City of Bell

Health & Safety Element

CITY OF BELL CAL.
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INTRODUCTION TO THE HEALTH & SAFETY ELEMENT

This Health and Safety Element of the City of Bell General Plan focuses on public safety through prevention and preparedness. The implementation of the programs outlined in this Element will assist in preventing or reducing the potential for injury, damage, and disruption resulting from natural or manmade catastrophes. Public safety programs identify procedures that will be effective in eliminating or avoiding hazards through emergency preparedness, and emergency response. This Element also provides the framework for emergency preparedness planning that may be undertaken in the future. The Health and Safety Element outlines the public safety issues that will need to be considered as part of the implementation of land use and development policy provided for in this General Plan. Finally, the Health and Safety Element discusses the impacts of climate change on the City and identifies adaptation and resiliency approaches aimed at reducing climate strain on the City and residents.

The Health and Safety Element also establishes specific standards related to public safety and human health. These standards serve as guidelines for future planning and land use decisions. The Health and Safety Element maps the location of known hazards, evacuation routes, and indicates peak water supply requirements, minimum road widths, clearances around structures, and other safety procedures.

Relationship to the General Plan

The Health and Safety Element is consistent with other Elements of this General Plan. The Mobility and Circulation Element addresses transportation issues that relate to the Health and Safety Element, which promotes efficient traffic flow related to emergency response and evacuation objectives. Concerns related to public safety must also be considered in planning for future development in the City which, in turn, is the focus of the Land Use and Sustainability Element. The Land Use and Sustainability Element is often referred to as the “most important general plan element.” The Health and Safety Element, however, is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of those persons living, working, or visiting the City. The successful implementation of the Health and Safety Element may result in a significant reduction in loss of life and injury.

According to the State’s planning laws, a Health and Safety Element is required for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effect of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mud slides and landslides, subsidence, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding and wild land and urban fires. The Health and Safety Element shall identify known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, peak load water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards. The City of Bell Health and Safety Element fulfills the aforementioned requirements. While the State law focuses on seismic risk, the Health and Safety Element has a broader scope that considers a wide range of natural and manmade hazards that could affect the City in the future.

State law requires the City of Bell to address GHG emissions sources and reductions in local planning and environmental review processes and climate adaptation in local long-range planning processes, such as general plans (or acceptable alternative). Climate change is already impacting most California cities and will continue to impact weather and temperatures in the future. For the City of Bell, the average temperature is already roughly 1°F higher than historical levels. The effects of a changing climate vary based on location; however, the City of Bell and its residents are already experiencing the primary climate change effects including:

- Increases in temperatures and heat waves
- Increases in extreme storms and weather events
- Changes in precipitation and droughts
- Increases in wildfire and poor air quality

There are a number of strategies and policies the City of Bell can undertake to mitigate the City's risk to climate change. The state of California recognizes eleven areas for climate adaptation: 1) energy management, 2) energy, 3) land use and community development, 4) public health, 5) transportation, 6) agriculture, 7) biodiversity and habitat, 8) forests, 9) oceans and coast, 10) water, and 11) parks, recreation and culture. The City of Bell recognizes the importance of all these sectors but will focus on the adaptation areas that are most relevant for its region.

The City of Bell also considered strategies to be more proactive in the prevention of the spread of disease and illnesses linked to climate change that have the potential to appear throughout California, such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. The City will promote education, outreach, and emergency alert systems to help educate the public and combat these illnesses.

The City of Bell 2015 Inventory of Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions report found that the largest contributor of GHG emissions was in transportation with 32% of emissions. The next largest contributor is residential energy with 30% of GHG emissions. Commercial energy use and solid waste were responsible for the remainder of significantly influenced emissions. The City of Bell has already implemented programs that will lead to ancillary benefits in the form of energy conservation and greenhouse gas mitigation. Implementing alternative work schedules and remote working, which enables staff to improve their work/life balance while at the same time reducing commuting vehicles miles. The City is investigating a community choice aggregate program to increase the amount of renewable energy used by residents and businesses. The City is also seeking funding sources and partners to facilitate the implementation of its Bike Master Plan and signed onto the Eco-Rapid Transit Development which will reduce transportation emissions while revitalizing the City's commercial corridors. As the City considers developing and implementing new emission reduction strategies, the City should continue to identify and quantify the emission reduction benefits of climate and sustainability strategies. Strategies for climate mitigation and sustainability include energy efficiency, renewable energy, vehicle fuel efficiency, alternative transportation, vehicle trip reduction, land use and transit planning, and waste reduction, among other strategies. The City of Bell implements these policies and strategies for the health and resiliency of the City as well as improving the economic vitality and its quality of life for its residents.

As stated previously, this Health and Safety Element emphasizes the importance of emergency preparedness in reducing the potential for loss of life, injury and property damage. An additional objective of the Health and Safety Element is to implement programs that will help to avoid the creation of hazardous conditions. Finally, the Health and Safety Element underscores the City's commitment to provide the logistical, material, and human resources needed to deal with future emergencies.

PLANNING BACKGROUND FOR HEALTH & SAFETY

Seismic Hazards

The City is located within a seismically active region and is subject to ground shaking hazards associated with earthquake events in the region.

The City of Bell is located on the northeastern portion of the Los Angeles Basin. This basin is an alluvial plain bounded on the north by the Santa Monica Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains; on the northeast by Repetto Hills, and Puente Hills; on the southeast by the Santa Ana Mountains and San Joaquin Hills; and on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean. Earthquakes are normally classified as to severity according to their magnitude or intensity. Because the amount of destruction generally decreases with increasing distance away from the epicenter, earthquakes are assigned several intensities, but only one magnitude. The destructiveness of an earthquake at a particular location is commonly reported using the Richter scale (magnitude) or Mercalli scale (intensity).

The Modified Mercalli Scale (MM) employs a subjective classification system based on observations of damage caused by past earthquakes. The scale has 12 levels of damage, the higher the number, the greater the damage. For example, the City of Bell is predicted to experience ground shaking with a MM intensity of 6.0 to 6.5 during a Magnitude 8.3 along the San Andreas fault with a maximum MM intensity 6.5 to 7.0. The intensity of seismic ground shaking at any given location is a function of several factors, but primarily the magnitude of the earthquake, the distance from the epicenter to the planning area, and the local geologic and topographic conditions.

The amount of damage is also controlled to a certain extent by the size, shape, age, and engineering characteristics of the affected structures. Most structures in Bell consist of one- or two-story, wood-frame construction. This building type, although not immune to structural damage, is notably resilient to earthquake shaking. The recent Elysian Park and Northridge earthquakes did demonstrate, however, that the ground intensities from these previously unknown blind thrust faults could generate significant damage to both low-rise and high-rise structures, which were previously considered to be capable of withstanding the effects of strong ground motion.

Significant Faults in the Area

The State of California, under the guidelines of the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Act, classifies earthquake faults according to the following criteria:

- **Active faults** exhibit proven displacement of the ground surface within the last 11,000 years (Holocene);
- **Potentially active** faults exhibit evidence of movement within the last 750,000 to two million years; and

- **Inactive faults** have not moved in the last 11,000 years, as determined from direct geologic evidence, are presumed to be inactive.

There are no active or potentially active earthquake faults known to traverse the City of Bell, thus, no ground rupture hazards are expected in the City. The City is, however, located within a seismically active region and is subject to ground shaking hazards associated with earthquake events in the region. Seismicity in the Los Angeles area historically has been defined by earthquake events along the Newport-Inglewood, San Fernando, San Jacinto, and San Andreas faults. Other faults of concern in the area include the Whittier fault, the Elysian Park Thrust, and the Santa Monica-Hollywood fault, as shown in **Figure1**.

Figure1
Significant Faults In The Los Angeles Region

The maximum credible earthquake is the largest magnitude event that appears capable of occurring under the presently known tectonic framework. The maximum probable earthquake is the maximum earthquake likely to occur during a 100-year interval. The major faults in the Southern California region are described below.

- The **Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone** is located approximately nine miles west of the City. The 1933 Long Beach Earthquake occurred on the Newport-Inglewood fault. A maximum credible earthquake of Magnitude 6.8 on the Newport-Inglewood fault has the potential of generating horizontal peak ground accelerations of about 0.2 to 0.3 in the area. Ground-shaking could last approximately 22 seconds, with seismic Mercalli intensity values of VII to VIII. This type of earthquake would be particularly damaging to older low-rise structures located within the City.

- The **Palos Verdes Hills Fault,** located 20 miles to the southwest of the City and is considered to be an active fault based on late Pleistocene and Holocene age displacements that have been interpreted along offshore segments of the fault in the San Pedro shelf. The fault is considered to be capable of generating a maximum credible earthquake of Magnitude 7.0 that would cause seismic intensities in the IX to X range. The Palos Verdes fault could result in greater damage than that anticipated from an earthquake on the San Andreas fault due to its proximity.

- The **Sierra Madre Fault Zone** is located approximately 15 miles northeast of the City at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and forms a prominent 50-mile long east-west structural zone on the south side of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Sierra Madre fault system was responsible for the uplift of the San Gabriel Mountains by faulting in response to tectonic compression.

- The **Whittier-Elsinore Fault Zone** is located along the southern base of the Puente Hills approximately nine miles east of the City of Bell. This northwest-trending fault extends from the Whittier Narrows area continuing southeast across the Santa Ana River, past Lake Elsinore, into western Imperial County and then continuing on into Mexico. This fault is expected to be capable of generating a Magnitude 6.6 earthquake.

