

**City of Baldwin Park
2020 General Plan**

Public Safety Element

November, 2002

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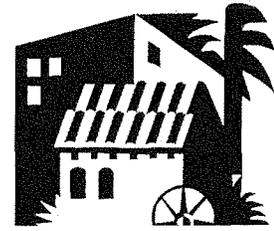
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PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT

Introduction

Purpose of the Element

The urban environment of Baldwin Park contains a variety of hazards, both natural and human-made, that have the potential to endanger the public safety of the community. Ensuring public safety involves establishing goals and policies that consider all types of potential disasters, crime prevention, fire prevention, and reducing the risk of personal injury and potential property damage.

The Public Safety Element describes the potential hazards and outlines goals and policies aimed at reducing the risks associated with hazards in Baldwin Park. Policies in this Element focus on protecting life and property from hazardous conditions. Emphasis is also placed on emergency response in the event of a disaster.

Element Scope and Content

The Public Safety Element is a detailed plan for addressing and reducing specific hazards in Baldwin Park. The Safety Element is a required component of the General Plan, mandated by Government Code Section 65302(g). According to the state requirements, the safety element must address the following issues as they pertain to a city:

- Seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure
- Slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides
- Subsidence and other geologic hazards
- Flooding
- Wildland/urban fires

State law permits cities to add issues to this listing and to delete issues which are not pertinent. Because of concern about storage, transportation and disposal of toxics, the following additional issues are addressed in the Baldwin Park Safety Element:

- Hazardous materials
- Underground hazards (pipelines, storage tanks, and septic tanks)

Potential safety issues were researched and documented for preparation of the Safety Element Technical Background Report. Because the Technical Report found that the potential danger in Baldwin Park from tsunamis, seiches, slope instability, and wildland fires is low or non-existent, these issues are not covered in the Safety Element.

Related Plans and Programs

Several plans and programs have been enacted through State and local legislation that are applicable to the Public Safety Element.

Baldwin Park Multihazard Functional Plan (1996)

The Baldwin Park Multihazard Functional Plan and supplemental plans outline emergency response actions in the event of a hazardous waste emergency. The Plans identify responsible agencies and personnel to provide assistance in the event of a hazardous incident.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act of 1990 requires the State Geologist to compile maps identifying and describing seismic hazard zones throughout California. Guidelines prepared by the State Mining and Geology Board identify the responsibilities of State and local agencies in the review of development within seismic hazard zones. Development on a site that has been designated as a seismic hazard zone requires a geotechnical report and local agency consideration of the policies and criteria established by the Mining and Geology Board (Public Resources Code Section 2690 et seq.).

FEMA Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Act includes provisions for the National Flood Insurance Program. Participating jurisdictions must exercise land use controls and purchase flood insurance as a prerequisite for receiving funds to purchase or build a structure in a flood hazard area. The opportunity exists for the City to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The NFIP provides federal flood insurance subsidies and federally financed loans for eligible property owners in flood-prone areas.

The City of Baldwin Park is rated as being within a "No Special Flood Hazard Area." Should this rating change at any time, NFIP benefits would be available to the City.

California Environmental
Quality Act Law and
Guidelines (CEQA)

The California Environmental Quality Act requires a thorough analysis of potential environmental consequences resulting from a development project or from a plan that guides future development. CEQA provides a means by which City officials and the general public can identify the potential impacts a project will have on the community, and to allow for mitigation or avoidance of such impacts.

Baldwin Park Codes

The City has adopted the Uniform Building Code, Uniform Mechanical Code, and National Electrical Code which contain structural requirements for existing and new buildings. The codes are designed to insure structural integrity during seismic and other hazardous events and prevent personal injury, loss of life and substantial structural damage. To protect public safety, development in Baldwin Park will be subject to these codes.

Issues, Goals, and Policies

This section sets forth Baldwin Park's objectives for addressing public safety. Goals and policies are grouped by issues that affect the City. Implementation of the policies is explored in the following section, the Safety Plan.

