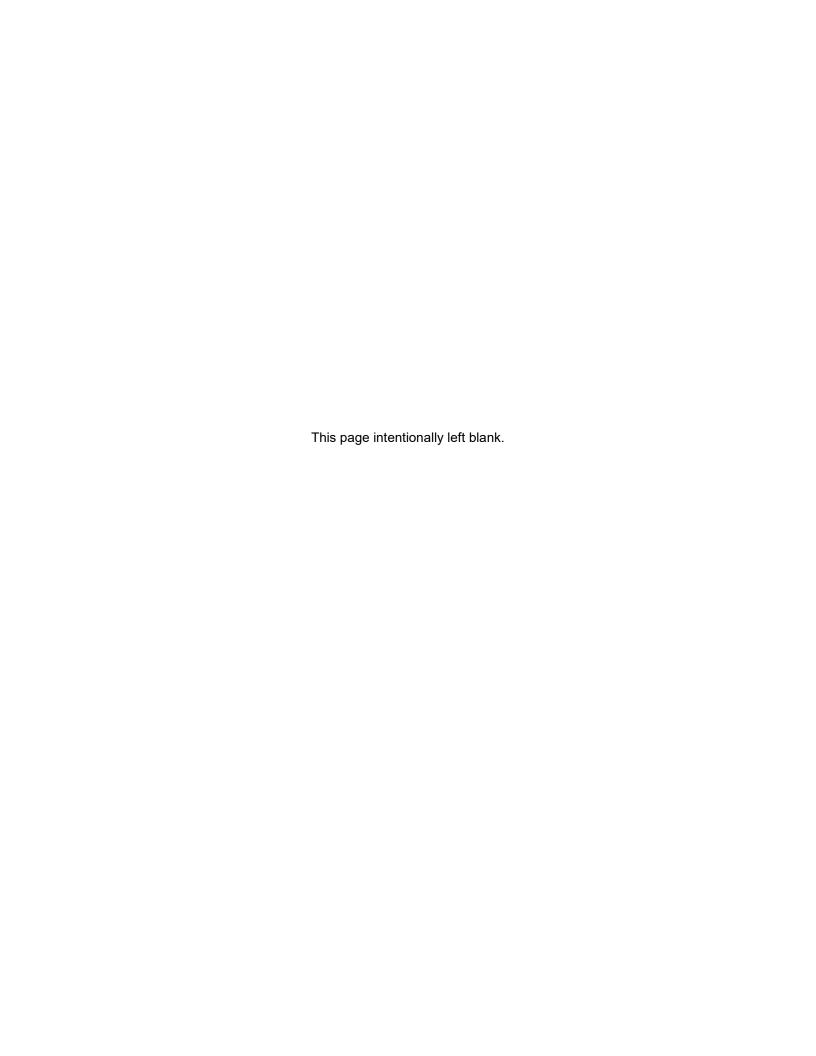


Santa Clara County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update

City of Los Altos Annex

February 21, 2024



4. City of Los Altos

4.1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Points of Contact

The point of contact during the Santa Clara County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan planning process for the City of Los Altos was the Police Department's Captain of Operations. This annex within the MJHMP was developed using information provided by the Local Planning Team for the City of Los Altos

Table 54: City of Los Altos Local Planning Team Members for the 2023 Santa Clara County MJHMP

Name	Position	Organization	Role on Team and in Planning Process
Katie Krauss	Operations Captain	City of Los Altos	General oversight, hazard identification, and plan development
Vency Woo	Management Analyst	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Irene Silipin	HR Manager	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Marisa Lee	Transportation Services Manager	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Veronica Tinoco	Building Official	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Stephanie Williams	Planning Services Manager, Floodplain Manager	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Franklin Wong	Public Works/CIP Manager	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Vivian Chu	Finance Manager	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Manny Hernandez	Parks and Rec Director	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Jon Maginot	Assistant City Manager	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Angela Averiett	Police Chief	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
June Du	Finance Director	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Sonia Lee	Public Information Officer	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development

Name	Position	Organization	Role on Team and in Planning Process
Nick Zornes	Development Services Director	City of Los Altos	Hazard identification and plan development
Brian Glass	Assistant Fire Chief	Santa Clara County Fire	Hazard identification and plan development

The City's Local Planning Team Members participated in the MJHMP by attending meetings on the Plan Kick-Off, Risk Assessment, and three one-on-one meetings with the planning consultant. In addition, the city filled out the requested forms on each section which were used to develop this annex. The city also shared information regarding public opportunities to participate in the draft plan update utilizing the digital survey and seven in-person and virtual public outreach meetings. Further, the City team was provided the opportunity to review the draft plan prior to submittal to Cal OES and FEMA.