- The **Santa Monica-Malibu Coast Fault System** is an east-west trending fault system located along the southern margin of the western Santa Monica Mountains and into Santa Monica Bay. The nearest fault trace is located approximately 22 miles to the west of the City. Although there has been very little seismic activity along this fault system, the Malibu Coast fault segment has been characterized as active based on displaced soils. This displacement was estimated to have occurred about five thousand years ago.

- The **San Andreas Fault Zone** is located approximately 37 miles to the north and northeast of the City at its nearest point. This fault zone extends from the Gulf of California continuing northward to the Cape Mendocino area where it continues northward along the ocean floor. The total length of the San Andreas Fault Zone is approximately 750 miles. The length of the fault and its active seismic history indicates that it has a very high potential for large-scale movement in the near future (Magnitude 8.0).

- The **San Jacinto Fault Zone,** located approximately 44 miles to the northeast of the City, is part of the San Andreas Fault System. The two fault strands separate near the San Gabriel Mountains, where the San Jacinto fault extends southeastward to form the southwestern boundary of the San Jacinto Mountains and the San Timoteo Badlands. This fault is thought capable of generating a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.0. Strong ground shaking from this earthquake would last about 25 seconds, with MM intensity values in the VIII to IX range.

- The **Elysian Park Blind Thrust Fault** is exposed for approximately two miles at Elysian Park but is not exposed over the rest of its trace toward the east. (Blind thrust faults are low-angle or low-lying faults occurring generally 5 to 15 kilometers below the ground surface which have no surface manifestation.) The Elysian Blind Thrust is located approximately five miles from the City of Bell at its nearest point. The Elysian Park Fault was the source of the magnitude 5.9 earthquake near Whittier in 1987. This fault is thought to be capable of generating earthquakes of magnitude 7.2 to 7.6 and would result in intense ground-shaking in the entire Los Angeles basin.

- The **Torrance-Wilmington Fault** is a newly postulated, blind thrust fault and fold system located under the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Although this fault system is not well defined, it is estimated that if one of the segments ruptures, an earthquake of Magnitude 5.0 to 7.5, would occur.

Table 1 summarizes the major faults within the Southern California region, their distance and direction relative to the City of Bell, the maximum credible earthquake postulated for each fault, and the maximum probable earthquake for the faults identified in **Table 1**.

Table 1
Major Faults

Fault	Distance	Max.
Whittier	9 miles E	7
Santa Monica-Hollywood	10 miles NW	7
Raymond Hill	10 mites NE	6.5
Sierra Madre	15 miles NE	6.5
San Fernando	25 miles NW	6.5
Elysian Park	5 miles N	7.6
San Jacinio	44 miles NE	7.5
Palos Verdes	20 miles SW	7
San Andreas	37 miles NE	8.25
Malibu Coast	22 miles W	7
Source: Los Angeles County Health and Safety Element, 1990.		

The four largest recent earthquakes that have caused major damage in the Los Angeles basin include the 1933 Long Beach (Magnitude 6.3), 1971 San Fernando (Magnitude 6.4), the 1987 Whittier Narrows (Magnitude 5.9), and the 1994 Northridge (Magnitude 6.7) earthquakes. The 1933 Long Beach earthquake occurred on the southern segment of the Newport-Inglewood fault, from Newport Beach to Signal Hill. The 1971 San Fernando earthquake occurred along the San Fernando segment of the Sierra Madre fault zone. The Whittier Narrows earthquake occurred on the Elysian thrust fault in 1987. Finally, the most recent major earthquake, the Northridge earthquake, occurred on the Oakridge fault in the San Fernando Valley in January1994.

Liquefaction Risk

Liquefaction may occur when loose, unconsolidated, and saturated fine-to-medium-grained sandy soils are subjected to ground vibrations during an earthquake. Liquefaction related effects include loss of bearing strength, ground oscillations, lateral spreading, and flow failures, or slumping. Structures constructed on soils that liquefy may sink or topple over as the soil loses its bearing strength. A study of earthquake hazards by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that the Bell area has moderate to high potential for liquefaction. Areas containing shallow groundwater within 30 feet or less of the ground surface (see **Figure2**) are susceptible to liquefaction hazards during seismic shaking.

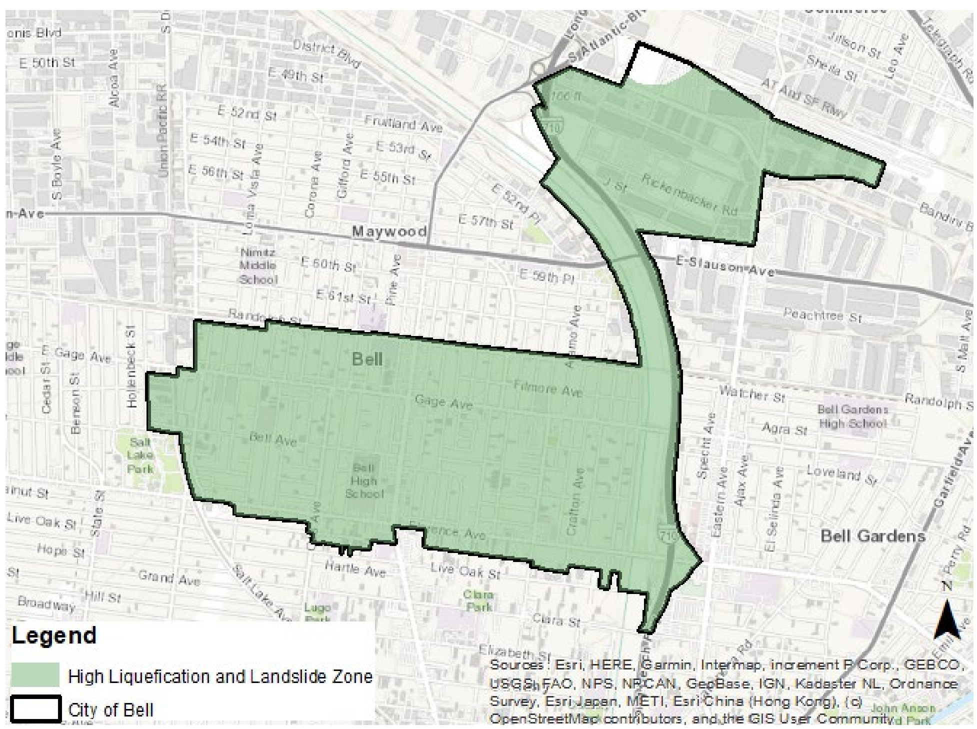

Figure2
Areas in the City of Bell Subject to Potential Liquefaction

The City of Bell has a relatively flat topography, and hazards associated with slope instability, erosion, and landslides are considered unlikely. Because of the City's level topography, there are no landslide hazards in the City or the surrounding area. The Bandini oil field is located under the Cheli Industrial Area and could present subsidence hazards due to extensive oil pumping and withdrawal to this area. Subsidence occurs via soil shrinkage and is triggered by a reduction in an underlying groundwater table, thus causing the earth on top to sink.

Potential for Seismic-Related Damage

The wood-frame construction used in the residential and some commercial development in the City generally performs well during earthquakes. These buildings may experience significant structural and nonstructural damage, but rarely collapse. However, a trend in wood-frame construction in recent years, in particular in housing construction, has been the split level and irregular floor plans. Earthquake intensities of 8.0 in the Mercalli Scale may cause torsional racking of the foundation and wall elements of irregular structures. The anticipated damage for various types of structures is outlined below:

- **Residential Uses.** Single-family residences constructed prior to when the 1952 Building Code was implemented are more likely to slip off their foundations as a result of strong ground motion associated with nearby earthquakes. Mobile homes are also susceptible to slipping off their foundation.

- **Commercial and Industrial Uses.** Commercial and industrial buildings using tilt-up concrete walls are found in the newer commercial developments along Bandini Boulevard in the Cheli industrial area. Roof collapse has been observed in some pre-1971 commercial buildings using this type of construction. Concrete and steel-framed buildings are more earthquake resistant and should be encouraged. A number of unreinforced masonry structures in the City have been retrofitted. These buildings include commercial structures along Gage Avenue and other major arterials.

- **Critical Facilities.** Critical facilities are structures and parts of a community's development that must remain operational after an earthquake. In addition, those facilities that pose unacceptable risks to public safety if severely damaged are also of critical concern. Essential facilities such as medical centers, fire and police stations, emergency operations centers, schools, and communication centers are also considered to be critical facilities.

- **High-Occupancy Facilities.** High-occupancy facilities have the potential of resulting in a large number of casualties or crowd control problems. This category includes the Senior Center, churches, a mosque and large multi-family residential complexes. Dependent care facilities that house populations with special evacuation considerations, such as pre-schools and schools, group care homes, and nursing and convalescent homes are also considered critical facilities. The State, with the passage of the Garrison Act of 1969, has jurisdictional responsibility to ensure that public schools are adequately constructed to seismic standards. The Los Angeles County Fire Department is responsible for inspections of deficient electrical, plumbing, mechanical, or fire safety fixtures in high-occupancy residential and commercial facilities. The California Department of Conservation, Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Division has prepared Planning Scenarios for a major earthquake on the Newport-Inglewood and San Andreas faults to assist in emergency response and recovery efforts. These reports show the City of Bell as having seismic intensities of over 8.0 and liquefaction hazards. The Long Beach Freeway and other infrastructure and utility lines in the area would be subject to localized damage.

