall be imposed on new developments.
10. Any necessary conditions to control erosion and assure site restoration shall be required by the City. Measures shall include short-term controls to minimize erosion at construction sites and long-term controls for minimizing sedimentation and maintaining water quality.
11. Development in areas subject to development standards should demonstrate a concern for the view of the hills as well as the view from the hill.


- PS-3d **Slope-density land use restrictions.** Slopes greater than 25% are to be designated as natural areas and shall not be included in density calculations. Minimum parcel sizes on slopes shall be contingent on the site's ability to accommodate a building site with adequate access and utilities.
- PS-3e **Geotechnical reports.** Geotechnical reports shall be prepared for development of areas with unstable slopes and/or erosive soils. These reports will be prepared by qualified professionals, consistent with Policy PS-2d. Measures to ensure slope and soil stability shall be incorporated into the project design.
- PS-3f Provide available information, including potential for site slippage, effects of groundwater on slopes and soils, erosion potential, and other hazards, to homebuilders prior to the start of construction.

## POLICY PS-4 FLOOD HAZARDS

**Objective.** Protect current and future populations and property from flood hazards. Assure that new development within floodplains does not proceed until appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into development plans.

-  PS-4a **Floodplain Mapping.** The City shall continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and maintain the most current Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) on file. The City shall also continue requesting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency provide hydrographic modeling (using the 1964 flood levels as a benchmark) and an update of flood mapping for the Mad River.

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** manages the National Flood Insurance Program providing insurance to the public in participating communities. FEMA is the main federal government agency contact during natural disasters and publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which identify flood potential based on a 100-year flood.


-  PS-4b **Limitations to development adjacent to Arcata Bay and along Bay shoreline (tidal flooding, tsunami, failure of dikes or tidegates).** The Arcata Bottom and other low lying areas adjacent to Arcata Bay, McDaniel, Butcher's and Gannon Sloughs, and Arcata Marsh are susceptible to flooding from extreme Bay tidal action, tsunami run-up, seiche, dike or tidegate failure, heavy rainfall that can't drain, and Mad River flood events. Where not otherwise restricted, habitable structures and related improvements shall be appropriately elevated above flood levels, designed so as not to restrict flood flows, and shall comply with applicable provisions of Resource Conservation and Management Policy RC-2: Streams Conservation and Management, pertaining to Streamside Protection Areas (RC-2b and RC-2c). Land alterations for recreation and natural resource uses shall also not restrict or increase or channelize flood flows in a way that could cause inundation to adjacent areas.


PS-4c **Limitations on development within Flood Zone.** The mapped Floodzone A as determined by FEMA should be kept free of structures and other obstructions that would restrict flood flows. New construction in Flood Zone A shall be elevated, flood-proofed, designed to not constrict flood flows or drainage, and/or include other features, such as access for evacuation and emergency response, to protect human safety and minimize property damage. Landform alterations shall not impede flood flows in adjacent upstream or downstream areas. Any development in the floodplain must be consistent with City floodplain zoning regulations.


PS-4d **Limitations to development within flood hazard zones.** Arcata's creeks and sloughs have the potential to cause localized flooding and shall be maintained to allow the flow of floodwaters. Structures and other land form alterations in areas susceptible to localized flooding, outside areas defined in policies RC-2b and RC-3c, should be setback from the watercourse. Elevated and flood-proofed structures, and/or floodwater detention basins shall be provided to minimize flood damage and prevent any net increase in floodflows upstream or downstream. The City shall promote flood management practices for entire watercourses, to minimize the need for sandbagging and other temporary flood control measures that can have detrimental impacts to adjacent areas.



PS-4e **Flood Insurance.** Flood insurance is available from private insurers to compensate home and business owners for flood-related losses. Flood insurance rates are set by a site's proximity to mapped flood-prone areas. The City shall make information about flood-prone areas available to the public, to aid community residents and business owners in determining whether flood insurance should be purchased.

PS-4f **Development standards in floodplains (surface drainageways and detention areas).**  All plans for new construction that could potentially encroach into a floodplain must incorporate measures for flood protection and show that there will be no adverse impact to the carrying capacity of the floodway. Setbacks, easements covering Floodzone A, and minimal use of impervious surfaces are measures strongly encouraged. Elevation of structures, anchoring, flood-proofing, and construction of detention basins are considered secondary and less desirable measures. The City's floodplain administrator shall verify this information and require appropriate certification before any development permits are granted.

PS-4g **Preventive maintenance of streams and drainageways.**  Local streams carry the majority of Arcata's floodwaters and shall be maintained for flood protection as well as natural biological functions. All improvements and maintenance shall be done in accordance with the City's Drainage Master Plan.