Table 55: External Stakeholders Invited to Be Involved in Planning Process

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
American Red Cross	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others.	A nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, and disaster preparedness education in the United States.
American Red Cross – Silicon Valley Chapter	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others.	A nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, and disaster preparedness education in the United States.
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	A corps of trained amateur radio operator volunteers organized to assist in public service and emergency communications.
Cal OES	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Office responsible for overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and homeland security activities within the state.
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	The fire department of the California Natural Resources Agency.
California Department of Transportation	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	An executive department of the U.S. state of California.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Cattlemen's Association	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	A nonprofit trade association that represents California's ranchers and beef producers in political affairs.
Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Garrod Farms is a family-owned and operated estate winery and stables.
Department of Homeland Security	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	The U.S. federal executive department responsible for public security, roughly comparable to the interior or home ministries of other countries.
Department of Toxic Substances	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	An agency of the government of the state of California that protects public health and the environment from hazardous waste.
Emergency Medical Services	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Provides statewide coordination and leadership for the planning, development, and implementation of local EMS systems.
Emergency Services Volunteer Representative	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Organization that ensures public safety, security, and health by addressing and resolving different emergencies.
Federal Aviation Administration	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Offers civil aviation safety enforcement services.
Foothill - De Anza Community College District	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Community college district headquartered on the grounds of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California, United States.
Foothill - De Anza Community College District Police Department	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Services include providing and presenting crime prevention information, college outreach programs, patrolling campuses and parking lots, proactive crime suppression, investigating all offenses that occur on the campuses, and informing campus users of the occurrence of crimes specified by federal statute.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Google	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	American multinational technology company focusing on artificial intelligence, online advertising, search engine technology, cloud computing, computer software, quantum computing, e-commerce, and consumer electronics.
Hidden Villa Farm	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others.	Nonprofit educational organization teaching programs on environmental and multicultural awareness.
Intel Corporation	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	An American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California.
Kaiser Permanente—Santa Clara	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	An American integrated managed care consortium.
Life Moves	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Provides interim housing and supportive services for homeless families and individuals to rapidly return to stable housing.
Los Altos Hills County Fire District	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	In addition to direct fire suppression and prevention, the District performs support functions such as Water Mains and Hydrant Operations.
Los Altos School District	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Los Altos School District serves the elementary and intermediate educational needs of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View and Palo Alto, United States.
Moffett Field Ames Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Major NASA research center at Moffett Federal Airfield in California's Silicon Valley.
National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Scientific and regulatory agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Pacheco Pass Water District	Neighboring communities.	Independent special water district.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and neighboring communities.	One of the largest combination natural gas and electric utilities in the United States.
Purissima Hills Water District	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Purissima Hills Water District serves roughly two-thirds of Los Altos Hills, consisting mostly of residential customers.
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Provides government regulatory services related to water pollution and control.
Rotating Safe Car Park	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and neighboring communities.	Allows for temporary overnight parking for homeless individuals or families living out of their cars as a safe alternative to sleeping on the streets or in a homeless shelter.
San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and neighboring communities.	The agency works to address the cities' flooding, environmental and recreational concerns.
San José Water	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	An investor-owned public utility.
Santa Clara County CERT	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.	Trains residents to prepare for and respond to life-threatening events in their community.
Santa Clara County FireSafe Council	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.	A nonprofit, grassroots organization that provides education and project assistance for homeowners.
Santa Clara County Local Oversight Program	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Program to oversee assessment and mitigation of contaminated sites to protect groundwater resources, human health, safety, and the environment.
Santa Clara County Parks	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and neighboring communities.	Provide, protect, and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment and education.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Santa Clara County Planning & Development	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and neighboring communities.	Plays a key role in supporting economic development and ensuring opportunities for the public to participate in land development.
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and neighboring communities.	A local law enforcement agency that serves Santa Clara County, California.
Santa Clara University	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	A private Jesuit university in Santa Clara, California.
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Neighboring communities.	An independent special district in Santa Clara County.
St. Louise Hospital (Santa Clara County Hospital System)	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.	Community hospital.
Stanford Healthcare	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and neighboring communities.	Multispecialty clinic that provides convenient access to advanced, specialty care in the South Bay.
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Empowers individuals who are blind or visually impaired to embrace life to the fullest through evaluation, counseling, education, and training.
Westwind Barn	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	State-of-the-art horse boarding and training facility.
County of Santa Clara	Neighboring jurisdiction, local agency involved in hazard mitigation.	Response for engaging the whole community in assessing needs and developing strategies to achieve stronger mitigation capabilities within the Santa Clara County Operational Area.
City of Campbell	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Cupertino	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of Gilroy	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
Town of Los Altos Hills	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
Town of Los Gatos	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Milpitas	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Morgan Hill	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Mountain View	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Palo Alto	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
City of San José	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of Santa Clara	Neighboring communities.	A city near San Jose, in California's Silicon Valley.
City of Saratoga	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of Sunnyvale	Neighboring communities.	Located in the Santa Clara Valley.
Santa Clara County Fire Department	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and neighboring communities.	A California Fire Protection District serving Santa Clara County.
Santa Clara Valley Water District	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and neighboring communities.	Provides stream stewardship, wholesale water supply, and flood protection for Santa Clara County, California.