Flooding & Inundation Hazards

Los Angeles River

There is no potential for seiche or tsunami in Bell since no large surface water bodies (lakes, reservoirs, etc.) are located nearby. In addition, the Federal Emergency, Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program designates the City of Bell within Zone X. The Zone X flood zone has an annual probability of flooding of less than 0.2% and represents areas outside the 500-year flood plain. Thus, properties located in Zone X are not located within a 100-year flood plain.[1]

The City of Bell is located within the inundation paths of the Hansen and Sepulveda Dams. The Hansen Dam is located on the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley, approximately four miles west of Sunland. The inundation areas within Bell from these regional dams are summarized below:

- **Hansen Dam Inundation.** The inundation area of the Hansen Dam includes areas along the Tujunga Creek and several communities in the valley, the City of Los Angeles, cities in south central Los Angeles, and areas along the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers. The City of Bell is located approximately 25 miles south of the dam, but dam failure would affect the entire City of Bell. Flood waters would arrive 17.75 hours after failure with a maximum depth of one foot approximately 21 hours after failure (see **Figure3**).

- **Sepulveda Dam Inundation.** The Sepulveda Dam is located on the Los Angeles River near the intersection of the Ventura and San Diego Freeways near the City of Van Nuys. The probable maximum flood from the Sepulveda Dam is expected to last four days with a total volume of 163,200 acre-feet. The flood would affect areas along the Los Angeles River and the cities of Los Angeles, Huntington Park, South Gate, Compton, Lynwood, Maywood, Bell, and Bell Gardens. The flood waters are anticipated to reach the City approximately ten hours after failure. A maximum flood elevation of two feet is expected

[1]FEMA. *Flood Zones, Definition/Description*. http://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones

approximately12 hours after failure (see **Figure3**).

- **Garvey Reservoir Inundation.** The Cheli Industrial Area is within the inundation area of the Garvey Reservoir in Monterey Park, as shown in Exhibit 4-3. The Garvey Reservoir is located two miles southeast of the intersection of Garfield Avenue and Graves Avenue. Flows from the dam are expected to affect areas south of the dam, including the cities of Montebello, Bell, and Bell Gardens. Floodwaters are estimated to reach the Cheli area within 30 minutes of failure. Emergency response and evacuation plans for the affected areas have been established by the County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Corps of Engineers, to facilitate emergency operations in the event of dam failure or river overflow.

- **Whittier Narrows Dam Inundation Area.** The inundation area of the Whittier Narrows Dam is confined to the area east of the I-710 freeway but does not include the Cheli Industrial Area. Dam waters flow south and southwest toward the Florence Avenue/I-710 freeway and the Los Angeles River but will not affect existing development in the Central City area.

Large areas downstream of the Hansen and Sepulveda Dams, including the City of Bell, are at risk of inundation in the event of dam failure. The Hansen and Sepulveda Dams are operated by the Army Corps of Engineers and were constructed primarily for flood control. The flood hazards associated with dam failure will affect most areas south of the dams.

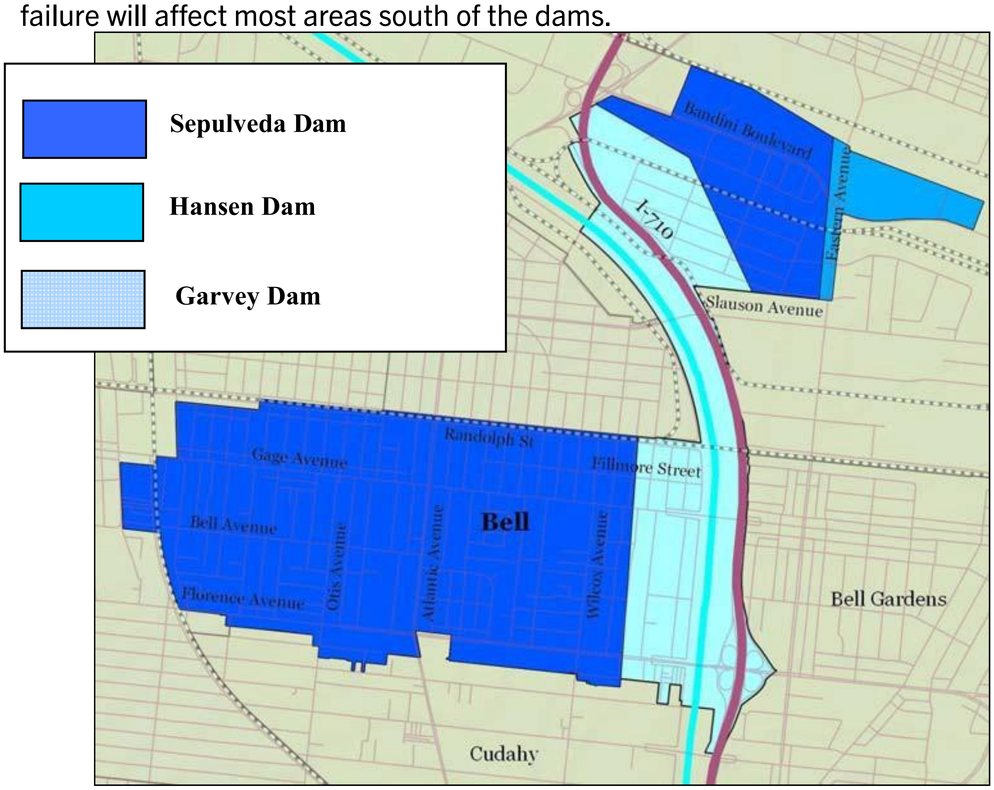

Figure3
Potential Dam Inundation Areas in the City of Bell

Emergency and Disaster Routes

In the rare event of a dam failure, areas of Bell may become flooded resulting in property and structural damage and may threaten the lives of residents. The City of Bell coordinates its evacuation plans and information for emergency response with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate emergency operations in the event of dam failure or river overflow. In the event of an emergency, the County of Los Angeles' Emergency Response Webpage will be activated that will provide a resource to citizens in order to identify emergency evacuation routes and evacuation shelters. The following link provides access to the webpage: https://lacounty.gov/emergency/map/. During an emergency, residents can dial 2-1-1 for specific emergency information, such as road closures and evacuations.

Map of Emergency Routes. The Los Angeles County's Department of Public Works has also identified disaster routes throughout the County. Disaster routes are freeways, highways or arterial routes pre-identified for use during times of crisis. These routes are used to bring in emergency personnel, equipment, and supplies to impacted areas in order to save lives, protect property and minimize impact to the environment. During a disaster, these routes have priority for clearing, repairing and restoration over all other roads. Disaster routes are not evacuation routes, as disaster routes are used to bring resources to an affected area while evacuation routes are used to move the affected population outside of an emergency area. During an emergency, these routes may be used as both a disaster and evacuation route. The Department of Public Works has identified Florence Avenue on the southern portion of Central City and Interstate 710 that separates Central City from the Cheli District as both disaster and emergency routes. Additional evacuation routes through the City of Bell include the major arterials in the City, such as Florence Avenue as shown in **Figure 4**. Florence Avenue extends in an east-west direction and would serve as a collector for evacuating residents on the City's north-south local streets. Evacuees may then proceed on Atlantic Avenue which runs in a north-south direction or remain on Gage and Florence Avenues, depending on the site of the disaster or the nature of the emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Program

The City originally adopted a Civil Defense and Disaster Plan in 1972 and this Plan was updated in February 1983. The Bell Police Department has adopted procedures for dealing with hazardous spills on the I-710 Freeway. These procedures are based on the California Highway Patrol's and the Federal Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Materials. To ensure emergency water supply throughout the City, new construction is required to meet specific fire flow standards. Fire flows for individual structures are calculated according to size of the structure (floor area), type of construction (wood, non-combustible, fire-resistive), building height, presence of sprinkler systems, distance between buildings, and type of use.

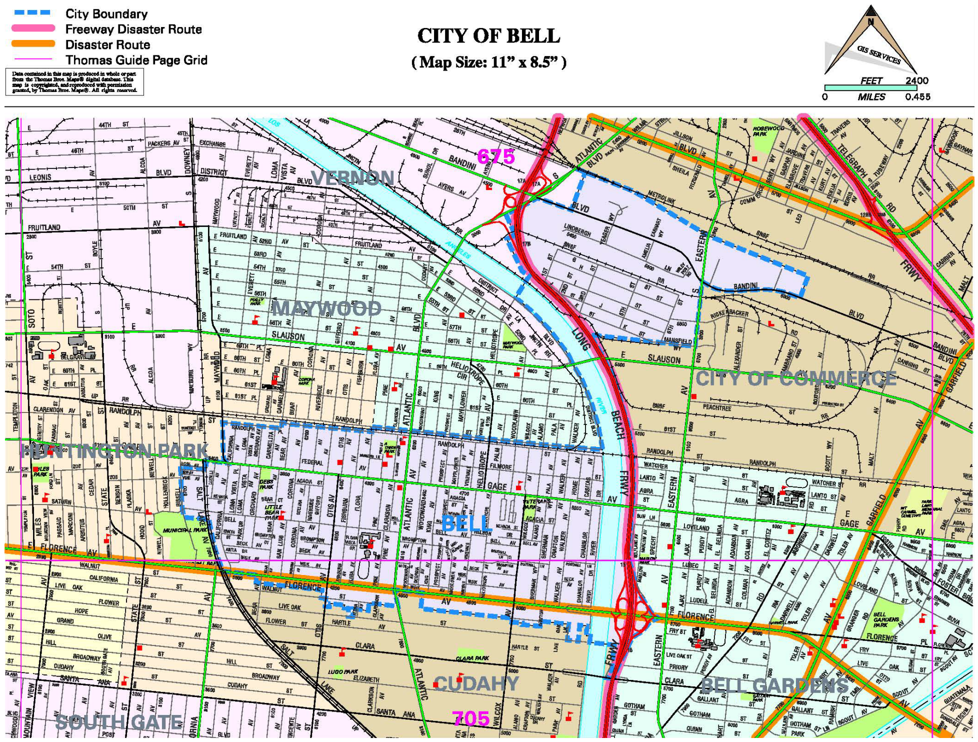

Figure4
Disaster Routes

Fire Hazards

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) maps the state by significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones are known as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) and influence building construction and local wildfire policies. The City of Bell is not located within a FHSZ. The closest FHSZs are located 10 miles east in the City of Whittier and 11 miles west in the City of Inglewood. CAL FIRE also maps the state into responsibility areas. State responsibility areas (SRAs) are areas where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires. SRAs do not include any land within city boundaries or any federally owned land. Consequentially, the City is located within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and is financially responsible for wildfires within its boundaries. Since the City is not located within a FHSZ and there are no open grass areas in or around the City which present brush fire or wildfire hazards, the risk of wildland fires in the City of Bell is low. However, climate change is creating warmer, drier conditions leading to increased droughts and fire seasons that are increasing the chance of fire within an urban setting.