-  **PS-4h Development review: drainage standards and drainage fees.** All new development shall meet current City drainage standards and pay all applicable drainage fees. The City shall provide incentives to reduce the amount of impervious surface associated with new and renovated uses by reducing drainage fees.

## **POLICY PS-5 FIRE HAZARDS**

**Objective.** Minimize risk of personal injury and property damage resulting from structural (urban) and wildland fires.

- PS-5a Management of urban fire hazards (development/design standards).** Structural fires demand immediate response from a combination of onsite and Fire Department resources in order to minimize injury and damage. Fire suppression devices such as extinguishers and sprinklers are important for initial response, reduce fire insurance premiums, and satisfy operations requirements for certain types of businesses. These devices are encouraged in new and renovated non-residential buildings and in all residential structures with more than four units, even when not required by fire and building code.



All buildings should have adequate lighting, street numbering, and access to ensure rapid response by fire-fighting vehicles. To ensure urban fire safety, the City shall enforce the Uniform Building and Uniform Fire Codes (UBC & UFC) currently in effect, and the Universal Building Code when it is adopted.

- PS-5b Review of development for fire safety.** The Arcata Volunteer Fire Department takes an active role in reviewing new development for compliance with fire safety standards. The City shall continue to incorporate Fire Department review to ensure that driveways, turns-arounds, and other access ways have sufficient width, vertical clearance, and turn-around space for fire fighting vehicles. Roadways shall have an all-weather surface and grades shall not exceed the Fire Department's maximum slope standards for emergency access.

- PS-5c Water supply (fire flow).** The City's fire hydrant system provides the primary source of water for fighting urban fires. The City shall maintain fire hydrant spacing so that no residential structure is more than 500 feet from a hydrant and no commercial or industrial structure is more than 300 feet from a hydrant. Each hydrant shall have adequate fittings and be capable of providing adequate water flows to meet Fire Department standards.



The City shall maintain adequate fire flows in its water system. Open-water sources such as ponds, swimming pools, private storage tanks, and reservoirs may be used as a secondary water source by fire-fighting apparatus. These sources shall be equipped with appropriate filtering devices or strainers to prevent clogging of water pumps.

**PS-5d Management of wildland fire hazards.** Wildland fires in forested areas of the City can cause property damage and threaten nearby structures. Buildings in forested areas shall use materials such as non-flammable perimeter vegetation and roofing material to prevent exposure to wildland fires. The City shall encourage the Arcata Fire Department to maintain its mutual aid agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CDF) to insure rapid response to wildland fires.

**PS-5e Fire suppression services.** The Arcata Volunteer Fire Department's (AVFD) jurisdiction (shown as District #1 on the AVFD service area map) includes the City's incorporated, sphere of influence, and planning areas, except for an outlying area along Jacoby Creek Road. The AVFD maintains two fire stations to provide rapid response to all fire calls within its service area. They also maintain mutual aid agreements with the CDF and the Eureka Fire Department for rapid response to fires in outlying areas.

## **POLICY PS-6 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

**Objective.** Minimize the personal injury, property damage, and public health risks associated with the production, use, storage, disposal, and transporting of toxic substances or hazardous materials.

**PS-6a Reduction of hazardous waste (source reduction).** There are increasing numbers of environmentally safe materials and substances available that offer alternatives to hazardous materials. Improved water-based paints that replace oil and lead based paints, cellulose insulation materials that replace asbestos, and biodegradable antifreezes that replace glycol based coolants, are all examples of safer materials and substances currently in use. The City shall request information from County, State, and Federal agencies, as well as manufacturers and suppliers, regarding environmentally safe products and shall have a list of those products available to the public.



**PS-6b Contaminated sites.** There are sites in and around the City where wood product milling and production, vehicle and equipment storage and repair, agricultural production, and other uses may have resulted in site contamination. Materials such

as lead based paints may also contribute to contamination. Many of these sites are inactive and may be appropriate for alternative uses. Environmental Site Assessments shall be required prior to development review and approval of potentially contaminated sites, and cleanup is required prior to reuse. The City shall record and map sites with known contamination.

**PS-6c Use of potentially harmful materials on public lands and rights-of-way.** The City of Arcata does not use toxic sprays or substances on vegetation in public lands or rights-of-way, and has been persuasive in stopping State agencies, such as Cal-Trans, from using toxic sprays along State rights-of-way within the City limits. The City shall continue this practice and prohibit other public agencies from using toxic sprays or substances within the City limits (see Resource Conservation and Management Element Policy RC-1i).