The City supported a "whole community" approach to this plan update. Neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as businesses, academia, and other private and nonprofit interests were invited to be involved in the planning process by participating in planning meetings, public meetings, or reviewing the draft plan. In addition to the wide variety of stakeholders identified by the County, other stakeholders the City of Los Altos recommended including included the Los Altos School District, Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, Resilient Los Altos, LA Chamber of Commerce, and Los Altos Village Association. Additional stakeholders that were able to participate are included in Volume 1 of this plan.

4.1.1. Public Outreach and Engagement

In addition to inviting a wide range of stakeholders, the City supported public outreach and engagement through distributing a digital survey utilizing social media. This survey reached members of underserved populations, including primarily non-English speaking households. In addition, the MJHMP was discussed at two virtual and five in-person public meetings across Santa Clara County. These in-person meetings were targeted towards areas with socially vulnerably populations. These meetings were also designed to be accessible for AFN (access and functional needs) populations. The public was also provided the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. Examples of Los Altos outreach efforts are included in Figure 38 through Figure 40.

The participation of the City of Los Altos and its stakeholders helped inform the development of the MJHMP and this annex in accordance with current priorities. The new plan continues to expand upon the work of the prior plan including emphasizing partnerships both within jurisdictions and special districts as well as with external stakeholders. Further, there is an increased emphasis on climate change, reflecting the increased understanding of the risk this hazard poses to the OA. The City did not identify additional changes in priorities to be highlighted in their annex.

Public Safety Update with Los Altos Police



Join Los Altos Police on Wednesday, April 26, at 5 PM as they provide an update on the Military Equipment Use Policy, and discuss the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Community members are encouraged to share feedback on natural hazards and their impact during the discussion and on **Santa Clara County's Survey**.

Learn More

Figure 38: Los Altos Website Outreach



Figure 39: Los Altos Social Media Outreach

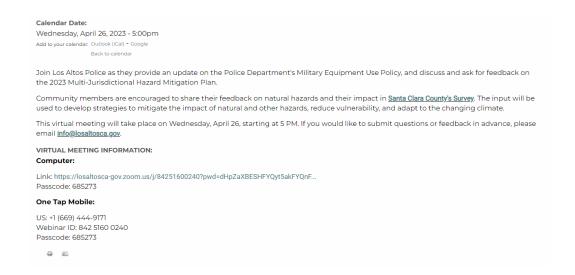


Figure 40: Los Altos Website Link to County Survey

4.2. Jurisdiction Profile

The following is a summary of key information about the jurisdiction and its history:

- Date of Incorporation: December 1, 1952
- **Current Population:** As of January 1, 2023, the California Department of Finance reported a population of 31,021.
- Population Growth: According to the California Department of Finance, the City of Los Altos has experienced a 0.8% decline in population between 2022 (31,257) and 2023 (31,021). However, the City has experienced a steady incline in the population over the last decade. The U.S. Census Bureau reports a population of 28,976 in 2010, and 31,467 in 2020.
- Location and Description: The City of Los Altos is a small city located in the northwestern region of Santa Clara County, California. Los Altos is bordered by Palo Alto and Mountain View to the north, with Sunnyvale and Cupertino to the south. Los Altos strives to maintain a semi-rural atmosphere where most streets do not have curbs, gutters, or sidewalks. The civic center is situated in the center of an apricot orchard, a remnant of those that once covered the area. Lot sizes for most single-family homes in the City are fairly large at more than a quarter of an acre in area. Since the mid-1990s, Downtown Los Altos has experienced mild economic difficulties due to competition from nearby regional shopping centers and chain stores. The City Council has embarked on a planning process with the goal of identifying economic drivers and developing a cohesive vision based on extensive community input that will guide the Downtown's future.
- Brief History: The history of modern Los Altos dates back to 1906, when Paul Shoup, a Southern Pacific Railroad executive, formed the Altos Land Co. with friends. The group purchased 140 acres of land between Palo Alto and Mountain View owned by Sarah Winchester, the widow of the inventor of the Winchester rifle. The company planned a new town to serve the new Southern Pacific Railroad cutoff between Mayfield and Los Gatos and named it "Los Altos" (Spanish for "the heights") because the land was the highest on that cutoff.

In March 1907, at an outdoor land sale sponsored by the Altos Land Company, prospective buyers attended a promotional BBQ and purchased the first town lots. The site of the sale, near today's intersection of Foothill Expressway and Main Street, was the focal point of the new town. The town's name gradually spread informally to identify a much larger unincorporated area

served by the Los Altos School District formed in 1910, including what is today Los Altos Hills and portions of other neighboring towns.

This larger community's population exploded after World War II, and on December 1, 1952, an expanded Los Altos became the eleventh City in Santa Clara County. As a result of decreased interest in train travel due to the wide adoption of the automobile, the Southern Pacific Railroad, an essential part of the town's founding, ceased operation here in 1964, and its right-of-way became Foothill Expressway.

- Climate: With an average annual rainfall of 24.71 inches, the state of California gets 14.5 less inches of rain than the national average (39.17 inches). Los Altos has had an average rainfall of 39.28 inches over the last 30 years, which is 0.11 inches fewer than the average nationwide, and 59 percent more than the average in California. Average summertime temperatures range from a low of 57 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to a high of 79°F. Average wintertime temperatures range from a low of 38°F to a high of 58°F.
- Governing Body Format: The City of Los Altos is governed by a five-member City Council. The City consists of five departments: General Government (City Manager's Office), Community Development, Public Works, Recreation & Community Services and Police. The City currently has eleven Commissions and one Committee covering a variety of subject matters. The City Council assumes responsibility for the adoption of this plan; the City Manager will oversee its implementation.

4.3. Development Trends

The pace of development activity in the City of Los Altos is high and it is expected to remain at this level for the foreseeable future. Development is principally focused on the remodel or reconstruction of single-family dwellings on existing lots of record, as the City is nearly built-out and the subdivision of land to create new lots is a rare occurrence. The exception to this is for sites with a high-density zoning designation, where multiple family dwelling units are being developed with rental and condominium units. The Los Altos General Plan includes the Housing Element, which was updated and adopted in 2023. This element addresses initiatives related to affordable housing, updating existing structures in accordance with new zoning regulations, and supports other developmental goals. It is stated that the City expects to add 2,000 new units by the year 2031. All City actions relating to land use development, annexations, zoning, subdivision and design review, redevelopment, and capital improvements, must be consistent with the City's General Plan. Future growth and development in the City will be guided and managed by the goals, policies, and programs contained in the General Plan.