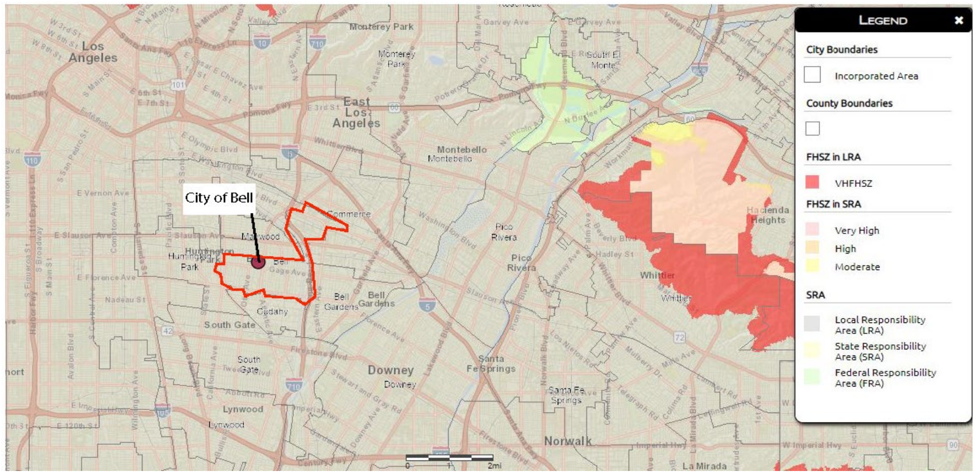

Figure 5
SRA and FHSZ

The major risk involves structural fires associated with older buildings in the City which may not be in compliance with the more recent and stringent fire safety codes and regulations. Furthermore, industrial uses may also be considered to have a greater risk for fire due to the higher potential for use of flammable, explosive, and hazardous materials. The industrial uses in Bell are located within the Cheli Industrial Area and separated from the commercial and residential uses in the Central City.

The City of Bell adheres to the CalFire Fire Code Title 24, Part 9 including section 901.4.1 Required Fire Protection Systems; wherein the fire protection systems are required by this code or the California Building Code to repair, operate, maintenance, and tested. Retrofitting buildings may include hardening of structures with fire-resistant or fire-proof building materials, for both new construction and retrofits to existing buildings as noted in the California Adaptation Planning Guide.

Fire Protection

The City of Bell contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) for fire protection and emergency services.

The City of Bell contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) for fire protection and emergency services. Fire stations are located in the City of the Bell and the surrounding area to meet the demand for fire protection in the area. The LACFD has a service area covering more than 22,000 square miles. There are 235 fire stations throughout the County which respond to approximately 200,000 calls per year. The City of Bell has access to all the resources and facilities of the County Fire Department. Thus, other fire stations may respond to a fire in the City of Bell, if the need arises. The County Fire Station No. 163 is located at the Civic Center of Bell and provides first response to the Central City. Fire Station No. 27 on Rickenbacker Road in Bell serves the Cheli Industrial Area. There are also a number of other fire stations in the surrounding area that may also serve the City of Bell when needed. Response time county-wide is under five minutes.

Fire Protection Standards Fire Flow. The Los Angeles County Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau determines the minimum flows for new construction based on building plans and developers are responsible for providing adequate fire flows. This ensures that hydrant capacity is available to meet fire emergency needs of all developments. The City of Bell follows the County Fire Department Fire Code standards for fire flows and emergency access roads. Fire flows of 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm) to 5,000 gpm at 20 pounds per square-inch of residual pressure for a duration of two to five hours are needed at residential and commercial uses, with hydrants every 300 to 600 feet, based on the type of occupancy.

The fire standards outlined above are subject to the following conditions:

- Fire flow increases with building size (square feet) and/or lot coverage 20 psi and 600 feet hydrant spacing is required for single-family dwelling 20 psi and 300 feet hydrant spacing is required for all other occupancies.
- Road width increases where parallel parking allowances, hydrant requirements, or serial fire suppression requirements, or aerial fire suppression requirements indicate the need.
- Minimum 20 feet private road width is permitted only if life safety is not jeopardized, topography, or lot shape/dimensions are constraints, and the Fire Department grants discretionary approval.
- A paved access is required if any portion of the first-floor building exterior is more than 150 feet from a public vehicle access (private driveway, bridge, alley).
- Final fire flow will be based on the size of the building, its relationship to adjacent structures and the type of construction. **Table 2** summarizes the minimum fire flow and access standards for development projects in Bell.

Table 2
Fire Standards

Development	Fire Flow (gpm)	Road Width (feet)	Access' (Feet)	Turn Radius (Feet)
Single-Family (Fire Zone 4)	1000-1250	20-26	150	32
Single-Family (Fire Zone 3)	750-1250	20-26	150	32
Two-Family (Duplex)	1500	26-36	150	32
Mobile Home (Fire Zone 4)	1250	26-36	150	32
Multi-Family & Hotel	1000-5000	26-36	150	32
Schools	1000-5000	26-36	150	32

Table 2
Fire Standards

Development	Fire Flow (gpm)	Road Width (feet)	Access' (Feet)	Turn Radius (Feet)
Commercial & Industrial	1000-5000	26-42	150	32
High-Rise (5-stories/ 75')	5000	N/A	N/A	32
Source: Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Code				

The water system must be capable of supplying adequate quantities of water for firefighting purposes, in addition to the daily supply for domestic demand in the area. Adequate reservoir capacity is determined by the availability of water for peak day supply plus fire flow requirements. Generally, peak day supply is twice the average day demand and total fire flow requirements are estimated by the population of the area. The provision of adequate roadway widths will facilitate emergency response during a disaster. The City supports fire access standards that have been established by the County Fire Department to ensure access for fire-fighting equipment to all areas of the City.

Fire Protection Standards Peak Load Water Supply. The water system must be capable of supplying adequate quantities of water for firefighting purposes, in addition to the daily supply for domestic demand in the area. Adequate reservoir capacity is determined by the availability of water for peak day supply plus fire-flow requirements. Generally, peak day supply is twice the average day demand and total fire-flow requirements are estimated by the population of the area. Water systems shall adhere to the standards for additional fire protection systems, appearance of equipment, pumps, riser, sprinklers, and other equipment need for fire protection under the California Fire Code, Title 24, Part 9.

Fire Protection Standards Emergency Access. The provision of adequate roadway widths will facilitate emergency response during a disaster. The City supports fire access standards that have been established by the County Fire Department to ensure access for firefighting equipment to all areas of the City.

Hazardous Materials

The primary concern associated with the release of a hazardous material relates to the public health risks of exposure

All businesses that handle hazardous materials are required by various Federal, State, and local agencies to submit a business plan to their local administering agency (the reportable quantities are 50 or more gallons of a liquid, 500 pounds or more or a solid, or 200 cubic feet or more of a gas at standard temperature and pressure; quantities for acutely hazardous materials vary according to the substance).

Every hazardous material handler is required to submit a business plan and an inventory of hazardous substances and acutely hazardous materials to the Bell

Police Department and the County Fire Department on a yearly basis. If the hazardous materials inventory of a business should change, a revised business plan must be submitted. Hazardous material users and generators in the City include gasoline stations, auto repairs shops, printers and photo labs, clinics, dry cleaners, schools, fire stations, and a variety of other commercial and industrial land uses. Businesses that are classified as Hazardous Materials Users in the City of Bell General Plan, including the Raymond Jefferies property located at 5412 Gage Ave. I-710 Freeway and LA Riverbed, must adhere to local, state, and federal regulations regarding handling, storage, and disposal of all hazardous materials (California Code of Regulations, Title 22). A total of 138sites in Bell are listed in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) *Envirofacts Database* as being handlers and/or users of hazardous materials. Most of these land uses are concentrated in the Cheli District or along Gage, Florence, and Atlantic Avenues. In addition, according to the California Department of Toxic Substance's Envirostor 5 sites are identified as undergoing cleanup and remediation. Finally, there is one "superfund" site located in the City that is included on the State's *Cortese Sites* listing.

