

**CHAPTER 8**    **Safety and Noise**

# INTRODUCTION

The built and natural environments of Simi Valley contain a number of hazards that require special consideration and treatment in the land use planning process. Protection from the risks of natural and man-made hazards, including crime, is essential in establishing a sense of well-being for residents and an important consideration in attracting new businesses, residents, and visitors to the City. State law requires that the General Plan specifically identify areas in the community subject to hazards and include appropriate



Fire Station 44, Wood Ranch

actions to minimize these hazards. Goals and policies in this section are designed to reduce hazards from floods, seismic activity, wildland and urban fires, and hazardous materials, and provide effective disaster preparedness, timely emergency response, and ongoing coordination with emergency response agencies, as well as protection from excessive noise.

# COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

## Emergency Preparedness

### GOAL S-1

**Emergency Response.** Effective emergency preparedness and rapid response to natural or human-induced disasters are provided that minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and disruptions in the delivery of vital public and private services during and following disaster.

### Policies

- S-1.1 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and NIMS Plan.** Implement the strategies in the City’s Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Plan to prevent the replication of pre-disaster conditions. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.2 NIMS Compliance.** Maintain compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is a template for the management of incidents to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.3 Consistent and Current Emergency Response Plans.** Develop and maintain consistent, comprehensive, and up-to-date plans and regulations, including the General Plan and the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, to prepare for and respond to disasters. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*

## COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

- S-1.4 Disaster Skills Training.** Enhance the capabilities of the City’s first responders to effectively function in disasters, including the City’s Disaster Service Worker Team, Police Department, and City employees. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.5 Data and Information Tracking.** Maintain an up-to-date Geographic Information System (GIS) database that tracks new development and structures in hazard areas in order to enhance the City’s capability to assess and respond to emergency incidents. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.6 Evacuation Planning.** Coordinate evacuation planning, including evacuation routes, among emergency responders including the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol, and law enforcement agencies in other local jurisdictions. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.7 Post-Disaster Response.** Plan for the continued functioning of critical facilities following a major disaster to help prevent major problems during post-disaster response, such as evacuations, rescues, large numbers of injuries, and major cleanup operations. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*
- S-1.8 Funding Programs.** Pursue funding for programs related to preparedness, training, mitigation, and response for catastrophic events. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1)*

### GOAL S-2

**Interjurisdictional Cooperation.** Established agreements and coordination protocols are maintained that support cooperative training, preparation, and response activities from federal, state, and regional agencies during and after catastrophic events.

#### Policies

- S-2.1 Mutual Aid Agreements.** Continue to participate in mutual-aid agreements to ensure adequate resources, facilities, and other support for emergency response. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2)*
- S-2.2 Intergovernmental Partnership.** Maintain ongoing partnerships with federal, state, county, and local governmental agencies to identify and implement disaster mitigation actions, including information sharing. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2)*
- S-2.3 Emergency and Disaster Exercises.** Coordinate with Ventura County, Los Angeles County, and other jurisdictions to conduct emergency and disaster-preparedness exercises to periodically test operational and emergency plans. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2)*

### GOAL S-3

**Public Awareness.** The community is well informed regarding appropriate disaster preparation strategies and response protocols for actions before, during, and after catastrophic events.

#### Policy

- S-3.1 Educational Outreach.** Sponsor and support education programs to increase awareness regarding disaster preparedness protocols and procedures and disaster risk reduction strategies to all segments of the community, including local officials, residents, businesses, property owners, and others who have interests in the City. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3)*

## Police Services, Crime Prevention, and Protection

### GOAL S-4

**Police Services, Crime Prevention, and Protection.** Quality police services are provided that protect the long-term safety and well-being of Simi Valley residents, businesses, and visitors from criminal activities.

#### Policies

**S-4.1 Response Time Standards.** Achieve and maintain appropriate response times for all call priority levels to provide responsive police services for the safety of residents and visitors. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4)*

**S-4.2 Staffing Standards.** Maintain optimum staffing levels for both sworn police officers and civilian support staff in order to provide quality police services to the community. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4)*



*Emergency crew working on an incident*

**S-4.3 Cooperation with Other Agencies.** Continue to work with the California Highway Patrol, the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and neighboring law enforcement agencies for the provision of emergency services and to provide backup police assistance in emergency situations. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4)*

**S-4.4 Community Education and Awareness.** Continue to be responsive to crime trends by informing and educating the community through the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch Programs and the Business Alert and Citizen Alert System and facilitating educational programs dealing with personal safety awareness. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-4)*



*Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and public outreach*

**S-4.5 Communication with the Community.** Maintain a dialogue with the community to improve relationships and customer service, and continually explore innovative means to communicate with the public on police services. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-4)*

**S-4.6 Technology.** Ensure changes and upgrades in equipment and policing activities keep pace with changing technologies. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-4)*

**S-4.7 Crime Prevention through Design.** Support and encourage the use defensible space concepts (site and building lighting, visual observation of open spaces, secured areas, etc.) in the design of new development and rehabilitation projects. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

## COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

**S-4.8 Development Review.** Review new development and rehabilitation projects for security matters as part of the development review process. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

### Geologic and Seismic Hazards

Simi Valley is located in a seismically active area in proximity to several major regional fault systems, including the Simi-Santa Rosa fault that traverses the northern portion of the City, as shown in Figure S-1 (Seismic and Geologic Hazards). The City has established a fault hazard zone that prohibits structures on fault traces within this zone. Hazards associated with seismic activity include the potential for liquefaction and landslides. Areas susceptible to liquefaction include those within river channels and flood plain deposits, such as the Arroyo Simi, and are generally located in the western and eastern portions of Simi Valley, as shown in Figure S-1. Landslides are also associated



*Bare hillside with adjacent development*

with seismic activity though there are other factors that may influence their occurrence. These factors include the slope, moisture content of the soil, and the composition of the soils and subsurface geology. Fortunately, most of the developed portions of the City are relatively flat and not subject to landslides hazards. However, the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains to the north, and the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains to the south, include landslide hazard zones. All development in these areas must have geotechnical investigations completed prior to construction. Additional efforts to mitigate geologic and seismic hazards are included below.

### GOAL S-5

**Geologic and Seismic Hazards.** Adverse effects to residents, public and private property, and essential services caused by seismic and geologic hazards are minimized.