Geologic and Seismic Hazards

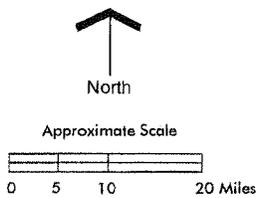
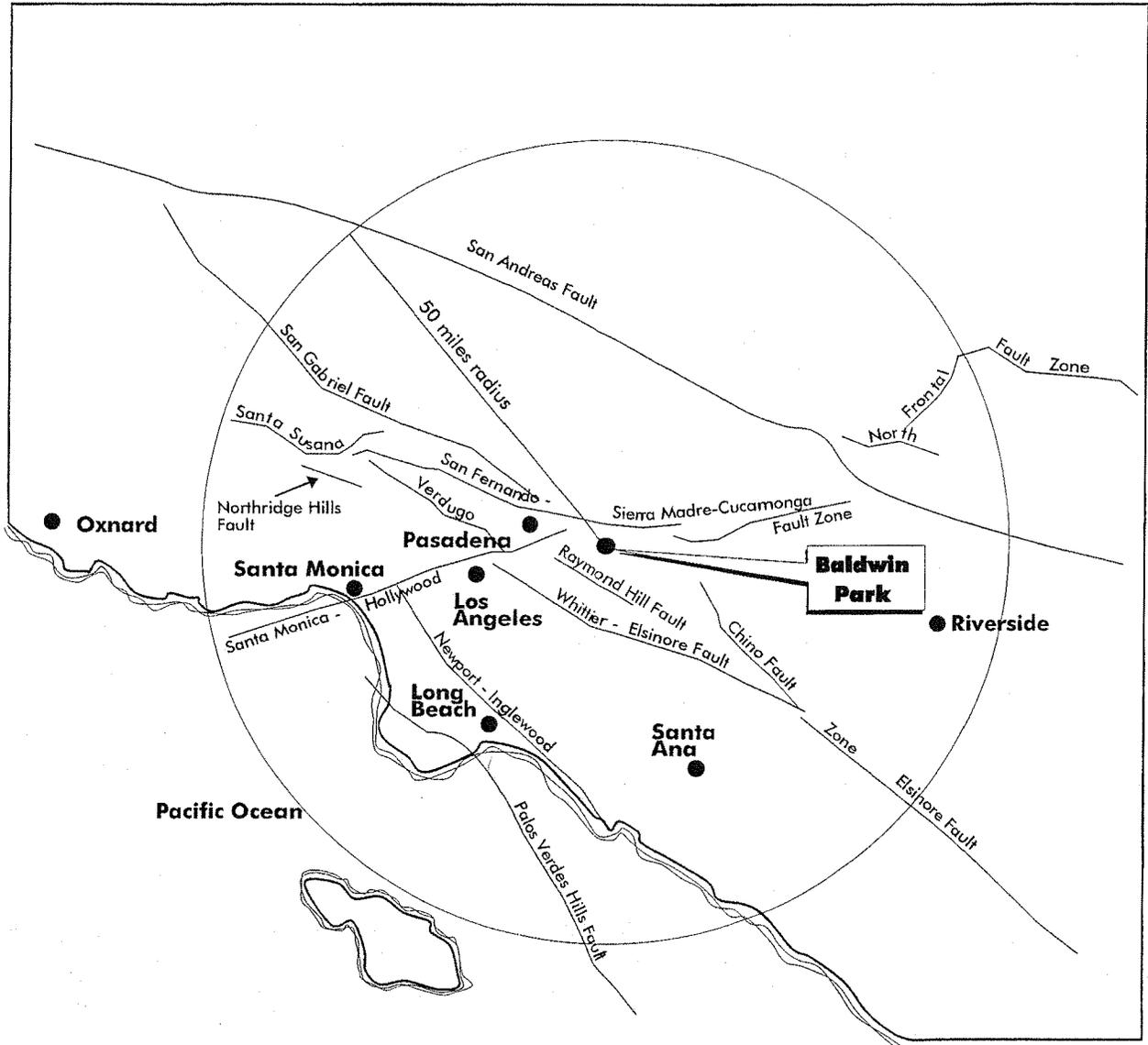
Geologic and seismic issues particularly relevant to Baldwin Park include the potential for earthquake activity and secondary effects related to faults in the region.

No active faults traverse the City. However, several major faults have been identified in the region with the potential to cause damage in Baldwin Park. Figure PS-1 identifies the location of these faults.

Failure of the Santa Fe Dam due to seismic activity has the potential to impact Baldwin Park and many communities in the San Gabriel Valley. Figure PS-2 indicates the potential extent, depth, and speed of flood waters. However, due to the method of construction and the dam's past performance during previous earthquakes, and the fact that water is present only a few months per year, catastrophic failure of this dam and resultant flooding are considered unlikely.