The primary concern associated with the release of a hazardous material relates to the public health risks of exposure. Toxic gases are a primary concern, since a gaseous toxic plume is more difficult to contain than a solid or liquid spill, and a gas can impact a larger segment of the population in a shorter time span. Releases of hazardous materials may also occur during a natural disaster, such as during an earthquake. Improperly-stored containers of hazardous substances may overturn or break, pipelines may rupture, and storage tanks may fail. Containers may also explode when subjected to high temperatures, such as those generated by a fire. If two or more chemicals which are reactive when combined come in contact as a result of a spill, the hazard may be compounded. The Uniform Fire Code includes criteria designed to minimize the risk of an accident. These guidelines are to be followed when storing, using, or transporting hazardous materials, and include secondary containment of substances, segregation of chemicals to reduce reactivity during a release, sprinkler and alarm systems, monitoring, venting and auto shutoff equipment, and treatment requirements for toxic gas releases.

The I-710 Freeway is a major truck route from Los Angeles and Long Beach and presents a potential for hazardous material accidents and spills during transport. In addition, the railroad lines that serve the area occasionally transport hazardous materials. Trains on the SPRR railroad line parallel to Randolph Street, in the northern section of the Central City, on the UPRR line along the west side and on the AT&SF railroad in the Cheli industrial area and eastern side of the Central Area also carry hazardous cargo. The City has no jurisdiction or control over the transport of hazardous materials on freeways and railroads. The Bell Police Department adheres to procedures for dealing with hazardous spills on major streets. These procedures are based on the

California Highway Patrol's and the Federal Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Materials. The California Highway Patrol is in charge of spills that occur on the local freeways and highways along with Caltrans.

A Chevron high pressure crude oil pipeline extends along River Drive in the City. This line transports crude oil from Montebello to El Segundo. Transmission lines also extend along the Los Angeles River (east of the Central City) and west of the UPRR tracks (west of the Central City). A natural gas transmission line and Arco pipelines also extend along the UPRR tracks on the western end of the City.

Health Care Services & Emergency Shelters

Primary health care is provided by the St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood; Downey Community Hospital, U.S.C. Medical Center, and the Los Angeles Community Hospital in East Los Angeles; Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital in Los Angeles; Rio Hondo Memorial Hospital in Downey; Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center in Downey; and Community Hospital of Huntington Park. A number of structures have been designated as emergency shelters by the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). These shelters are listed in **Table 4.**

Table 4
Emergency Shelters& Facilities

Structure	Address	Capacity
Bell City Hall	6330 Pine Avenue	100
Bell High School	4328 Bell Avenue	4,280
Magnolia Science Acad.	6411 Orchard Avenue	3,000
Martha Escutia Primary	6401 Bear Avenue	500
Corona Avenue School	3825 Bell Avenue	61
Total Occupancy		7,941

Source: City of Bell, 2018

Characteristics of Noise

Community noise levels are typically measured in terms of the A-weighted decibel (dBA). A-weighing is a frequency correction that correlates overall sound pressure levels with the frequency response of the human ear. Representative noise sources and sound levels are shown in **Figure 6**. Additional units of measurement have been developed to evaluate the longer-term characteristics of sound. One of the more common noise measurements uses statistical samples in terms of percentile noise levels. For example, the L_{10}noise level represents the noise level that is exceeded 10% of the time. The

L_{50} noise level represents the median noise level; half the time, noise exceeds this level, and half the time noise is less than this level. The L, noise level represents the background noise level experienced during 90% of the time. The equivalent noise level (Leq) is a single-number representation of the fluctuating sound level in decibels over a specified period of time.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is the noise measurement that represents an average of all measured noise levels obtained over a specified period of time. The CNEL scale includes an additional 5.0 dB adjustment to sounds occurring in the evening (7:00 PM to 10:00 PM) in addition to the 10.0 dB adjustment to sounds occurring in the late evening and early morning hours (between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM).

Noise Sources in the City

The major sources of noise in the City consist of vehicular traffic on the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) and on major arterial roadways which pass through the city. Noise from trains using the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF), Union Pacific (UPRR), and Southern Pacific (SPRR) rail lines are a secondary source of mobile noise. The AT&SF line extends through the Cheli Industrial area and along the eastern side of the Central City area and does not affect any residential area. The UPRR line along the western section of the City, the noise from the trains and the crossing on Bell Ave. affects residential uses at the western end of the City. The SPRR along Randolph Street also affects residential uses, although the SPRR line along Ardmore is not located near any residential use. A future source of noise is the proposed Eco-Rapid Transit line that runs along the western edge of Central City and may affect nearby residential uses along Salt Lake Avenue.

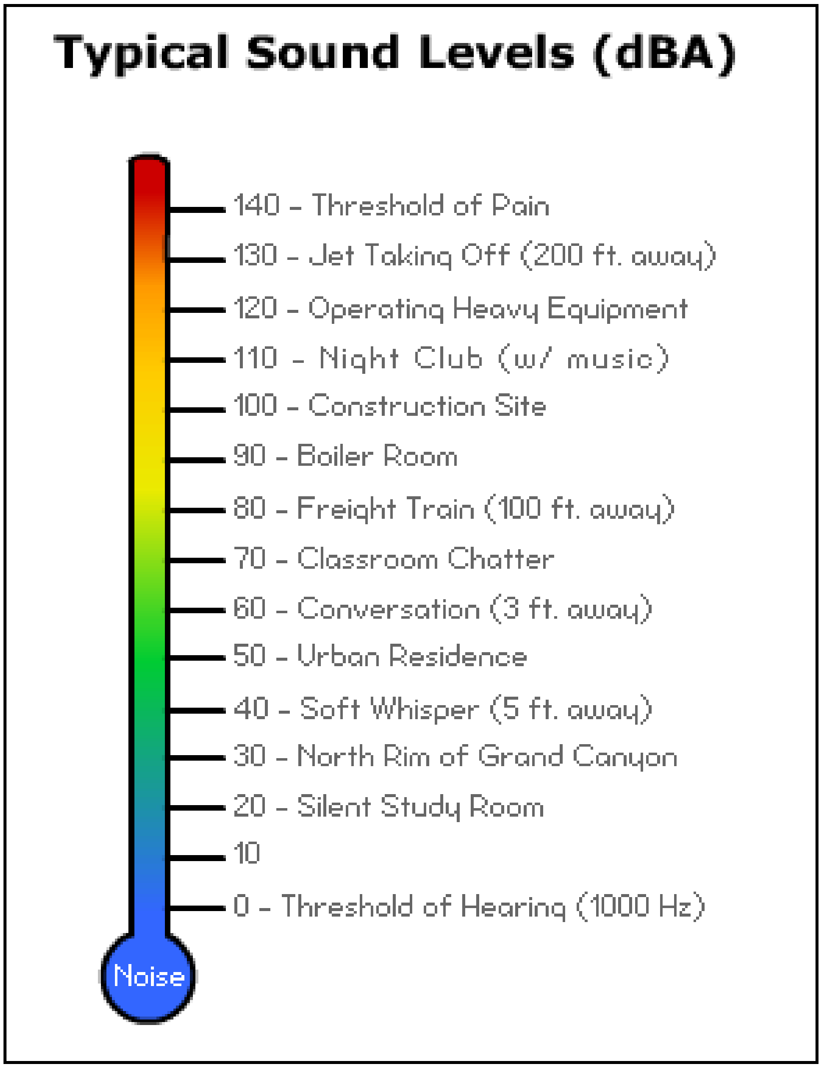

Figure 6
Characteristics of Noise

Stationary noise sources in Bell are concentrated in the Cheli area and the commercial areas along Gage, Florence, and Atlantic Avenues. Industrial activities may result in high noise levels when machinery is in operation. The Cheli Industrial area, where the majority of the City's industrial uses are located, is separated from most of the City's residential areas by the I-710 and the Los Angeles River. As a result, noise from the industrial operations do not affect the majority of residents, schools, or parks in Bell or adjacent communities. Residential areas contribute gatherings and activities, vehicles, and operating household equipment to the ambient noise environment.

Noise Sensitive Land Uses

Noise sensitive receptors are shown in **Figure 7**. A community noise survey was conducted as part of the Noise Element's update to document the existing noise environment. Twelve locations were selected for the surveys corresponding to the locations visited during the preparation of the previous

Noise Element. A summary of the noise measurements taken during an average weekday are shown in **Table 5**. **Table 5** indicates the noise levels that were recorded 90% (L_{90}) of the measurement period, 66% of the measurement periods (L_{66}), 33% (L_{33}), and 10% (L_{10}) of the measurement period. The L_{90} is a statistical descriptor of the sound level exceeded 90% of the time of the measurement period. This is considered to represent the background noise without a specific source in question.[2] **Figure 7** shows the 12 study locations.

Table 5
Noise Measurement Results

Location	L_{10}	L_{33}	L_{66}	L_{90}
1	75.6	71.8	65.2	60.2
2	63.3	58.0	53.5	48.4
3	75.9	72.1	63.5	59.9
4	75.4	69.5	64.1	60.7
5	78.0	75.2	70.7	67.0
6	75.4	71.3	67.0	64.3
7	61.3	57.2	54.2	49.9
8	74.8	72.0	67.1	62.3
9	63.5	61.8	58.8	55.7
10	77.5	74.1	70.8	67.9
11	81.0	77.2	73.0	68.6
12	79.2	75.5	71.1	67.7

Site locations are provided in Figure 7.
Source: Impact Sciences, Inc., 2021

Hospitals and convalescent homes, churches, libraries, schools, senior centers, parks and child care facilities are considered noise sensitive receptors and are best located away from noise sources. Noise sensitive land uses in the City include Woodlawn School and other schools, Bell Convalescent Hospital, the library, parks, and residential areas. These uses are subject to vehicular and stationary noise in the surrounding area. The residential areas along the eastern portion of the City are separated from the I-710 by the Los Angeles River. The freeway, as it passes through the City, is also below grade relative to surrounding development. Thus, the effects of freeway noise are reduced. Other noise sensitive uses such as schools and childcare facilities, churches, etc. are not found near the I-710 freeway and thus, no significant exposure to vehicular noise from the freeway occurs on these land uses. Residential development and mobile home parks are located

[2] Federal Highway Administration. Sound Level Descriptors. Available at: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/noise/resources/fhwahep17053.pdf

along the City's major thoroughfares and may be subject to vehicular noise throughout the day. Some residences are also located near the railroad tracks and are exposed to train noise during certain times of the day and night.