#### Policies

- S-5.1 Review Safety Standards.** Regularly review and enforce all seismic and geologic safety standards, including the Building Code, in site design and building construction methods. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-6)*
- S-5.2 Building Codes.** Adopt building codes that include design and construction features that provide protection for new and renovated structures in hazard areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6)*
- S-5.3 Geotechnical Investigations.** Require geotechnical investigations for applicable improvements to determine the potential for ground rupture, groundshaking, landslides, and liquefaction impacts due to seismic events, as well as expansive soils and subsidence problems, on sites where these hazards are potentially present. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

- S-5.4 Critical Facilities.** Encourage the upgrade, retrofitting, and/or possible relocation of all existing critical facilities (e.g., schools, police stations, fire stations, and medical facilities) and other public facilities that do not meet current building code standards and are located within geologic hazard areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*
- S-5.5 Tilt-Up Structures.** Encourage the upgrade and retrofit of tilt-up structures that do not meet current building code standards and are located within geologic hazard areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*
- S-5.6 Damage Prevention and Control.** Develop a comprehensive approach to reducing the possibility of damage and losses due to earthquakes. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-6)*
- S-5.7 Data and Analysis.** Develop and maintain an up-to-date database of critical City assets and periodically assess their vulnerability to geologic hazards (e.g., data on construction type, occupancy rating, seismic reinforcements, etc.). *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-11)*
- S-5.8 Intergovernmental Coordination.** Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with federal, state, and local government agencies and special districts to promote information and resource sharing. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2)*
- S-5.9 Public Education and Partnerships.** Partner with other agencies and organizations to provide public education programs about potential geologic hazards in Simi Valley, and proper emergency preparation and response strategies before, during, and after geologic occurrences. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-3)*
- S-5.10 Funding Programs.** Pursue federal and state programs to provide training, education, and mitigation activities for protection against seismic activity. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2)*

## Fire Services

Fire is a natural occurrence and is influenced by a number of factors including fuel sources, topography, and weather. While no part of Simi Valley is located within a Fire Hazard area, the potential for fire is a problem in the urban fringe and hillside areas that surround the valley floor, as shown in Figure S-2 (Fire Hazard). Goals and policies in this section provide for coordinated fire prevention, protection, and emergency medical services that serve all areas of Simi Valley in support of residents and businesses for urban or wildland fires.

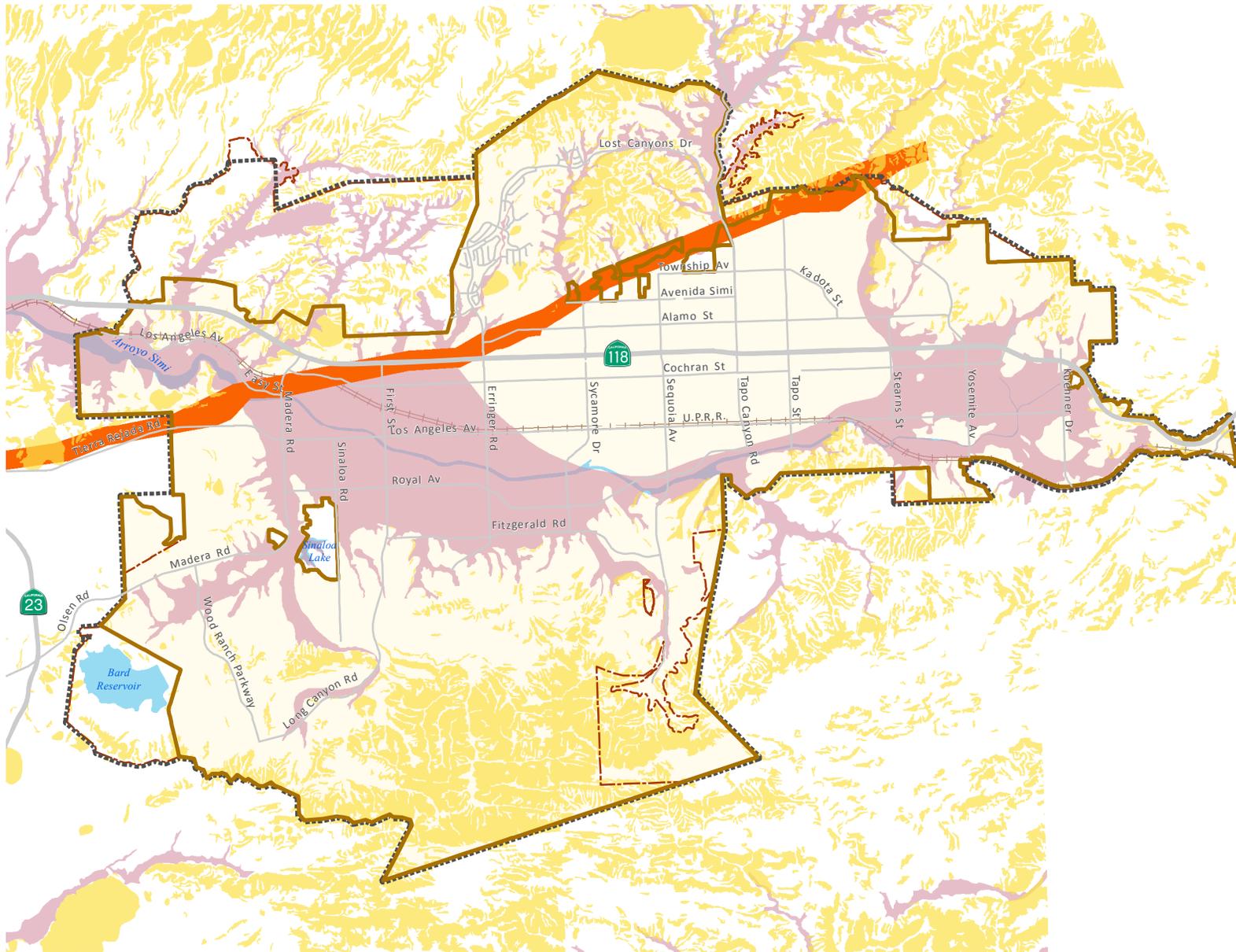
### GOAL S-6

**Fire and Emergency Medical Services.** Coordinated fire protection and emergency medical services are provided that support the needs of residents and businesses and maintain a safe and healthy community.

- S-6.1 Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital Coordination.** Continue to work with and support the Ventura County Fire Protection District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, and Simi Valley Hospital with regard to personnel, facility, and infrastructure needs to maintain a high level of fire and emergency services within the City. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-7)*

CITY of SIMI VALLEY  
General Plan Update

Seismic and  
Geologic Hazards



Legend

- Earthquake Induced Landslide Hazard
- Simi/Santa Rosa Earthquake Fault Hazard Zone
- Earthquake Induced Liquefaction Hazard
- City Boundary
- City Urban Restriction Boundary
- Sphere of Influence

Source: Ventura County, 2003  
Date Revised: December 15, 2010  
seismic\_geologic\_hazards.mxd