Goal 1.0 Protect the community of Baldwin Park from seismic hazards.

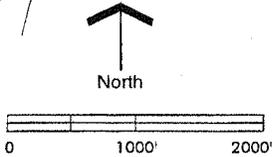
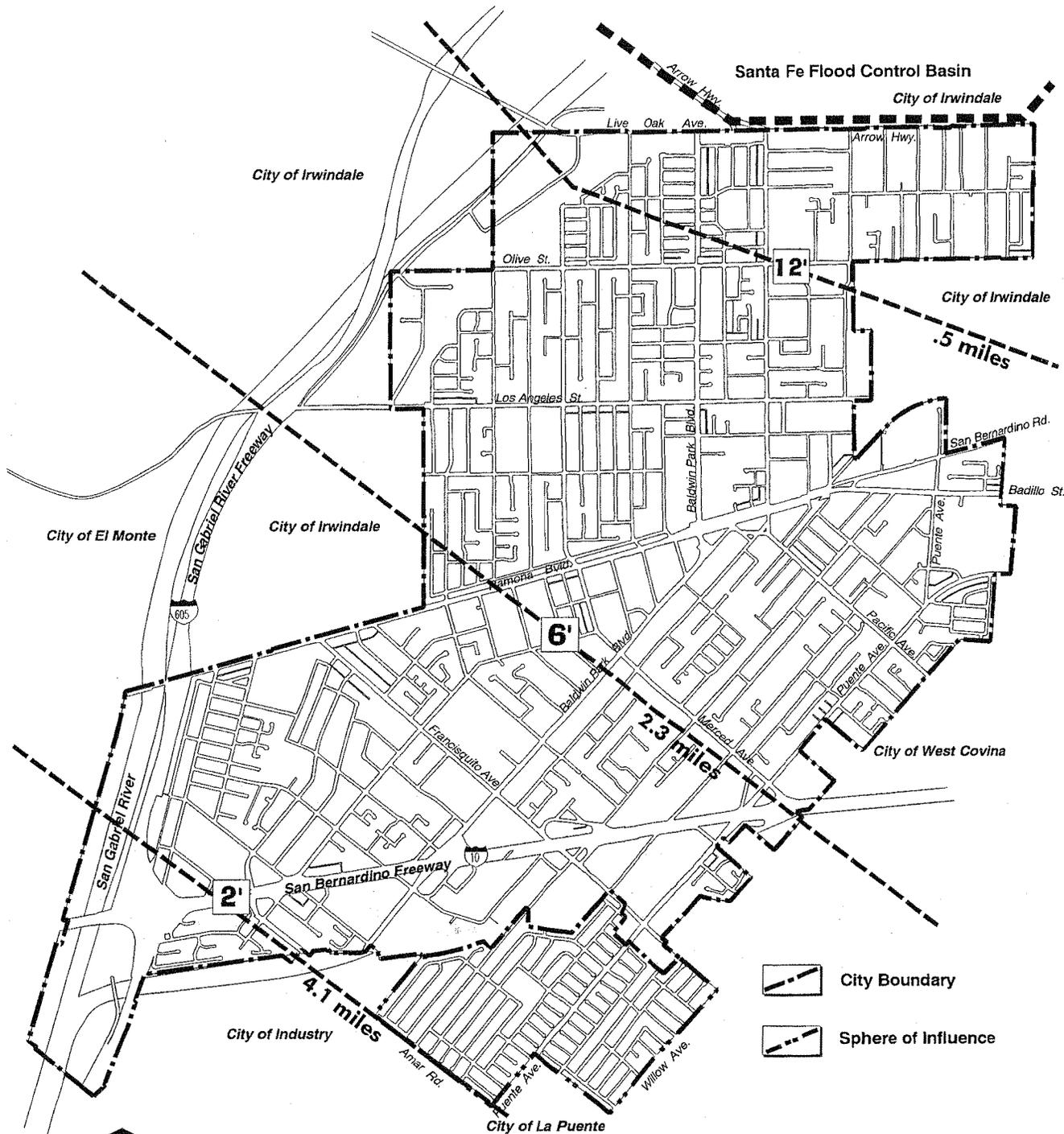
- Policy 1.1 Sponsor City employee training programs in emergency management.
- Policy 1.2 Implement the Uniform Building Code's seismic safety standards for construction of new buildings and maintain seismic safety of existing structures.
- Policy 1.3 Continue to implement emergency procedures contained in the City's Multihazard Functional Plan and Supplemental Emergency Preparedness Plans.
- Policy 1.4 Support City's participation in local, county, and state-wide emergency preparedness programs.