Figure 7
Noise Measurement Locations in the City of Bell

Train Noise

Trains create individual noise impacts lasting several minutes during each pass. Noise from passing trains is dependent on the number of trains, speed, type of tracks, grade crossings, track curves, crossing bells and train horns, and the type of trains.

- The Southern Pacific Railway Company (SPRR) currently maintains a double track right-of-way adjacent to northern end of the City, with their tracks extending west to east along Randolph Street.
- The AT&SF tracks along the northern end of the Cheli Industrial area handles an average of 20 trains per day. The L.A. Junction Railroad operates tracks and spurs within the Cheli Industrial Area.
- The UPRR tracks along Salt Lake Avenue on the western end of the Central City are used by approximately seven trains daily, with the majority of train trips occurring between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

The Eco-Rapid Transit line is a light rail line scheduled to be built by 2027 and will run from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles. The line will run on the existing UPRR tracks along Salt Lake Avenue on the western end of the Central City.

While the transit operations will likely occur during daytime, evening, and overnight hours, the additional noise impacts along the rail line will can be mitigated by certain factors that can be coordinated with Metro.

Airport Noise

The City of Bell is not located within the Runway Protection Zones (RPZs) or the 65 CNEL noise boundaries of any airport though there are several commercial airports serving the Bell area: the Long Beach Airport, the Compton Airport, and the Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles. Over flights from these airports are sources of aircraft noise affecting the City of Bell.

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Global climate change is caused by a mix of natural processes and man-made hazards. Climate variability is natural and changes over time due to the sun's intensity, volcanic eruptions, and naturally occurring variances in greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations. However, the leading cause of global climate change is a result of man-made GHG emissions driven by global industry and transportation. In Southern California, global climate change has caused an average increase in temperature, more common heat days, changing precipitation patterns, and an elongated wildfire season.

The City of Bell is responsible for ensuring that municipal sources of GHG emissions meet or exceed statewide GHG reduction targets set forth in AB 32 and SB 32. Municipal GHG sources include mobile-source emissions from the government-owned vehicle fleet; waste-source emissions from the transport and storage of solid waste generated within the City; energy-source emissions from government buildings, traffic lights, and streetlights; and water-source emissions associated with the energy required to transport, clean, and pump water to the City. Local reductions in GHG emissions will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other GHG released into the atmosphere. However, climate change is not a localized effort. Therefore, despite reductions in GHG emissions at the City-level, the City will still be impacted by the effects of global climate change.

Extreme Heat Events and Heat Waves. From 1950 to 2020, Southern California has experienced more frequent, intense, and longer-lasting heatwaves with the most intense heatwaves occurring during the 2012 to 2016 California drought. During extreme droughts, heatwaves become more intense and longer lasting as compared to normal conditions.[3] Intense heatwaves without air conditioning or other cooling options can lead to death, increased emergency room visits, and increased hospitalizations as well as effects on the energy and water sectors. In September 2020, Los Angeles

[3] NASA. 2020. *California Heatwave Fits a Trend.* Available online at: https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147256/california-heatwave-fits-a-trend#:~:text=On%20September%206%2C%202020%2C%20around,Palmdale%2C%20also%20hit%20record%20highs.

County recorded its highest ever temperature of 121°F in Woodland Hills. The number of hot days and heat waves is expected to increase by the end of the century. The level of increase will depend on the rate of GHG emissions.[4]

During extreme heat events local cities and counties may open cooling centers to provide relief and protection to the community. Cooling centers are places where residents can cool down during hot weather, especially for those without access to air conditioning. Cooling centers such as Bell Community Center, Veterans Memorial Park and the Lodge Room at Camp Little Bear Park, include indoor air-conditioned government owned facilities such as libraries, community, and senior centers. Los Angeles County and local cities opens cooling centers during extreme heat events. Residents of Bell are welcome to use the facilities provided by the County or other local jurisdictions.

Average Temperature Changes. Within the City of Bell, the warm season lasts three months from July to October with an average high of 84°F and low of 66°F. The cool season lasts 3.9 months from November to March with an average high of 67°F and low of 48°F.[5] Under a high emissions scenario, by 2100 the average high temperature in August around the Los Angeles area will increase by approximately 6°F.[6] As a result, the City of Bell can be expected to experience higher average temperatures throughout the century.

The City of Bell is highly urbanized with few green spaces. Asphalt and concrete surfaces absorb and hold heat creating a warmer temperature within a city known as the urban heat island effect. Tree canopy and green spaces reflect sunlight better than hardscape and reduce the effect within an urbanized area. Approximately 26% of the City's land coverage is developed with buildings and 40% covered with other paved surfaces. Tree canopy represents 9.4% of the City's land cover, approximately 8.6% lower than the County average. **Table 6** shows the land use cover.

Table 6
Land Cover

Type	Percentage
Other Paved Surfaces	40.01
Building	25.71
Rail	14.29
Tree Canopy	9.40
Grass	9.10
Bare Soil	1.04
Water	0.44
Source: Los Angeles County Tree Canopy Advanced Viewer	

[4] California-Neveda Climate Applications Program. Available online at: https://www.swcasc.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/HeatWaves.pdf.
[5] Weather Spark. *Average Weather in Bell*. Available online at: https://weatherspark.com/y/1615/Average-Weather-in-Bell-California-United-States-Year-Round.
[6] Cal Adapt. Temperature: Degrees of Change Map. Available online at: http://v1.cal-adapt.org/temperature/century/, accessed April 22, 2021.

Drought. Droughts have been a recurring feature of California's climate and can occur at the local, regional, or statewide level. Historically, California statewide droughts have been commonly recognized as consecutive dry years. During the 20th century, California experienced three significant droughts: the six-year event of 1929 to 1934; the two-year event of 1976 to 1977; and the six-year event of 1987 to 1992. Within the 21st century, California has already experienced two statewide droughts that have both led to statewide emergency proclamations. The first drought occurred from 2007 to 2009. The most recent drought (2012 to 2016) occurred during record warmth and saw the driest four consecutive years on record. [7]

Drought conditions reduce state water supply reliability and can lead to water shortages. Most of the state's water supplies are stored in reservoirs from snow melt, imported surface water, and groundwater. During drought conditions, the reservoirs are not refilled, and water supply is greatly reduced. During the 2012 to 2016 drought, state reservoirs reached historic lows and surface and groundwater withdrawals were used to mitigate water supply impacts. Community drought resiliency is often determined based on the diversity of the water supply. The City of Bell is serviced by the Golden State Water Company, the Maywood Mutual Water Company No. 3, the California Water Services, Tract 349 Water Company, and Tract 180 Water Company. **Figure 8** demonstrates which areas of Bell are serviced by each water company.

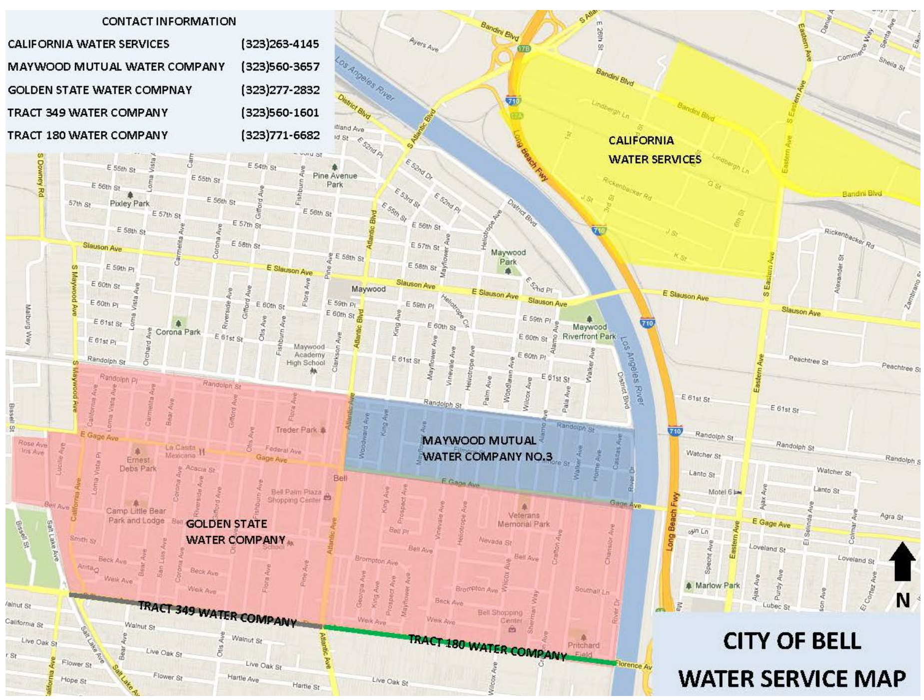

Figure 8
Map of Water Providers

[7] California Department of Water Resources. 2020. *California's Most Significant Droughts: Comparing Historical and Recent Conditions*. Available online at: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/What-We-Do/Drought-Mitigation/Files/Publications-And-Reports/CalSigDroughts19_v9_ay11.pdf.