Figure S-1

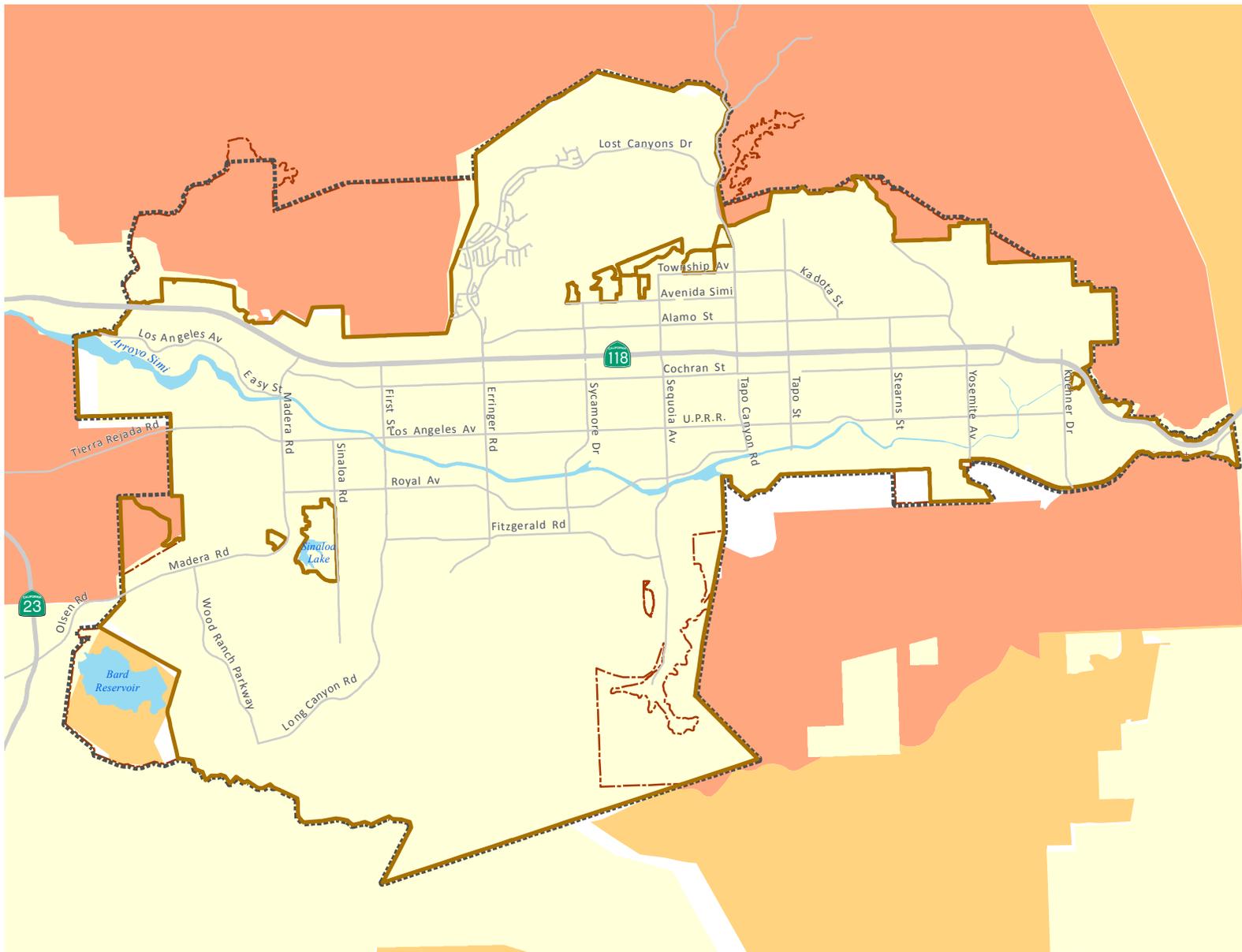


# CITY of SIMI VALLEY General Plan Update

## Fire Hazard

### Legend

- Fire Hazard Severity Zone
  - Very High
  - High
  - Non-State Responsibility Area
- City Boundary
- City Urban Restriction Boundary
- Sphere of Influence



Source: CA Dept. Fire & Forest Protection, 1985  
Date Revised: December 15, 2010  
D21310\_Simi\_Valley\_GP\Fire Hazards.mxd



**Figure S-2**



## COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

**S-6.2 Emergency Response.** Periodically evaluate emergency response to Citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-2)*

**S-6.3 Adequate Infrastructure.** Continue to assess the water pressure for fire suppression and evaluate and implement feasible solutions. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, IU-2, S-7)*

## Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards

### GOAL S-7

**Fire Protection.** People and property in Simi Valley are protected from urban and wild fires.

#### Policies

**S-7.1 Intergovernmental Coordination.** Cooperate with the Ventura County Fire Protection District in periodically evaluating services and service criteria to ensure that the City continues to receive adequate fire protection, prevention services, and information-sharing protocols. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-7)*



*Controlled burn*

**S-7.2 Fire Department Review.** Continue review by the Ventura County Fire Protection District of all proposed structures and developments within the community to mitigate potential wildland fire loss and damage. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-5, S-7)*

**S-7.3 Fire Inspection.** Work with the Ventura County Fire Protection District to ensure an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-7)*

**S-7.4 Fire Protection Systems.** Encourage existing commercial and multiple-unit residential uses to install fire protection systems, as required by the state, building, and fire codes for new development, and encourage the use of automatic sprinkler systems in existing structures. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6)*

**S-7.5 Fuel Modification.** Ensure that new development complies with fuel modification requirements of the Ventura County Fire Protection District, as applicable. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

**S-7.6 Post-Fire Debris Flow.** Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to mitigate damage and loss due to post-fire debris flow. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-8)*

**S-7.7 Public Education.** Promote public education of residents regarding site design, landscaping, location of materials, and brush landscaping to prevent and reduce fire hazards. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3)*

- S-7.8 Funding.** Ensure that new developments pay a pro-rata share for increased fire protection as necessitated by their construction. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-14, LU-18, ED-8, S-5)*

## Flood Hazards

The City of Simi Valley is located within the Calleguas Creek Watershed in southeastern Ventura County, which ultimately drains to the Pacific Ocean. This watershed includes the Arroyo Simi and its tributaries, which expose developed areas on the valley floor to flooding as shown in Figure S-3 (Flood Hazards). The control measures that have been put in place by the City to mitigate potential damage and destruction from flooding include the following.