**PS-6d Siting of facilities handling hazardous waste.** Businesses and agencies that use, store, or produce hazardous materials shall train employees and other users in safe handling and storage procedures, and shall post current Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and Humboldt County hazardous materials requirements. Businesses shall also comply with Federal “community right-to-know” regulations. The City shall consider proximity to sensitive receptors, such as schools, hospitals and other health care facilities, day care centers, and other immobile populations, when reviewing new facilities and businesses involved in these activities.

**PS-6e Household and other small-quantity generators.** Households and small businesses accumulate solvents and cleaners, petroleum products, pesticides, and other toxic substances that are potentially hazardous if spilled, released into the atmosphere, or ingested. The City shall maintain a list of toxic substances which should be avoided and publicize collection dates and locations where these substances can be disposed of properly. The City shall coordinate with the County Hazardous Materials Department (Humboldt County) and the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (California Environmental Protection Agency) to ensure that collection sites are accessible to community residents.

The City shall also encourage property owners and real estate agents to remove hazardous materials, or disclose their presence, to purchasers as part of property transfers. Property purchasers should have the option of accepting certain materials, such as paint, or requesting removal and cleanup prior to the property transfer.

**PS-6f Hazardous waste management (recycling, treatment, disposal).** All commercial and industrial businesses and other operations that use, store, or produce hazardous materials, shall contract with a licensed hauler for pickup and disposal of waste materials, except for individual disposal complying with County, State and Federal requirements. All hazardous materials shall be stored in safe containers and locations, and use of these materials shall be in compliance with County, State and

Federal standards.

- PS-6g **Hazardous materials education program.** The City shall work with the Humboldt County Health Department and the California Department of Toxic Substances to develop educational materials explaining hazardous materials' impact on people, plants, and animals, and provide information on alternatives to hazardous materials. This information shall be made available to the public.

## **POLICY PS-7 CRIME PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

**Objective.** Promote law enforcement agency and community group efforts to reduce crime and assure timely and effective responses to calls for service.

- PS-7a **Development/building and site design standards for crime prevention.** Some criminal acts in and around buildings can be prevented or minimized by incorporating safety and security precautions into building and site design. These include a combination of onsite features such as alarm systems, secured entryways, lighting, and visible access. Crime prevention measures, such as providing alarm systems, security lighting, street numbers, and visibility for police surveillance, should be incorporated into, and around, new and renovated buildings. Gated communities hinder police and fire suppression access and shall be prohibited, consistent with Community Design Element policy.
- PS-7b **Community-based policing.** Community-based policing has proven effective in reducing crime by involving citizens in crime prevention. The City Police Department provides training to business and neighborhood groups in how to discourage crime and best respond when crime occurs. The City shall continue to provide citizen training, maintain relationships with community groups, and encourage Business Emergency Services Teams (BESTs) to reduce crime and augment the essential services of the Police Department. Foot and bike patrols shall be promoted to maximize interaction between citizens and police, to foster friendship, understanding, and mutual help.
- PS-7c **Cooperative Law Enforcement.** There are three law enforcement agencies based in Arcata: The Arcata Police Department, the HSU Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol. These agencies work together, responding to incidents throughout the City. The City shall continue to cooperate with other law enforcement agencies to maximize public safety within its boundaries. The City Police Department shall be the primary response agency within City limits since it is the only agency directly accountable to the government and citizens of Arcata.





PS-7d **Independent review.** The Arcata Police Department has an established review procedure for investigating complaints against law enforcement personnel. Complaints may also be referred to the Humboldt County Grand Jury.  
[Revised by Ordinance No. 1377, September 2008]

PS-7e **Education and crime prevention funding.** The City recognizes that funds spent on education and crime prevention are more effective in reducing crime than funds spent on apprehending, prosecuting, and incarcerating criminals. The City shall pursue a long-term strategy of funding education and crime prevention programs.

## **POLICY PS-8 HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS**

**Objective.** Promote access to services and programs (prevention, treatment, and long term care) that will improve human health conditions for current and future populations. The City recognizes that its resources are limited but will work with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, social service and health care providers to help all residents meet and maintain basic physical and mental health. The City will serve as a model for other governmental entities that are addressing local health needs

PS -8a **Health care programs and facilities.** The City of Arcata does not directly provide health care programs or facilities; however, these facilities are operated in the City by a variety of health care providers and professionals, as well as non-profit and other organizations. The City shall allow health care facilities (such as clinics, counseling centers, and doctors offices) to be located in appropriate areas of the City, and encourage programs that serve all segments of the population.