Source: Wilson Geosciences, Inc
March, 1997

**Figure PS-1
Regional Fault Zones**





- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence

Area of Potential Inundation due to Dam Failure
Covers entire City with 2-foot and 12-foot maximum depth.



Figure PS-2
Sante Fe Dam Flood
Inundation

Policy 1.5 Promote earthquake preparedness within the community by participation in quake awareness programs, including distribution of brochure materials in Spanish and English. Encourage property owners to anchor buildings to their foundations, bolt water heaters to walls, and implement other preventative measures.

Flood Hazards Flooding in Baldwin Park has the potential to result in damage to life and property. Rapid storm water and debris runoff can create flood conditions.

The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps (FIRM) classify all of Baldwin Park as an Area C with little chance of flooding. In the past, only minor flooding has occurred. Drainage improvements in areas prone to minor flooding continue to be a priority for the City. Most major storm waters are easily handled by the San Gabriel River, the Big Dalton Wash, and the Walnut Creek Wash systems.

Goal 2.0 Protect Baldwin Park residents, the work force, and visitors from flood hazards.

Policy 2.1 Work in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to identify and construct needed local and regional storm drain improvements to relieve localized flooding problems.

Policy 2.2 Maintain the City's Multihazard Functional Plan and Supplemental Emergency Preparedness Plans in a current and continual state of readiness to respond to flooding, as well as other emergencies.

Hazardous Waste The California General Plan guidelines define hazardous waste as "an injurious substance, including pesticides, herbicides, toxic metals and chemicals, liquified natural gas, explosives, volatile chemicals, and nuclear fuels." Hazardous waste can be further classified by waste types-toxins, irritants, flammables, and explosives. Categorization allows for a systematic methodology for dealing with the problems associated with hazardous wastes: transport, storage, disposal, and emergency response.

Figure PS-3 identifies concentrations of businesses in Baldwin Park involved with hazardous waste materials in some way, and therefore, are regulated facilities. Figure PS-3 shows, such concentrations exist in the northeast industrial area, in the Auction Village industrial area, along the I-10 corridor, and to a lesser degree in Downtown and scattered along the City's major arterials.



Source: Recovery Conservation and Recovery Information System. Environmental Protection Agency, 1997

Figure PS-3
Hazardous Waste
Generators, Transporters,
Treaters, Storsers and Disposers



Goal 3.0 Reduce accidents and health risks associated with use, storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Policy 3.1 Locate land uses involved in production, storage, transportation, handling and/or disposal of hazardous materials a safe distance from other land uses that might be adversely affected by such activities.

Policy 3.2 Encourage and support the proper disposal of hazardous waste and waste oil. Monitor dry cleaners, film processors, auto service establishments, and other businesses generating hazardous waste materials to ensure compliance with approved disposal procedures.

Policy 3.3 Vigorously prosecute unlicensed dumping of toxic or hazardous materials into the ground or water in Baldwin Park. Encourage citizens to report dumping when they observe it.

Policy 3.4 Coordinate with Los Angeles County in sponsoring regular hazardous waste disposal programs to enable residents to bring backyard pesticides, cleaning fluids, paint cans, and other common household toxics to a centralized collection center for proper disposal.

Urban Fires The City contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire protection. Because Baldwin Park is an urbanized community, structural fires rather than wildland fires represent the greatest fire risk. Developments posing the greatest fire threat include: multi-story, wood frame, higher density-apartments; multi-story office buildings; large continuous developed areas with combustible roofing materials; and structures where hazardous materials are handled, used, or stored.

Goal 4.0 Protect life and property in Baldwin Park from the destruction of urban fires.

Policy 4.1 Periodically evaluate level of service to ensure Baldwin Park has appropriate levels of fire service.

Policy 4.2 Maintain fire and building code requirements for new construction to ensure provision of adequate fire protection. Require all new commercial and multi-unit residential development to install fire protection systems, and encourage the use of automatic sprinkler systems.