### GOAL S-8

**Flood Hazard Protection.** Residents, workers, and visitors are protected from flood hazards.

#### Policies

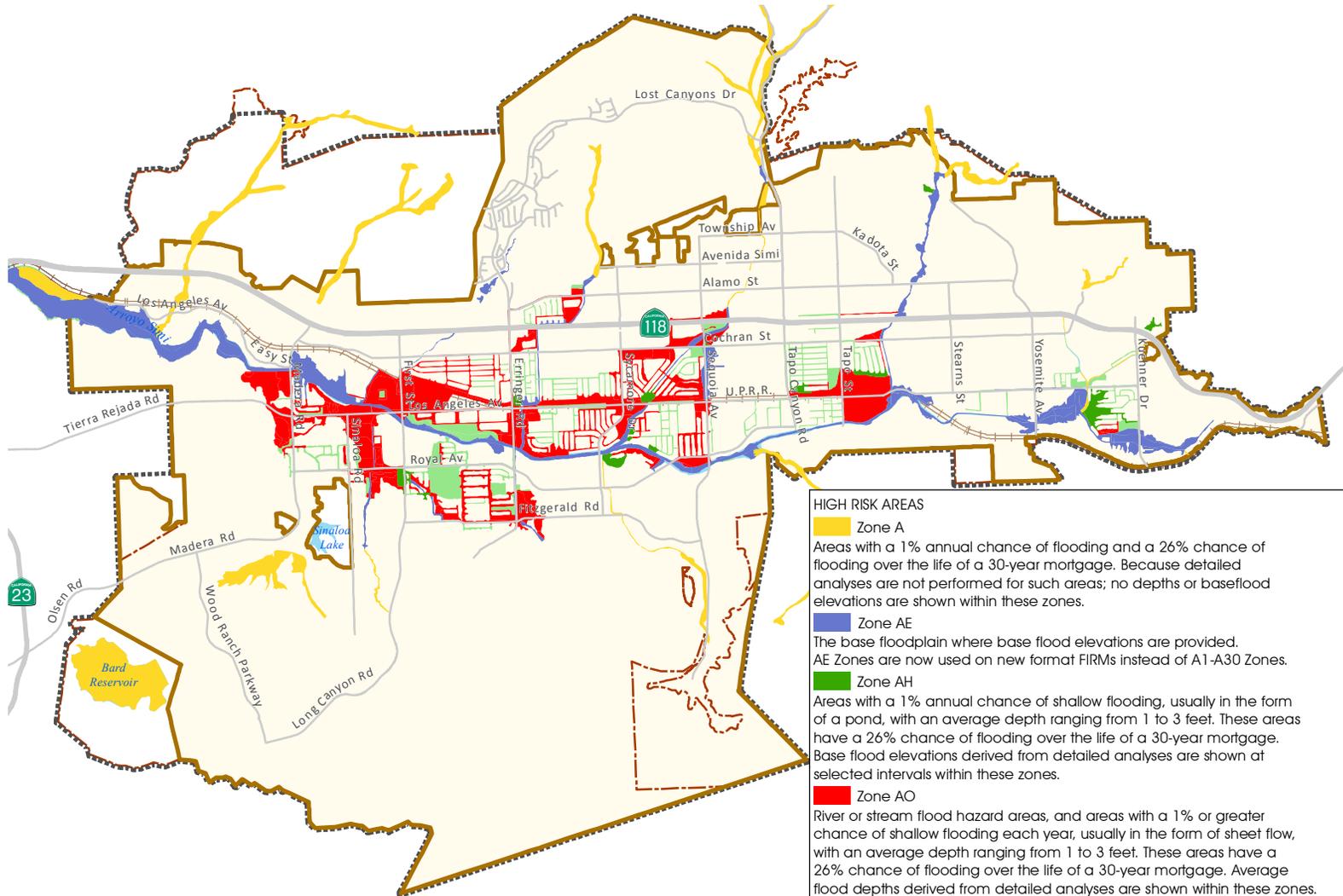
- S-8.1 Floodplain Requirements.** Regulate new development and protect existing development within flood prone areas in accordance with City, state, and federal building codes. Follow federal requirements to reduce damage and loss due to flooding and to maintain the City's eligibility under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-6, S-9)*
- S-8.2 Flood Insurance.** Request assistance from state and federal governments, as necessary, to enable the City to maintain compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-9)*
- S-8.3 Flood Prevention Design.** Require that new development incorporate sufficient measures to mitigate flood hazards, including the design of on-site drainage systems linking with Citywide storm drainage, gradation of the site so that runoff does not impact adjacent properties or structures on the site, and elevation of any structures above the localized flooding elevation. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-6)*
- S-8.4 Critical Facilities.** Prohibit the location of critical facilities within an area subject to significant inundation during any flood event unless the facility can be adequately protected from inundation, and provide for updating of critical facilities within these areas when practical. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6)*
- S-8.5 Facility Use or Storage of Hazardous Materials.** Require that all facilities storing, using, or otherwise involved with substantial quantities of on-site hazardous materials within flood zones comply with applicable standards of elevation, anchoring, and flood proofing, and that hazardous materials be stored in watertight containers. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6)*
- S-8.6 New Development.** Ensure that new development is properly located and designed to avoid flooding, and require upgrades and improvements of the existing storm drain system for on-site retention to handle the increased runoff generated from the development site. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5)*

# CITY of SIMI VALLEY General Plan Update

## Flood Hazards

### Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Sphere of Influence
-  City Urban Restriction Boundary



**HIGH RISK AREAS**

-  Zone A  
Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
-  Zone AE  
The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided. AE Zones are now used on new format FIRMs instead of A1-A30 Zones.
-  Zone AH  
Areas with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.
-  Zone AO  
River or stream flood hazard areas, and areas with a 1% or greater chance of shallow flooding each year, usually in the form of sheet flow, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Average flood depths derived from detailed analyses are shown within these zones.
-  Zone A99  
Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding that will be protected by a Federal flood control system where construction has reached specified legal requirements. No depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.

**MODERATE TO LOW RISK AREAS**

-  Zone 0.2% Annual Chance Flood  
Areas with a 0.2% annual chance flooding.

Source: FEMA, January 2010  
Date Revised: October 3, 2011  
D21310\_Simi\_Valley\_GPFlood Hazards.mxd



**Figure S-3**



## COMMUNITY SAFETY (S)

- S-8.7 Preservation of Flood Plains.** Require preservation of flood plains as open space, when practical, as the preferred alternative to development or channelization in project environmental impact reports (EIRs). *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, S-6)*
- S-8.8 Dam Failure Warning Plan.** Maintain the City’s Dam Failure Response Plan to alert affected residents, businesses, and government agencies located in potential hazard areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-9)*

## Hazardous Materials

### GOAL S-9

**Hazardous Materials.** Residents, visitors, property, and the natural environment in Simi Valley are protected to the maximum extent feasible by the use, storage, and/or transport of hazardous materials.

### Policies

- S-9.1 Interjurisdictional Coordination.** Continue to carry out inspections, emergency response, and enforcement of hazardous materials and waste compliance procedures for Simi Valley. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2, S-10)*
- S-9.2 Educate Residents/Businesses.** Educate residents and businesses regarding methods to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials, including the disposal of household hazardous materials, including medications, batteries, e-waste, biomedical waste, etc., and the use of safer nontoxic equivalents. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3)*
- S-9.3 Emergency Response.** Maintain and enhance the City’s first responders’ ability to safely and effectively respond to hazardous materials incidents and releases. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-1, S-7)*
- S-9.4 Hazardous Materials Regulation.** Work with relevant agencies regarding enforcement of applicable laws requiring all users, producers, disposers, and transporters of hazardous materials and wastes to clearly identify the materials that they store, use, produce, dispose, or transport, and to notify the appropriate City, county, state, and federal agencies in the event of a violation. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-2)*
- S-9.5 Known Areas of Contamination.** Require proponents of projects in known areas of contamination from oil operations or other uses to perform comprehensive soil and groundwater contamination assessments, in accordance with applicable standards. If contamination exceeds regulatory action levels, require the proponent to undertake remediation procedures prior to grading and development through a cleanup program under the supervision of the Ventura County Environmental Health Division, Department of Toxic Substances Control, or Regional Water Quality



*Hazardous materials transport*

Control Board (depending upon the nature of any identified contamination). *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-5, S-6)*

**S-9.6 Siting of Sensitive Uses.** Develop and implement strict land use controls, performance standards, and structure design standards for uses that generate, use, or store hazardous materials, including development setbacks from sensitive uses such as residential homes, schools, hospitals, daycare and eldercare facilities, high density population facilities (such as movie theaters, auditoriums, museums), and other sensitive uses. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-6)*

**S-9.7 Hazardous Waste Collection.** Conduct frequent and convenient household hazardous waste collection events. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, S-3, S-10)*

## Implementation Program

Each General Plan policy is correlated with one or more implementation measure. The Safety Implementation Program, presented in Table S-1 (Safety Implementation Program), describes the measures or actions to be taken by the City to carry out the goals and policies defined in this section.