PS-8b **Social services programs.** The City administers certain social services, such as temporary and permanent housing programs. Other public agencies, including the State of California, and Humboldt County, offer social services, such as public assistance, and food subsidy programs. There are also non-profit, religious, social, and other organizations, as well as businesses that offer social services such as counseling, educational, family assistance, child care, health education, and food subsidy programs. Social service needs shall be monitored, through population trend analysis and other indicators, and information disseminated to other social service providers.

Larger employers shall be encouraged to provide childcare services. The City shall coordinate with other public agencies and service providers to avoid duplication of services and shall assist in coordination, planning, and evaluating social services delivery. Additional services, such as Travelers Aid, shall also be encouraged, either through City sponsorship or identification of appropriate service providers. Social service facilities shall be located in areas that are accessible to users.



The General Plan Housing Element goal is to provide housing opportunities for people of all income levels, through the development of a wide range of housing types. The Element also contains affordability and fair housing policies as well as design standards to serve the needs of all population segments. The Housing Element shall be implemented to promote affordable and accessible housing for segments of the population with limited financial resources and limited mobility.

**PS-8c Needs of cultural groups and special populations.** Cultural groups, such as Native Americans and other local ethnic populations, and special populations, such as those with physical and mental disabilities, may require more specialized services than those provided in community-wide programs. The City shall allow, where appropriate, use of public spaces for cultural group activities, and shall consider the needs of special populations in City programs, activities, and land use planning.

**PS-8d Improving community health.** Health care costs and other factors, such as lack of knowledge, limited mobility, and cultural beliefs, prevent certain segments of the community from seeking both preventative care and treatment for illness. This can lead to increased rates of infection and the spread of disease, which impact community health. Non-communicable diseases, such as alcoholism and substance addiction, worsen without treatment and can also impact community health. The City shall encourage low cost health providers to offer preventative, urgent, and continuing health care services, including alcoholism and substance abuse programs, that are accessible to all segments of the community.

Community health may be jeopardized by lack of free access to clean water and sanitation facilities. The City shall work with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and social service providers to plan, develop, and maintain such facilities.

The City shall prohibit camping/living in areas such as the Arcata Community Forest, where clean water and sanitation facilities are not available. If feasible, the City may provide or permit a short-term camping area for unsheltered persons.

### 6.3 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
LU -1	<b>Update seismic setbacks/structural requirements and hillside development standards (LUC Amendment)</b> Update City land use code for setbacks from known faults and other hazards, geotechnical review and structural requirements, and hillside development standards.	Community Development Dept.	Year 1
PS -1	<b>Neighborhood and Business Emergency Services Teams (NEST and BEST)</b> Promote the formation of NESTs in all neighborhoods and the formation of BESTs in business communities. The City Police Department shall have a designated NEST/BEST coordinator available to assist neighborhoods with NEST organization and training, and to supply training materials (such as the <u>Captain's Handbook</u> Disaster Planning Guide).	Police Department	Ongoing
PS -2	<b>Emergency preparedness and response programs</b> Maintain and distribute current information about seismic risks and emergency preparedness (such as living on shaky ground – <u>How to Survive Earthquakes &amp; Tsunamis on the North Coast</u> distributed by the Humboldt Earthquake Education Center, HSU). Maintain Standardized Emergency Management System training for senior City staff, including Incident Command System, multi/inter-agency coordination, mutual aid, and operational area concepts.	City Manager's Office/Arcata Fire & Police Departments	Ongoing
PS -3	<b>Floodplain mapping and management program</b> Update floodplain mapping throughout the planning area, including continued participation with National Flood Insurance Program.	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Year 5
PS -4	<b>Cooperative law enforcement/independent review</b> Establish an ombudsman and/or police review commission for independent investigation and mediation of complaints, and for reviewing law enforcement procedures.	District Attorney/ State AG/ Grand Jury/ Human Rights Commission	Year 5
PS -5	<b>Safer materials and substances list</b> Maintain a list of safer materials and environmentally friendly substances to replace toxic substances and hazardous materials.	Environmental Services Dept.	Year 2
PS -6	<b>Education program for reduction of hazardous waste (resource reduction)</b> The City shall compile information from County, State and Federal agencies, as well as from manufacturers and suppliers, regarding environmentally safe products and shall make that information available to the public.	Environmental Services Dept.	Ongoing

#	IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME
PS -7	<b>Brownfield sites</b> Record and map sites having known contaminants, contingent upon funds availability.	Community Development Dept.	Year 2
PS -8	<b>Hazard information and protection</b> Complete the updates of the GIS base maps for hazards, and link a computer at the Permit Application Counter in Community Development to the GIS for public and staff access.	Environmental Services Dept./ Community Development	Year 1