Policy 4.3 Maintain mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions for fire protection.

Policy 4.4 Provide public information about fire safety and emergency preparedness to residents, schools, and organizations.

Crime Prevention

Baldwin Park operates its own police department. The Department maintains staff and equipment available to provide patrol services, investigative services, crime prevention, and public information about safety issues.

Goal 5.0 Provide a safe environment for the community of Baldwin Park.

- Policy 5.1 Periodically evaluate levels of service to ensure Baldwin Park has appropriate levels of police service.
- Policy 5.2 Continue the City's aggressive program of Community Based Policing to enhance public awareness and participation in crime prevention.
- Policy 5.3 Continue to cooperate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, along with other nearby police departments, to provide back-up police assistance in emergency situations.
- Policy 5.4 Promote the use of defensible space concepts (e.g. site and building lighting, visual observation of open spaces, secured areas) in project design to enhance public safety.

Emergency Preparedness

The Police Department maintains an emergency plan called the Baldwin Park Multihazard Functional Plan. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has approved the plan. The City reviews the plan annually as required by law and updates the plan as necessary. The plan identifies potential threats to the community based on studies conducted by the Police Department in conjunction with other City departments. The plan sets forth the City's planned response to emergency situations including earthquake, fire, major rail and roadway accident, flooding, hazardous materials incident, civil disturbances, nuclear, chemical, biological incidents, and terrorists activities. The Chief of Police is the designated Assistant Director of Emergency Services responsible for coordinating all response activities.

The emergency response plan designates evacuation routes and facilities for various types of hazards. During the response phase of an emergency, all communications such as requests for resources and equipment are sent to the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operation Center via the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Industry station, or by the County's internet-based Emergency Management Information System. The American Red Cross maintains responsibility for designating an appropriate evacuation center within each community depending on the level and type of emergency. Evacuation routes and emergency facilities in the event of a fire, hazardous materials incident, flood, or other disaster are identified in Figure PS-4.

The City is committed to maintaining an up-to-date Emergency Preparedness Plan to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. In addition, educating residents and businesses about potential disasters the City's Emergency Plan can increase the effectiveness of emergency response efforts. Education about emergency preparedness can occur through distribution of brochures, presentations to civic groups, and instruction in local schools.

In addition to planning for major emergencies, the City implements a variety of programs to protect public safety. The following sections summarize the relative risk of various hazards in Baldwin Park, and presents the City's programmatic response.



Source: Multihazard Functional Plan, 1996, City of Baldwin Park;
 Baldwin Park General Plan, 1989



Figure PS-4
Major Evacuation Routes

Seismic Safety

Baldwin Park is located in a region with active seismic faults and is therefore subject to risks and hazards associated with earthquakes. Large earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 and greater are expected to occur along at least one of the active faults in the region within a time period equivalent to the historic record. Due to Baldwin Park's central location relative to major faults, the City will probably experience intense ground shaking in the event of a major earthquake. In a densely populated urban area, the impact of strong groundshaking is directly related to the density and type of buildings, and the number of people exposed to the effects.