Table S-1 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2012-2015	2016-2035	Annual	Ongoing
<b>S-1</b>	<b>Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.</b> The City shall continue to implement the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and maintain compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Incident Management System (NIMS) to prevent and address disasters. This shall include maintaining consistency between the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the City's General Plan; providing disaster skills training; tracking new development in hazard areas; coordinating evacuation planning; planning for post-disaster response; and pursuing funding.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-1.1~S-1.8, S-6.2, S-9.3					
<b>S-2</b>	<b>Interagency Coordination and Partnership.</b> The City shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as federal, state, and local governmental agencies; Ventura County and Los Angeles County; California Highway Patrol; Ventura County Sheriff's Department; Ventura County Fire Protection District; Ventura County Environmental Health Division; Department of Toxic Substances Control; and the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding issues addressing mutual aid agreements, disaster mitigation actions, including information sharing, and emergency and disaster exercises; provision of emergency services and backup police assistance; public education programs about potential geologic hazards in the community, proper emergency preparation, and response strategies; pursuing funding for training, education, and mitigation activities for protection against seismic activities; maintaining a high level of fire and emergency services within the City; provision of fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards; compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements; inspections, emergency response, and enforcement of hazardous materials and waste compliance procedures; and enforcement of hazardous materials regulations.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-2.1~S-2.3, S-5.8~S-5.10, S-6.1, S-6.2, S-7.1~S-7.3, S-8.2, S-9.1, S-9.4					

Table S-1 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2012-2015	2016-2035	Annual	Ongoing
<b>S-3</b>	<b>Public Education Programs.</b> The City shall continue to provide public education programs to increase awareness of disaster preparedness protocols, procedures, and risk reduction strategies for the community; crime trends and personal safety awareness; potential geologic hazards, proper emergency preparation, and response strategies; fire hazard prevention and reduction strategies, including site design, landscaping, location of materials, and brush landscaping; and methods to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials, including the disposal of hazardous materials.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-3.1, S-4.4, S-4.5, S-5.9, S-7.7, S-9.2, S-9.7					
<b>S-4</b>	<b>Police Services.</b> The City shall continue to provide quality police services for the community including achieving and maintaining appropriate response times; maintaining appropriate staffing levels; providing community education regarding personal safety awareness; communicating with the community; evaluating emergency response to citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed; upgrading equipment with regard to changing technologies; and responding to hazardous materials incidents and releases.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-4.1~S-4.6					
<b>S-5</b>	<b>Development Review Process.</b> The City shall continue to regulate development for compliance with General Plan goals, policies, land uses, and development standards through the Development Review Process to ensure the following: support and encourage the use of defensible space concepts in the design of new development and rehabilitation projects; include crime prevention review of new development and rehabilitation projects; review and enforce all seismic and geologic safety standards; adopt building codes that provide protection for new and renovated structures in hazard areas; require geotechnical investigations be submitted; encourage the upgrade, retrofitting, and/or relocation of critical facilities located in geologic hazard areas; encourage the upgrade and retrofit of tilt-up structures located in geologic hazard areas; reduce the possibility of damages and losses due to earthquakes; continue review of projects by Ventura County Fire Protection District to mitigate potential wildland fire losses and damages; ensure that fuel modification requirements are addressed; and ensure that new developments pay a pro-rata share for increase fire protection.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-4.7, S-4.8, S-5.1, S-5.3~S-5.6, S-7.2, S-7.5, S-7.8, S-8.1, S-8.3, S-8.6, S-9.5					

Table S-1 Safety Implementation Program		2011	2012-2015	2016-2035	Annual	Ongoing
<b>S-6</b>	<b>Simi Valley Municipal Code.</b> The City shall review and update the Development Code to establish requirements for new development proposals, as follows: adopt building codes that provide protection for new and renovated structures in hazard areas; require installation of fire protection systems in new commercial and multiple-unit residential development projects; require that new development incorporates sufficient measures to mitigate flood hazards; prohibit location of critical facilities within areas subject to inundation during any flood event unless it can be protected; provide for updating of critical facilities in flood hazard areas; require that facilities storing or using hazardous materials within flood zones comply with storage requirements; ensure that new development is located outside of flood hazard areas; require upgrades and improvements to storm drain systems for on-site retention; require preservation of flood plains as open space, when practical; require soil and groundwater contamination assessments in known areas of contamination; develop and implement land use controls and standards for uses that generate, use, or store hazardous materials.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	LU-19.6, S-5.1, S-5.2, S-5.6, S-7.4, S-8.1, S-8.3~S-8.5, S-8.7, S-9.5, S-9.6					
<b>S-7</b>	<b>Fire Protection Services.</b> The City shall continue to contract for quality fire protection services with the Ventura County Fire Protection District, including prevention services, information sharing, and fire inspection services; evaluate emergency response to Citywide disasters to determine if service improvements are needed; and assess the water pressure for fire suppression.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-6.1, S-6.3, S-7.1, S-7.2, S-9.3					
<b>S-8</b>	<b>Post-Fire Debris Flow.</b> The City shall develop and implement a comprehensive approach to mitigate damage and loss due to post-fire debris flow.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-7.6					
<b>S-9</b>	<b>Flood Hazard Protection.</b> The City shall continue to ensure the community is protected from flood hazards through the following: regulate new development and protect existing development within flood prone areas; maintain the City's eligibility under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and maintain the City's Dam Failure Response Plan to alert the community located in potential hazard areas.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-8.1, S-8.2, S-8.8					
<b>S-10</b>	<b>Hazardous Materials.</b> The City shall continue to provide inspections, emergency response, and enforcement of hazardous materials and waste compliance procedures in the community. The City shall continue to work with relevant agencies regarding enforcement of hazardous materials regulations and continue to conduct household hazardous waste collection events.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-9.1, S-9.7					
<b>S-11</b>	<b>City Asset Database.</b> The City shall develop and maintain a database of critical City assets and periodically assess their vulnerability to geologic hazards.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	S-5.7					

## NOISE (N)

The urban environment contains a variety of noise sources that can affect the way people live and work. Some types of noise are only short-term irritants, like the pounding of a jackhammer or the whirring rattle of a lawnmower. Generally, these noise sources can be controlled through City noise regulations, such as a noise ordinance. However, other noises, such as freeway noise, may be permanent fixtures in the community. The information provided herein identifies noise sources, noise sensitive land uses, and noise compatibility standards. The goals and policies in this section of the General Plan are designed to include noise control in the planning process in order to maintain compatible land uses with acceptable environmental noise levels to protect Simi Valley residents from excessive noise.