The City of Los Altos has increased its population since the previous plan was developed, thereby increasing its vulnerability to flooding. Los Altos has and will continue to monitor the vulnerability of its population through the hiring of an Emergency Manager, continuing to participate in identifying additional actions to reduce flood risk, evaluate areas for flood insurance penetration, and determine if there are any high-risk or vulnerable areas with limited coverage; additionally, they will continue to monitor future events.

<u>Table 56</u> summarizes development trends in the performance period since the development of the previous hazard mitigation plan and expected future development trends.

Table 56: Recent and Expected Future Development Trends

Criterion	Response
Has your jurisdiction annexed any land since the development of the previous hazard mitigation plan? If yes, give the estimated area annexed and estimated number of parcels or structures.	No
Is your jurisdiction expected to annex any areas during the performance period of this plan? If yes, please describe land areas and dominant uses. If yes, who currently has permitting authority over these areas?	No
Are any areas targeted for development or major redevelopment in the next five years? • If yes, please briefly describe, including whether any of the areas are in known hazard risk areas.	 Yes, the City's recently adopted Housing Element plans for the development of approximately 2,000 new units by 2031 and includes the provisions for rezonings and/or zoning code amendments to existing zoning districts to accommodate this planned growth. The main anticipated areas of residential growth, other than the continued growth of the number of ADUs on existing single-family sites, are along El Camino Real, in the Downtown and surrounding commercial areas, Loyola Corners, and underutilized shopping center sites such as the Rancho Shopping Center. Several residential sites in the hillside area of the City lie within areas with geologic and seismic zones, so any development there will have seismic risks. However, no major development would be allowed in the foothills area. The City strictly enforces Building Code seismic safety restrictions for all types of construction. For residential sites within earthquake fault zone areas, soil reports are required as a part of the development approval process. Although the entire City is subject to moderate to severe earth movement during a seismic event, standard engineering solutions to mitigate these conditions are enforced. All new developments and redevelopments in the City are subject to the requirements of California Building codes, including seismic retrofitting and upgrades. Sites identified in the City's Housing Element for future housing developments also have similar building code and seismic requirements. Portions of the four creeks flowing through Los Altos have been channelized to increase the capacity of the creeks to reduce flooding and to permit development of the flood plain. Further channelization is not recommended for any of the creeks in Los Altos because of the conflict with preservation of natural resources. Adobe Creek is the most flood-prone of Los Altos creeks. In accordance with the adopted watercourse protection regulations, special setbacks are required, and development

Criterion			Res	ponse			
	restrictions applied along Adobe Creek from Shoup Park to O'Keefe Lane. • Wildland fire hazards are not a major concern in Los Altos because the community is urbanized and most of the natural vegetation is isolated in small areas. Urban fire hazards in Los Altos are concentrated primarily in dense non-residential areas with limited landscape and separation between structures.						
How many building permits		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
were issued in your jurisdiction since the development of the previous hazard mitigation plan?	Total Number of Permits 1,809 1,902 1,879 1,667 1,961 1,840						
Please provide the number of permits for each hazard area or provide a qualitative description of where development has occurred.	 For hazards with a clearly defined extent and location, the City cannot estimate development impacts. However, most development occurs outside of flood hazard areas. Many properties are subject to flooding; however, their structures typically rest outside of the floodplain, except for Creekside properties that are subject to periodic flooding. For hazards with impacts citywide, it is safe to assume that new development could be subject to impacts from hazards. However, it is important to note that all new development was subject to regulatory requirements. The City is principally built out, and new development is infill development on underutilized sites. 			y res side hat new			
Please describe the level of buildout in the jurisdiction, based on your jurisdiction's buildable lands inventory. If no such inventory exists, provide a qualitative description.							

4.4. Capability Assessment

4.4.1. Resources for the 2023 Planning Initiative

The following technical reports, plans, and regulatory mechanisms were reviewed to provide information for inclusion into the 2023 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for both Volume 1 and Volume 2 (City of Los Altos Annex). All the below items were additionally reviewed as part of the full capability assessment for the City of Los Altos.