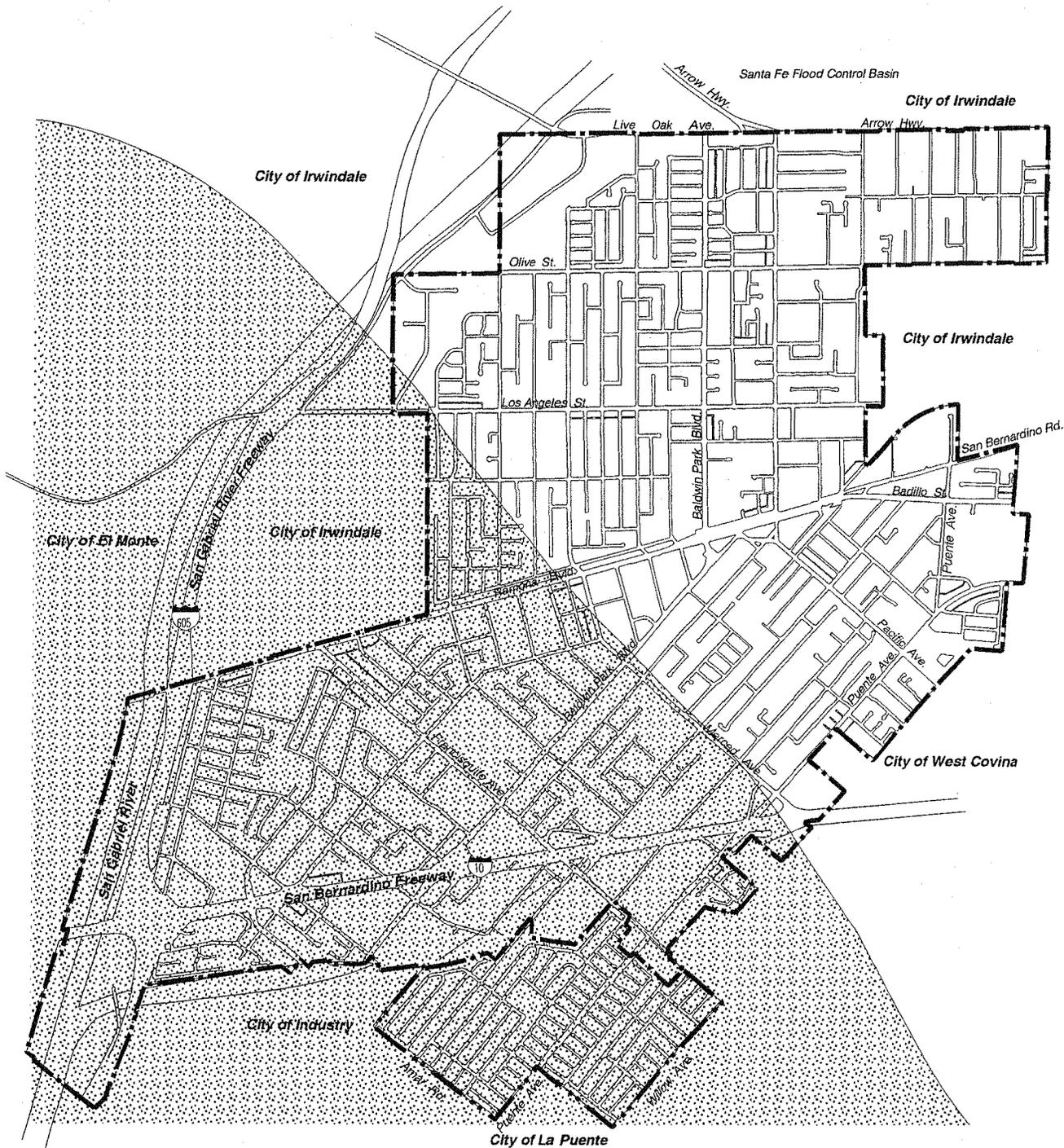
The City has implemented the Uniform Building Code seismic safety standards for structural construction. The City will continue to enact these and other seismic safety programs to minimize hazards from earthquakes and other seismic hazards. The City will also continue to promote earthquake safety through earthquake awareness and preparedness programs, such as its annual Earthquake Preparedness Month in April.

Secondary Effects

Secondary effects of an earthquake include surface rupture, liquefaction, and dam failure. The occurrence of secondary effects depends on numerous factors including earthquake intensity, distance from epicenter, soils type, and moisture content of the soil. No known active faults exist within Baldwin Park, and no Alquist Priolo Special Study Zone has been established by the State. Consequently, the potential for surface rupture is low.

Liquefaction hazards can occur in areas where groundwater exists near the ground surface. Data provided by water service providers in Baldwin Park indicate that the depth to groundwater is more than 50 feet, and therefore liquefaction hazards are generally low. However, maps published by the State Division of Mines and Geology (1988) document areas of historic liquefaction occurrence in the southwest portion of Baldwin Park (refer to Figure PS-5). Existing City development project review practices include review of soils and geotechnical reports which document in-field conditions. Standard engineering techniques are required as appropriate to guard against seismic-related hazards, including liquefaction.

Failure of the Santa Fe Dam due to seismic activity has the potential to impact Baldwin Park and many communities in the San Gabriel Valley, as illustrated in Figure PS-2. The dam is located along the San Gabriel River, approximately one-half mile north of Baldwin Park, and is owned and operated by the Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers.