### Community Noise Contours

As with most urban and suburban environments, the primary noise sources in Simi Valley are mobile sources such as vehicle traffic, train pass-bys, and other transportation-related noises. A typical noise environment consists of a base of steady ambient noise that is the sum of many distant and indistinguishable noise sources. Imposed on this background noise is the sound from individual local sources. These can vary from an occasional train passing to virtually continuous noise from traffic on a major highway.

Several quantitative indicators are commonly used to gauge the likelihood that environmental noise would have an adverse effect on a community. These indicators consider that the most disruptive aspects of noise are strongly associated with the average acoustical energy content of the sound over the time it occurs and/or with the time of day when the sound occurs. The indicators used in this General Plan are defined as follows:

- $L_{eq}$ , the equivalent energy noise level, is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the  $L_{eq}$  of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this indicator is not affected by whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.
- CNEL, the Community Noise Equivalent Level, is a 24-hour average  $L_{eq}$  with a 10 dBA “weight” added to noise during the hours of 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM, and a 5 dBA “weight” added during the hours of 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM to account for increased noise sensitivity in the evening and nighttime.



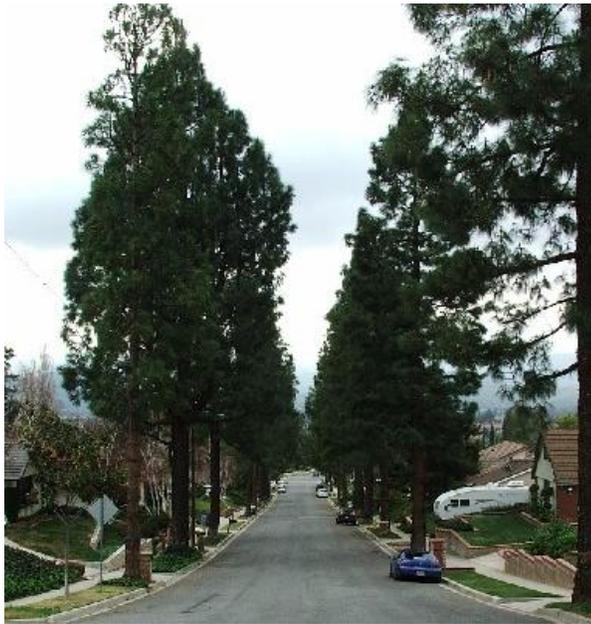
*Railway through Simi Valley*



*SR-118 Freeway through Simi Valley*



*Railway next to residential development*



*Peaceful and quiet neighborhood*

In general, there are three distinct noise sources in the community: the Ronald Reagan Freeway (State Route 118), major and minor arterial roads, and the Union Pacific Railroad lines that provide freight and passenger rail service, in addition to various stationary sources such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units.

Noise contours for the major noise sources in Simi Valley were developed for existing conditions and future conditions. Existing noise contours were determined from 2006 traffic data and are expressed in terms of the CNEL as shown in Figure N-1 (Existing Noise Contours). Future noise conditions for roadways are presented for the 2030 time period derived from projected traffic levels for that year to reflect anticipated buildout of the General Plan and are shown in Figure N-2 (Future Noise Contours). Noise contours represent lines of equal noise exposure, just as the contour lines on a topographic map are lines of equal elevation. The contours shown on the maps are the 60, 65, and 70 dB CNEL noise levels.

The noise contours represent the maximum possible traffic noise levels at locations within them (i.e., they do not account for building placement or traffic speeds, nor the attenuating effects of walls, structures, and terrain features that might intervene between the roads and any location of interest) and should be used as a guide for land use planning. The 60 dB CNEL contour is the noise level for which noise considerations should be included

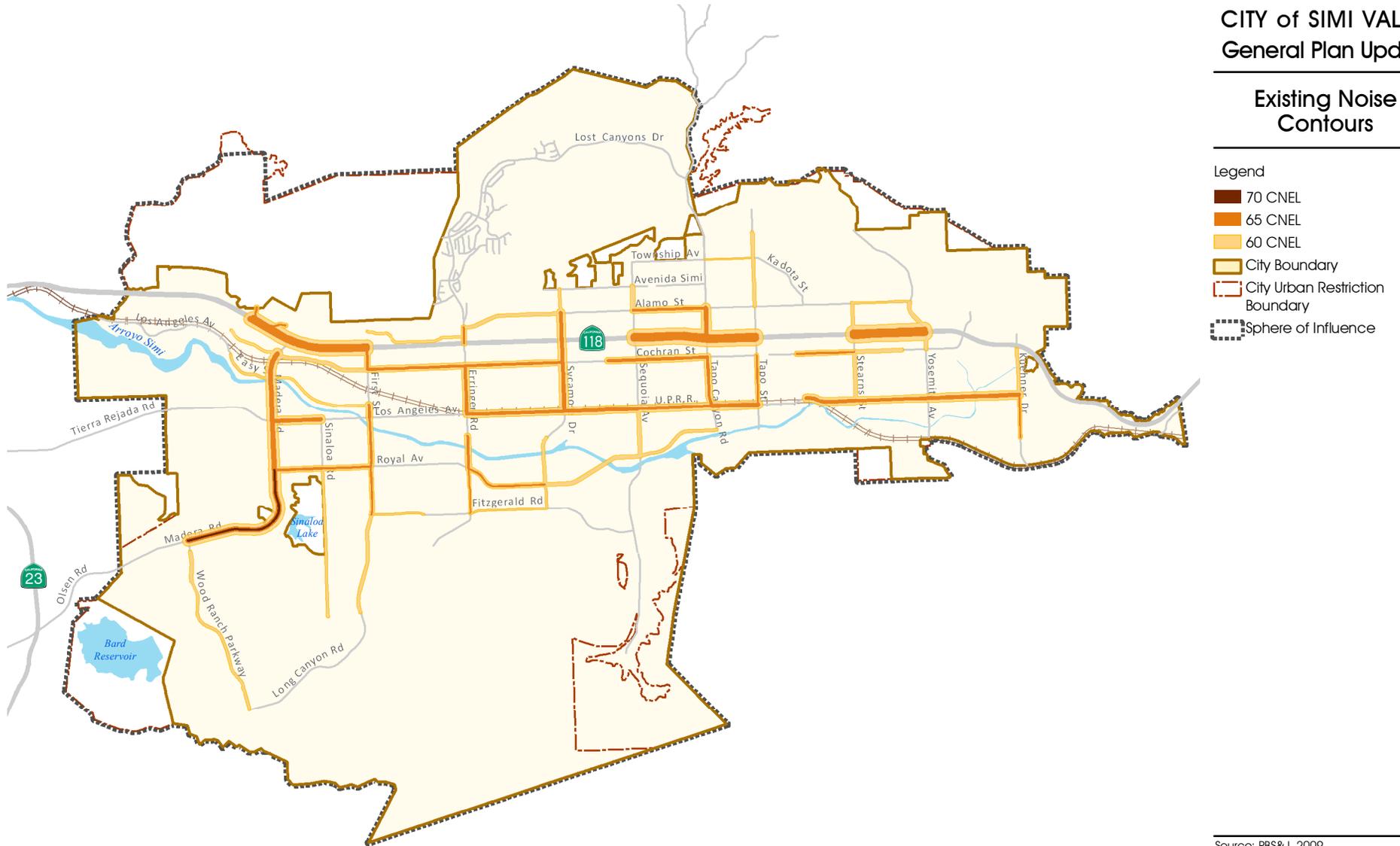
when making land use policy decisions that affect existing and proposed noise-sensitive developments. The 65 dB CNEL contour describes the area for which new noise sensitive developments will be permitted only if appropriate mitigation measures are included such that the standards in this section are achieved.