Each water company is required to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years to support the supplier's long-term resource planning to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs and plans for multiple dry years in the event of droughts. Furthermore, the California Department of Water created the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) that includes Mandatory Staged Restrictions of Water Use and allows Cal Water to request Schedule 14.1 that provides more stringent measures to conserve water in the event of a severe drought.

PLANNING VISION FOR HEALTH & SAFETY

Health & Safety Policies

The City of Bell, with the implementation of the Health and Safety Element, seeks to protect the health and safety of those persons living and working in the City. The goals and policies to implement Health and Safety in Bell are explained in the following topic areas:

- Emergency preparedness;
- Safety hazards (earthquakes and fires);
- Resource management (fire and police);
- Land use and noise compatibility; and
- Community health and wellness.

The City's health and safety goals, policies, and implementation measures are outlined in the section that follows. The policies are arranged with goals and policies, which addresses each of the issue areas discussed above. The following policies and subsequent implementation measures or projects will establish the policy framework for this Health and Safety Element.

Goal 1: A community well-prepared to respond in the event of an emergency.

Health and Safety Element Policy 1. The City of Bell shall encourage educational programs, which inform residents and businesses in the City concerning procedures to follow in the event of a major disaster. The City shall ensure that a disaster plan is in place for residents and City employees. The Plan will be identified on the City's website and in community meetings. A brochure outlining the main points of the emergency disaster preparation and additional emergency resources is available on the City's website in both English and Spanish.

Health and Safety Element Policy 2. The City of Bell shall continue participation in community programs that train residents and workers to perform effectively after an emergency or disaster. These measures will be included in the City Hazard Response Plan that will be advertised on the City's website and Community Meetings.

Health and Safety Element Policy 3. The City Bell shall review and improve its disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities. The Emergency Plan shall undergo a periodic review and update to ensure it remains current.

Health and Safety Element Policy 4. The City of Bell shall develop an information program to familiarize citizens with emergency preparedness in the event of a major earthquake. The City Emergency Preparedness Plan outlines evacuation routes and designated emergency shelters within City limits. The City shall work with local businesses, residents, and public agencies to advertise the Emergency Preparedness Plan through the City's website, social media, and neighborhood meetings.

Implementation Measures:

Disaster Response Database. In the event of a major earthquake or other major disaster, persons living or working in the City may need to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours before the results of any major relief efforts are realized. Under this program, a database will be created to identify medical professionals, heavy equipment operators, and volunteers trained in first aid and search-and-rescue. The database would identify other volunteers that would staff emergency collection centers, distribution centers, and otherwise assist in the recovery efforts. This information, and the appropriate procedures, would then be incorporated into the City's emergency multi-hazard mitigation plan.

- Source of Funding: General Fund
- 2022 - 2027 Program Objectives: To establish a new database.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department and Bell Police Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program will be ongoing.

Emergency Preparedness Plan. The City currently maintains a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan that outlines responsibilities and procedures the City will follow in the event of an emergency or citywide disaster. Specific emergency functions and operations, available resources (fire stations, emergency shelters, hospitals and clinics, resource persons, etc.), and mutual aid agreements are described in the Plan. The City shall regularly update its Multi-Hazard Functional Plan for Emergency Operations.

- Source of Funding: General Fund.
- 2022 – 2027 Program Objectives: To update the existing Multi-Hazard Functional Plan.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department.

- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Goal 2: Minimize injury, property damage, and other impacts caused by earthquakes and fires.

Health and Safety Element Policy 5. The City of Bell shall work to identify and improve existing buildings that do not meet fire or earthquake standards. The City shall undertake periodic inspections to identify buildings in need of retrofit and progress in retrofitting un-reinforced buildings. The City of Bell adheres to the CalFire Fire Code Title 24, Part 9 and guidelines for fire-resistant or fire-proof building for both new construction and retrofits to existing buildings as noted in the California Adaptation Planning Guide. Finally, the City shall seek funding sources to assist in the improvements to these older buildings.

Health and Safety Element Policy 6. The City of Bell shall require special soils and structural investigations for all larger structures or development involving large groups of people pursuant to State requirements. Information on requesting building inspections and applying for building permits is available on the City of Bell Building and Safety website.[8] Finally, the City shall create an informational flyer informing residents and businesses regarding building and safety requirements.

Health and Safety Element Policy 7. The City of Bell shall continue to require pre-1933 structures to meet current seismic building codes. The City shall notify property owners of these buildings and the need for any seismic retrofitting and the correction of health and safety code violations shall be discussed.

Health and Safety Element Policy 8. The City of Bell shall strive to protect life and property from fire damage through the enforcement of the applicable of all building and fire codes and Code Enforcement inspections.

Health and Safety Element Policy 9. The City of Bell shall identify areas of high risk (high densities, older structures, fire hazards) so that disaster response may be prioritized.

Health and Safety Element Policy 10. The City of Bell shall host a periodic "wellness fair" on an "as needed" basis that will educate residents regarding safety risks and hazards in the community. This outreach will also discuss the health risks related to poor air quality, water and soil contamination, and other contaminants such as lead paint, asbestos, mercury, etc.

Health and Safety Element Policy 11. The City of Bell shall establish and enforce standards that are designed to reduce the level of risk. The City shall work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and other public agencies

[8] City of Bell Building and Safety website: https://www.cityofbell.org/?NavID=80

to discuss both risk and emergency preparation for fires, earthquake preparedness, and survival guides. Finally, the City shall work with the Fire Department and the larger community to review, and if necessary, develop new standards and action plans.

Health and Safety Element Policy 12. The City of Bell shall work to reduce fire hazards associated with older buildings including masonry structures and residences above commercial structures on Gage Avenue. These measures will include, but not be limited to, building inspections, and reviewing and updating Building and Fire Codes, code enforcement, and education. Building codes updates include California Fire Code Title 24, Part 9.

Health and Safety Element Policy 13. The City of Bell shall require contemporary fire protection, including fire sprinklers, for multi-story structures and larger industrial facilities.

Implementation Measures

Seismic Safety Program. The City enforces the seismic retrofit requirements of the State of California Uniform Building Code. These standards apply to bracing systems, wall anchorage to roof and floors and the filling in of excess openings. Department personnel are trained to use the Emergency Response Handbook.

- Source of Funding: General Fund and Development Fees.
- 2022 - 2027 Program Objectives: To maintain the existing service level.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Hazardous Materials Control. The City shall continue to cooperate with county, State, and Federal agencies involved in the regulation of hazardous materials' storage, use, and disposal. The City shall work with the Fire Department in requiring hazardous materials users and generators to identify safety procedures for responding to accidental spills and emergencies. The LACFD shall also work with local law enforcement officials in regulating the transport of hazardous materials through the City. The City will continue to collect and maintain up-to-date records concerning the type, location, owners, and responsible persons for properties, which involve the handling of hazardous materials and wastes.

- Source of Funding: General Fund and Development Fees.
- 2017-2021 Program Objectives: To maintain the existing service level.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development

Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.

- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Fire Safety Development Review Program. Design standards have been established by the City of Bell and the LACFD to ensure that site planning and building design consider public safety and fire prevention. These standards include requirements governing emergency access, roadway widths, clearance around structures, location of fire hydrants, etc.

- Source of Funding: General Fund and Development Fees.
- 2022 - 2027 Program Objectives: To maintain the existing service level.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Goal 3:Residents of and visitors to Bell are safe and secure in their homes and throughout the City.

Health and Safety Element Policy 14. The City of Bell shall incorporate defensible space, lighting and safety design principles, and other security measures into new development in the City. These principles will be required and discussed as part of the review of new development projects.

Health and Safety Element Policy 15. The City of Bell shall cooperate with law enforcement agencies to suppress crime. The City shall continue to support the efforts of the Neighborhood Watch.

Health and Safety Element Policy 16. The City of Bell shall support "neighborhood watch" programs in conjunction with neighborhood improvement associations to encourage cooperation between citizens and police. The City shall promote Neighborhood Watch programs on the City's websites and social media.

Implementation Measure

Design Standards. The State of California has increasingly promoted streamlining of projects that are consistent with its housing objectives. The City shall evaluate ways to streamline the entitlement process for desirable types of housing that meet objective criteria. This shall include the development of clear, objective, Housing Accountability Act-compliant design criteria that address compatibility with adjacent residential zones and other factors. These criteria could potentially make the City's evaluation of proposals administrative procedures that don't require the time and resources associated with discretionary entitlements requested of the Planning Commission and/or City Council.

In addition, since the City has recently increased allowable heights and densities in the C-3R and R-3 zones, these design standards will ensure that new development maintains and improves the quality of neighborhoods, which is a top priority of the community.

- Source of Funding: Development Fees.
- 2017-2021 Program Objectives: To maintain the existing service level.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Goal 4: Noise impacts on residents and other sensitive uses are minimized through good land use planning

Health and Safety Element Policy 17. The City of Bell shall consider planning guidelines, which include noise control for new residential developments. During review of new development projects, the City shall promote design measures that will be effective in reducing noise.

Health and Safety Element Policy 18. The City of Bell shall limit unnecessary noise near noise-sensitive areas such as residences, parks, hospitals, libraries, convalescent homes, etc. The City shall enforce the existing noise control regulations such as those included in the Bell Municipal Code.

Health and Safety Element Policy 19. The City of Bell shall promote the development of a compatible noise environment throughout the City. The City shall consider noise and land use compatibility in the review of new development projects.