Source: California Division of Mines and Geology, August 1998

**Figure PS-5
Areas Subject to
Liquefaction**



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood emergency plan data indicates that failure of the Santa Fe Dam would result in the entire area of the City being flooded. Water depths would range from two to twelve feet, with shallower depths in the southern portion of Baldwin Park, and deeper depths in the northern portion of the City nearest the Dam.

State law requires that every dam owner develop and maintain an emergency plan to be implemented, in the event that the dam is catastrophically breached. Each dam-specific emergency plan includes a map that shows the potential limits of a flood that could result if the dam should fail while filled to capacity. These flood maps are pictured as a worst-case scenario. Since most dams in Southern California are not normally filled to capacity, the possibility of inundation is remote.

Hazardous Waste Management

A variety of agencies are responsible for the regulation of hazardous materials. Table PS-1 identifies the agencies responsible for regulating storage and use of hazardous waste. The City's Multihazard Functional Plan identifies emergency response actions in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

Generators, transporters, treaters, storers, and disposers of hazardous waste, as defined by the federally recognized hazardous waste codes, are required to provide information about their activities to environmental agencies at the state level, under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). RCRA information is then provided to regional and national U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) is used to track information about businesses involved with hazardous waste, and includes handler permit or closure status, compliance with Federal and State regulations, and cleanup activities.

The RCRA information system is available to the public and is used by the EPA to support its implementation of hazardous waste laws (such as RCRA and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments HSWA of 1984).

**Table PS-1
Storage and Usage of Hazardous Materials, Responsible Agencies**

Agency	Responsibility
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Waste Management Division	Regulates the storage of hazardous materials in underground tanks
LA County Fire Department	Regulates and enforces safety measures for the storage and use of hazardous materials
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Regulates labeling of storage containers of hazardous materials, requiring instructions for proper use and storage.
California Department of Industrial Relations, Cal-OSHA Division	Regulates proper use of hazardous material
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Regulates pest control operations, pesticide dealers, and pesticide users for proper use and storage
California Department of Food and Agriculture	Enforces State pest control laws
State Water Resources Control Board	Cooperates in regulation enforcement
Division of Industrial Safety	Cooperates in regulation enforcement
City of Baldwin Park	Responsible for implementation of AB 2185- Right to Know Law and SARA Title III EPA Requirements.

Fire Protection

In Baldwin Park, fire hazards are limited to structural fires. Structural fires typically are caused by carelessness, faulty equipment, or ignorance of fire prevention measures. Because of human presence in buildings, these fires have the potential to threaten lives.

Fire protection in Baldwin Park is provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Station No. 29, located at 14334 Los Angeles Street, in the City. Service to the northeast section of the City generally comes from Station No. 48 in Irwindale. Also, Station No. 87 in Industry serves all areas south of the I-10 freeway. The department cooperates with the San Gabriel Valley Fire Authorities in West Covina under an automatic aid agreement, which allows Baldwin Park and West Covina stations to provide mutual response assistance.

The City will reduce the potential for dangerous fires by coordinating with the County Fire Department to implement fire hazard education and fire protection programs. The current Uniform Fire Code will be used to reduce structural fire hazards. In addition, the City will coordinate with the local water districts and the fire department to ensure water pressure is adequate for fire fighting purposes.

Crime Prevention

Baldwin Park is committed to Community Policing and Problem Solving, which includes many traditional methods of policing. Many programs have been implemented to provide communication and accessibility between the Police Department and the community, a key component of Community Based Policing.

Community Policing Programs

Foot and Bike Patrol: As part of the Community Based Policing programs, the Baldwin Park Police Department maintains a Bike and Foot Patrol in various parts of the community. Bike patrols have increased communication and accessibility between the community and the Department.

Bike patrols allow mobility in congested areas and are relied upon for regular park patrol, special event patrol, such as parades and festivals, and special assignments such as shopping center parking lot patrol.

Baldwin Park Explorers: Explorers are assigned to shopping centers, parks, and other pedestrian environments for foot patrol. Paired Explorers carry police radios and are encouraged to act as extra eyes and ears on the street. Explorers are discouraged from initiating activity or confrontations.

Neighborhood and Business Watch Programs: Neighborhood and Business Watch Programs are crime prevention programs sponsored by the Police Department to increase communication between the community and the Police Department. Both programs consist of monthly meetings given to different Neighborhood Watch groups. Meeting topics range from home security to personal safety.