## Noise and Land Use Compatibility

Noise exposure criteria should be incorporated into land use planning to reduce future noise and land use incompatibilities. Simi Valley has a number of educational facilities, hospitals, convalescent homes, day care operations, and other facilities that are considered noise-sensitive. However, the primary noise-sensitive uses within the City are residential land uses. The noise exposure of these sensitive uses varies from low in quiet residential areas, to high, in areas adjacent to the SR-118 Freeway. Considering noise sources as part of the planning process is achieved by specifying acceptable noise exposure ranges for various land uses throughout the City. Table N-1 (Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Sources) presents criteria used to assess the compatibility of proposed land uses with the noise environment.

CITY of SIMI VALLEY  
General Plan Update

Existing Noise  
Contours



- Legend
- 70 CNEL
  - 65 CNEL
  - 60 CNEL
  - City Boundary
  - City Urban Restriction Boundary
  - Sphere of Influence

Source: PBS&J, 2009  
Date Revised: December 15, 2010  
D21310\_Simi\_Valley\_GPNoise\_Contours.mxd

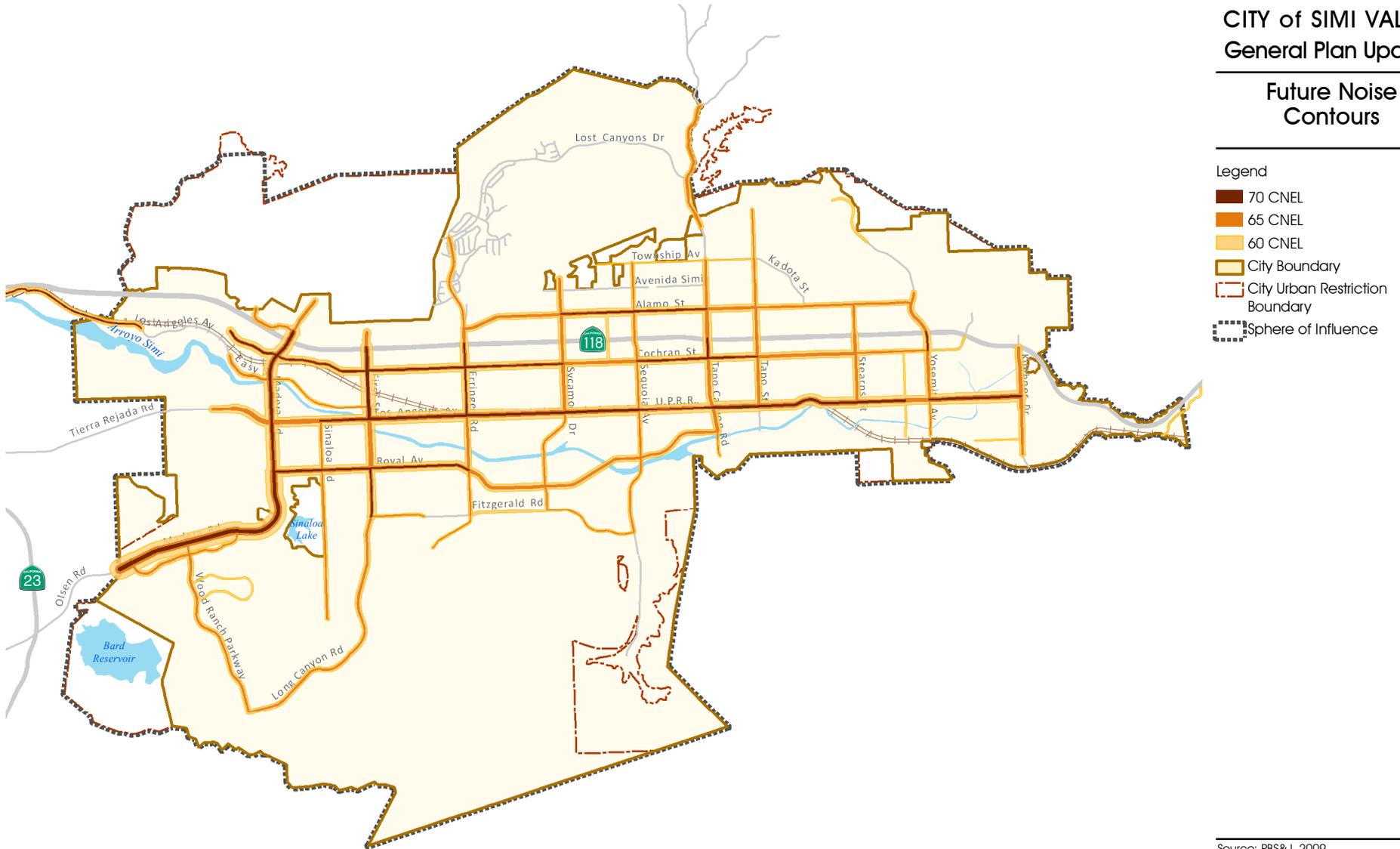


Figure N-1



CITY of SIMI VALLEY  
General Plan Update

Future Noise  
Contours



Legend

- 70 CNEL
- 65 CNEL
- 60 CNEL
- City Boundary
- City Urban Restriction Boundary
- Sphere of Influence

Source: PBS&J, 2009  
Date Revised: December 15, 2010  
D21310\_Simi\_Valley\_GPNoise\_Contours.mxd



Figure N-2



NOISE (N)

<b>Table N-1 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Sources</b>						
<b>Land Use Category</b>	<b>Noise Exposure (dBA, CNEL)</b>					
	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Residential—Low-Density Single Family, Duplex, Mobile Homes</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Residential—Multiple-Family</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Transient Lodging—Motels, Hotels</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Institutional—Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Performance Venues—Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheatres</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Outdoor Sports Activities—Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Outdoor Recreation—Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Outdoor Recreation/Activities—Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Office Buildings—Business Commercial and Professional</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
<b>Industrial—Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture</b>	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable

SOURCE: 2002 General Plan Guidelines, State Office of Planning and Research

	<b>Normally Acceptable:</b> Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction without any special noise insulation requirements.
	<b>Conditionally Acceptable:</b> New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but closed windows and fresh air supply or air conditioning will normally suffice.
	<b>Normally Unacceptable:</b> New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.
	<b>Clearly Unacceptable:</b> New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.