Health and Safety Element Policy 20. The City shall implement noise regulations that will lower excessive and intrusive noise to levels that conform to acceptable standards. The City shall ensure Code Enforcement and the Police Department will continue to enforce noise control regulations.

Health and Safety Element Policy 21. The City of Bell shall cooperate with all public agencies so as to minimize transportation related noise. Applicable City, State, and Federal noise control regulations shall be enforced.

Health and Safety Element Policy 22. The City of Bell shall strive to ensure that public buildings (schools, libraries, etc.) are sufficiently noise insulated to permit their intended function to be uninterrupted by exterior noise. The City shall ensure that appropriate noise attenuation is provided during the development review process.

Health and Safety Element Policy 23. The City of Bell shall ensure that the design and improvement of any future master planned roadway links in the City is accomplished in a manner that will minimize noise impacts on adjacent noise sensitive land uses. These measures may involve the use of sound walls and other architectural features that promote noise reduction.

Health and Safety Element Policy 24. The City of Bell shall continue to require noise attenuation in new residential developments that are exposed to significant noise levels from freeway and arterial roadway traffic. The City shall make every effort to inform developers, businesses, and residents of noise control measures. Noise studies must be performed new noise sensitive projects that are located near arterial roadways and freeways.

Implementation Measures

Noise Reduction in New Development. Noise should be considered early in the development of new residential or noise-sensitive construction. The location and orientation of the residential buildings may be configured to minimize or eliminate a noise problem for a site adjacent to the freeway, arterials, or rail lines. Other effective noise reduction tools include the use of berms, sound reducing walls, and generous setbacks. The City will promote the reduction of noise in new development in the project approval and design review processes.

- Source of Funding: General Fund.
- 2022 - 2027 Program Objectives: To continue to reduce noise land use incompatibility.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program will continue as new development occurs.

Noise Control Ordinance and Enforcement. The City will consider the adoption of an appropriate ordinance which will place a limit on the level of noise produced by residential, commercial and industrial activities that may intrude on adjacent properties. Noise emanating from residential, commercial, and industrial uses is regulated by the City's Municipal Code. However, acceptable dBA ranges have not been designated for these uses. The City will implement a review process concerning its policies and regulations affecting noise every five years or as new technological developments warrant, per State guideline requirements. The City will also support the enforcement of regulations (such as the State Vehicle Code noise standards) for all privately owned, City-owned, and City-operated automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles operating within Bell.

- Source of Funding: General Fund.
- 2022 – 2027 Program Objectives: To update the Zoning Ordinance (Noise Control) within 12 months of the General Plan's adoption.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program will commence following the General Plan's adoption.

Goal 5: A healthy community that promotes the wellness of its citizens

Health and Safety Element Policy 25. The City of Bell shall strive to continue the development of youth programs to promote community health. The Parks and Recreation Department shall aggressively support the establishment and implementation of the programs for all segments of the community (youth, seniors, etc.).

Health and Safety Element Policy 26. The City of Bell shall promote quality nutritional standards at all City sponsored events and functions.

Health and Safety Element Policy 27. The City of Bell shall require that all new commercial and employment development provide restrooms and breastfeeding accommodations and worksite activity rest areas for breaks.

Health and Safety Element Policy 28. The City of Bell shall support initiatives that promote healthy work environments and personal wellness.

Health and Safety Element Policy 29. The City of Bell shall support a healthy lifestyle for all persons living or working in the City. This may be accomplished by promoting healthy activities as part of recreational programs and supporting the establishment of a farmer's market.

Health and Safety Element Policy 30. The City of Bell shall work with the Los Angeles County Health Department to assess chronic health-related problems in the City and will work to provide medical information, outreach programs, and health fairs.

Health and Safety Element Policy 31. The City of Bell shall be proactive in the prevention of the spread of disease and illnesses linked to climate change that have the potential to appear throughout California, such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. The City will promote education, outreach, and emergency alert systems to help educate the public and combat these illnesses.

Health and Safety Element Policy 32. The City of Bell shall be proactive in considering human health in future land use decision-making. The City will promote uses and activities that will contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Implementation Measures

Community Hazardous Waste Education Program. The City will implement an education program for households and small businesses regarding identification and disposal of potential hazardous wastes, including machine oils, pesticides, etc.

- Source of Funding: General Fund
- 2022 -2027 Program Objectives: To maintain the existing service level.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Communicable Disease Prevention. The City shall develop a plan for the education and outreach to the public and be proactive in the prevention of the spread of disease and illnesses, including those linked to climate change, that have the potential to appear throughout California, such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. The City will coordinate with the County Department of Public Health to promote education, outreach, and emergency alert systems to help educate the public and combat these illnesses.

- Source of Funding: General Fund
- 2022 - 2027 Program Objectives: To maintain the existing service level.
- Agency Responsible for Implementation: Community Development Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Implementation Schedule: The program is ongoing and will be continued.

Goals	Policies	Implementation Measures
Goal 1: A community well-prepared to respond in the event of an emergency	Policy 1. Encourage educational programs which inform residents and businesses in the City concerning procedures to follow in the event of a major disaster.	Emergency Preparedness Plan
	Policy 2. Train local residents and workers to perform effectively after an emergency or disaster	Disaster Response Database
	Policy 3.Review and improve Bell's disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities.	Emergency Preparedness Plan
	Policy 4.Develop an information program to familiarize citizens with emergency preparedness for earthquake	Emergency Preparedness Plan
Goal 2: Minimize injury, property damage, and other impacts caused by earthquakes and fires	Policy 5. Identify and improve existing buildings that do not meet fire or earthquake standards	Fire Safety Development Review Program Seismic Safety Program
	Policy 6. Require special soils and structural investigations for all larger structures or development involving large groups of people pursuant to State requirements	Seismic Safety Program
	Policy 7. Continue to require pre-1933 structures to meet current seismic building codes.	Seismic Safety Program
	Policy 8. Building Code Enforcement inspections.	Seismic Safety Program
	Policy 9. Identify areas of high risk for disaster response priority	Hazardous Materials Control

Goals	Policies	Implementation Measures
	Policy 10. City of Bell Wellness Fair to educate residents regarding safety risks and hazards in the community	Seismic Safety Program
	Policy 11. The City of Bell shall establish and enforce standards that are designed to reduce the level of risk.	Fire Safety Development Review Program
	Policy 12. The City of Bell shall work to reduce fire hazards associated with older buildings including masonry structures and residences above commercial structures on Gage Avenue.	Fire Safety Development Review Program
	Policy 13. The City of Bell shall require contemporary fire protection, including fire sprinklers, for multi-story structures and larger industrial facilities.	Fire Safety Development Review Program
Goal 3: Residents of, and visitors to Bell, are safe and secure in their homes and throughout the City.	Policy 14: The City of Bell shall incorporate defensible space, lighting and safety design principles, and other security measures into new development in the City.	Design Standards
	Policy 15. The City of Bell shall cooperate with law enforcement agencies to suppress crime.	Design Standards
	Policy 16. The City of Bell shall support "neighborhood watch" programs in conjunction with neighborhood improvement associations to encourage cooperation between citizens and police.	Design Standards
Goal 4: Noise impacts on residents and other sensitive uses are minimized through good land use planning	Policy 17. The City of Bell shall consider planning guidelines, which include noise control for new residential developments.	Noise Reduction in New Development.

Goals	Policies	Implementation Measures
	Policy 18. The City of Bell shall limit unnecessary noise near noise-sensitive areas such as residences, parks, hospitals, libraries, convalescent homes, etc.	Noise Control Ordinance and Enforcement
	Policy 19. The City of Bell shall promote the development of a compatible noise environment throughout the City.	Noise Control Ordinance and Enforcement
	Policy 20: The City shall implement noise regulations that will lower excessive and intrusive noise to levels that conform to acceptable standards.	Noise Control Ordinance and Enforcement
	Policy 21. The City of Bell shall cooperate with all public agencies so as to minimize transportation related noise.	Noise Control Ordinance and Enforcement
	Policy 22. The City of Bell shall strive to ensure that public buildings (schools, libraries, etc.) are sufficiently noise insulated to permit their intended function to be uninterrupted by exterior noise	Noise Control Ordinance and Enforcement
	Policy 23. The City of Bell shall ensure that the design and improvement of any future master planned roadway links in the City is accomplished in a manner that will minimize noise impacts on adjacent noise sensitive land uses.	Noise Reduction in New Development
	Policy 24. The City of Bell shall continue to require noise attenuation in new residential developments that are exposed to significant noise levels from freeway and arterial roadway traffic.	Noise Reduction in New Development

Goals	Policies	Implementation Measures
Goal 5: A healthy community that promotes the wellness of its citizens	Policy 25. The City of Bell shall strive to continue the development of youth programs to promote community health.	
	Policy 26. The City of Bell shall promote quality nutritional standards at all City sponsored events and functions.	
	Policy 27. The City of Bell shall require that all new commercial and employment development provide restrooms and breastfeeding accommodations and worksite activity rest areas for breaks.	
	Policy 28. The City of Bell shall support initiatives that promote healthy work environments and personal wellness.	
	Policy 29. The City of Bell shall support a healthy lifestyle for all persons living or working in the City.	
	Policy 30.The City of Bell shall work with the Los Angeles County Health Department to assess chronic health-related problems in the City and will work to provide medical information, outreach programs, and health fairs.	Communicable Disease Prevention
	Policy 31.The City of Bell shall be proactive in the prevention of the spread of disease and illnesses linked to climate change that have the potential to appear throughout California	Communicable Disease Prevention