Clergy Council and Chaplain Program: The Clergy Council and Chaplain Program were implemented by the Police Department to bring the Department closer to the people of the community and to offer chaplain, or liaison, services between both the Department and members of the church and community. Most of the churches in the City participate in this program.

Other Police Department Programs

Graffiti Removal: The City has a Graffiti Removal Program that works to remove graffiti in less than 24-hours within report of the offense. The Police Department takes reports and forwards the clean-up request to the Public Works Department, which maintains a two-person graffiti removal crew. Expedient removal of graffiti helps to deter additional and repeat graffiti offenses.

Police Department Volunteer Program: Baldwin Park's Volunteer Program provides additional support to the Police Department. Volunteers responsibilities include providing assistance with records, clerical duties, and dispatch. In addition, a very important aspect of their job is to check on those homes where residents have requested additional patrol while on vacation. The Department offers this service with the help of volunteers, without imposing on the street patrol and other units.

TRAP and L.A. Impact: The Police Department participates in the California Highway Patrol sponsored TRAP and LA Impact programs, which address vehicle thefts and narcotics from a regional perspective. Department officers work with representatives from other surrounding communities to reduce auto thefts and drugs in the area.

Community Services

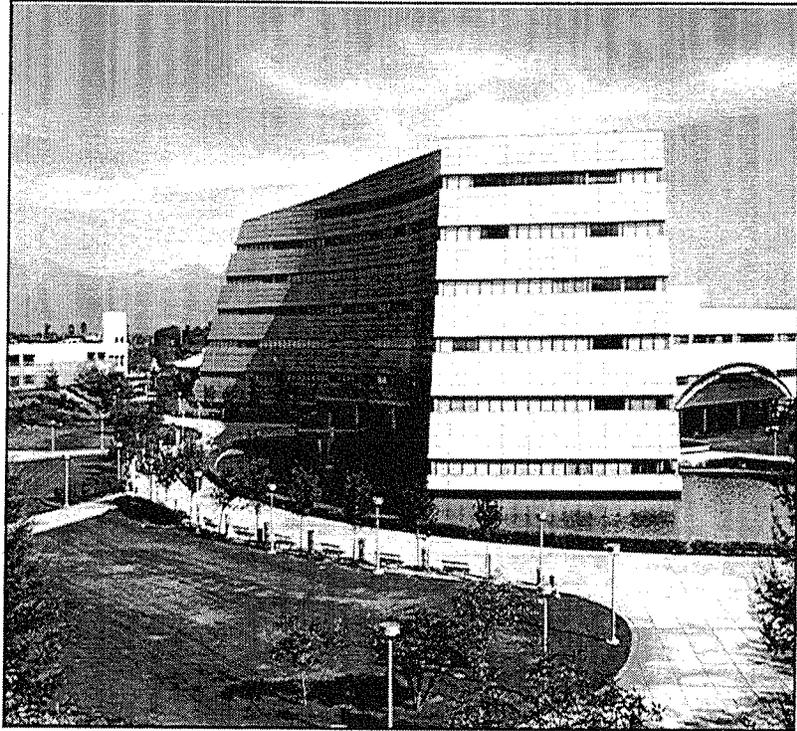
Many community service programs sponsored by the City help to ensure the general safety of residents, visitors, and workers in Baldwin Park. In addition to the programs and plans included in the Emergency Preparedness and Crime Prevention sections, the following programs provide safety.

School Crossing Guards: School crossing guards are provided by the Police Department at all Baldwin Park public schools and St. Johns, the largest private school. The crossing guards are civilian police employees identifiable by their bright orange vest with police patch and whistle.

Bicycle Rodeo Program: The Police Department conducts an annual Bicycle Rodeo Program that provides free safety training for kids that are able to ride a two-wheeled bike (training wheels accepted). Participants are given a certificate and a new bike helmet upon completion of the program.

Medical Services

Kaiser Permanente opened a 160-bed hospital facility in the City in October 1998. The hospital includes a birth center, emergency room, and outpatient services, with an ultimate capacity for 240 beds. In addition, the adjacent Medical Center complex contains a range of medical offices and an urgent care facility. Kaiser Permanente employs over 2,000 employees at this facility, and is committed to servicing the Baldwin Park community both through financial support for community services, such as the City's Family Service Center, and through human resource support and volunteers for community activities.



Kaiser Hospital