In addition to the Land Use Compatibility Matrix, the City’s interior and exterior noise standards are identified in Table N-2 (Interior and Exterior Noise Standards), which represents specific noise standards for interior and exterior noise areas that are considered acceptable based on noise levels generated by adjacent mobile sources, such as automobiles, trucks, and trains. The Simi Valley Noise Ordinance governs



*Residential adjacent to commercial*

noise from nontransportation sources and does not specify maximum noise levels, but identifies various noise generators, such as construction equipment amplification and mechanical devices, and provides certain restrictions on these generators.

Table N-2 Interior and Exterior Noise Standards			
Land Use Categories		CNEL (LDN)	
Categories	Uses	Interior <sup>a</sup>	Exterior <sup>b</sup>
Residential	Single Family, Duplex, Multiple Family	45 <sup>c</sup>	63
	Mobile Home	45 <sup>d</sup>	63 <sup>d</sup>
Commercial/Institutional	Hotel, Motel, Transient Lodging	45	—
	Hospitals, School Classroom	45	
	Church, Library	45	

SOURCE: Simi Valley General Plan, 1988

a. Includes bathrooms, toilets, closets, corridors

b. Limited to the following:

- Private yard of single-family residence
- Multi-family private patio or balcony that is served by a means of exit from inside the dwelling
- Mobile home park

c. Noise level requirement with closed windows. Mechanical ventilating system or other means of natural ventilation shall be provided as of Chapter 12, Section 1205 of UBC.

d. Exterior noise level should be such that interior noise level will not exceed 45 CNEL.

## GOAL N-1

**Land Use Compatibility.** Land use conflicts between various noise sources and other human activities are minimized.

### Policies

**N-1.1 Noise Standards.** Require noise attenuation for all development where the projected exterior and interior noise levels exceed those shown in Table N-1 (Interior and Exterior Noise Standards), to the extent feasible. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1*)

**N-1.2 Noise between Adjacent Uses.** Require that mixed-use and multi-family residential developments demonstrate that the design of the structure will adequately isolate noise between adjacent uses

## NOISE (N)

(orientation, window insulation, common wall separation, common floor/ceilings separation, etc.).  
(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1, N-2)

- N-1.3 Mixed-Use Development Standards.** Require, whenever physically possible, new mixed-use developments to locate loading areas, parking lots, driveways, trash enclosures, mechanical equipment, and other noise sources away from the residential portion of the development, and apply physical construction standards (equipment, construction standards) to reduce noise between uses. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)
- N-1.4 Noise Attenuation Measures.** Ensure that all new development provides adequate sound insulation or other protection from existing and anticipated noise sources. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-2)
- N-1.5 Sensitive Receptors.** Incorporate ambient noise level considerations into land use decisions involving schools, hospitals, and similar noise-sensitive uses. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-2)

## Mobile Noise Sources

### GOAL N-2

**Sensitive Receptors.** Motor vehicle traffic and railroad noise impacts on sensitive noise receptors are minimized.

### Policies

- N-2.1 State Motor Vehicle Noise Standards.** Encourage the enforcement of state motor vehicle noise standards for cars, trucks, and motorcycles through coordination with the California Highway Patrol and Simi Valley Police Department. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-3)
- N-2.2 Roadway Noise Sensitivity Measures.** Ensure the employment of noise attenuation measures in the design of roadway improvement projects consistent with funding capability. Support efforts by the California Department of Transportation and others to provide for acoustical protection of existing noise-sensitive land uses affected by these projects. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-3)
- N-2.3 Noise Attenuation along Major Arterials and Railroad Tracks.** Require the use of walls and berms in the design of residential and other noise-sensitive land uses that are adjacent to the 118 Freeway, major arterials, and railroad tracks. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)
- N-2.4 Noise Studies for New Development.** Require the preparation of noise studies, as deemed necessary by the Department of Environmental Services, for new development (especially residential projects) along the freeway corridor, major thoroughfares, and railroad tracks to ensure that adequate sound attenuation from these noise sources is provided. (Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-2)

## Stationary Noise Sources

### GOAL N-3

**Stationary Noise.** Nontransportation-related noise impacts on sensitive receptors are minimized.

**Policies**

**N-3.1 Protection from Stationary Noise Sources.** Continue to enforce interior and exterior noise standards to ensure that sensitive noise receptors are not exposed to excessive noise levels from stationary noise sources, such as machinery, equipment, fans, and air conditioning equipment. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-12, LU-18)*



*Metrolink train station*

**N-3.2 Regulation of Sound-Amplifying Equipment.** Continue to regulate the use of sound-amplifying equipment. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)*

**N-3.3 Enforcement of Hours of Construction Activity.** Continue to enforce restrictions on hours of construction activity so as to minimize the impacts of noise and vibration from the use of trucks, heavy drilling equipment, and other heavy machinery to adjacent uses, particularly in residential areas. *(Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, N-1)*

**Implementation Program**

Each General Plan policy is correlated with one or more implementation measure. The Noise Implementation Program, presented in Table N-3 (Noise Implementation Program), describes the measures or actions to be taken by the City to carry out the goals and policies defined in this section.

Table N-3 Noise Implementation Program		2011	2012-2015	2016-2035	Annual	Ongoing
<b>N-1</b>	<b>Simi Valley Municipal Code.</b> The City shall review and update the Development Code to establish requirements for new development proposals, as follows: require noise attenuation for all development where the noise levels exceed established standards; require that mixed-use and multi-family residential developments mitigate noise impacts between adjacent uses; require development standards for new mixed-use developments to locate noise sources away from residential portions of the development; require the use of walls and berms for residential projects adjacent to the 118 Freeway and major arterials; enforce interior and exterior noise standards; regulate the use of sound amplifying equipment; and enforce restrictions on hours of construction activity.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	LU-19.6, N-1.1~N-1.3, N-2.3, N-3.2, N-3.3					

**NOISE (N)**

<b>Table N-3 Noise Implementation Program</b>		<b>2011</b>	<b>2012-2015</b>	<b>2016-2035</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>N-2</b>	<b>Environmental Review.</b> The City shall continue to ensure that all development proposals are reviewed per the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to ensure that all new development provides adequate sound insulation or other protection from existing and anticipated noise sources; incorporate ambient noise level considerations into land use decisions involving noise sensitive uses; and require the preparation of noise studies for new development.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	N-1.2, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-2.4					
<b>N-3</b>	<b>Interagency Coordination and Partnership.</b> The City shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as California Highway Patrol and Caltrans, to enforce state vehicle noise standards and to coordinate roadway design and improvements.					●
Implements Which Policy(ies)	N-2.1, N-2.2					