- City of Los Altos General Plan: The General Plan, including the Land Use and Safety Elements, were reviewed for information regarding goals and policies consistent with hazard mitigation for carry over as goals and objectives.
- City of Los Altos Municipal Code: The Municipal Code was reviewed for the full capability assessment and for identifying opportunities for action plan integration.
- Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance: The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was reviewed for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Capital Improvements Plan: The Capital Improvements Plan was reviewed to identify crossplanning initiatives for inclusion as mitigation projects. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is the County's flood control agency and is responsible for larger scale flood control

improvement projects. The City's Capital Improvements Plan includes an annual stormwater improvement project to address localized flooding issues.

• City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan (EOP): The EOP was reviewed for compliance with Federal, State, and local directives.

4.4.2. Full Capability Assessment

An assessment of legal and regulatory capabilities is presented in <u>Table 57</u> and <u>Table 58</u> and <u>Table 58</u>. An assessment of fiscal capabilities is presented in <u>Table 59</u> and technical capabilities is presented in <u>Table 60</u> An assessment of administrative and technical capabilities is presented in <u>Table 61</u> Information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance is presented in <u>Table 62</u> An assessment of education and outreach capabilities is presented in <u>Table 63</u> Classifications under various community mitigation programs are presented in <u>Table 64</u> Development and permitting capabilities are presented in <u>Table 64</u> Development and permitting capabilities are presented in <u>Table 65</u> and the community's adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community's adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community is adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community is adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community is adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community is adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community is adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u> and the community is adaptive capacity for the impact of climate change is presented in <u>Table 66</u>.

Table 57: Legal and Regulatory Capabilities: Codes, Ordinances, and Requirements

Legal and Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?		
Building Code	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
Comment: Chap 2016), County Fi		2.68 of the Los Altos N	Municipal Code (LA	MC), (revised Nov. 8,		
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Comment: Chap	ter 14 of the LAMC	(revised Nov. 8, 2016), California Plannii	ng and Zoning Code		
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Comment: Chap	ter 13 of the LAMC	(revised Jan. 25, 201	1), Subdivision Map	Act		
Stormwater Management Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Comment: Storr	nwater Master Plan	(adopted April 26, 201	16)			
Other Natural Hazard- Specific Ordinances	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Comment: Floor	d Damage Prevention	on, Chapter 12 of the L	AMC			
Post-Disaster Recovery	No	No	No	No		
Comment: City of	Comment: City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan (LAMC 2.28 – Emergency Plan)					
Real Estate Disclosure	No	No	Yes	Yes		
Comment: California Civil Code §1102 et seq.						

Legal and Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?		
Growth Management	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Comment: Califo	ornia Government C	Code §65300 et seq.				
Site Plan Review	Yes	No	No	No		
Comment: Chap	oter 14 of the LAMC					
Environmental Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
	•	adopted Nov. 2002), (ea Air Quality Manage		ept. of Fish and Game,		
Flood Damage Prevention	Yes	Yes	No	No		
	oter 12.60 of the LAI ent of Homeland Se		surance Program (r	evised March 24, 2009),		
Emergency Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
Comment: City of 22, 1987	of Los Altos Emerge	ency Operations Plan (LAMC 2.28 – Emer	rgency Plan, adopted Oct.		
Climate Change	Yes	No	Yes	No		
	Comment: Los Altos Climate Action Plan, State Initiative to protect climate & reduce emissions; California SB-379: Land Use: General Plan: Safety Element					
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	No	No	Yes		
Comment: Chapter 13.24 of the LAMC						

Table 58: Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Capabilities

Planning, Legal, or Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
General Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is the plan compliant with Assembly Bill 2140? Yes				
Comment: Los Altos General Plan 2002-2020, November 2002				
Capital Improvement Plan Yes No Yes Maybe				
How often is the plan updated? Biannually				
Comment: The 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program was adopted by the City.				

Planning, Legal, or Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Floodplain or Watershed Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe
Comment: Santa Clara Valley Water District				
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment: Stormwater Master Plan (adopted	2016)			
Urban Water Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Comment: NPDES Permit, Regional Water Qu	uality Control	Board Permit		
Habitat Conservation Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None identified				
Green Infrastructure Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Comment: Green Stormwater Infrastructure P	lan			
Parks or Open Space Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None Identified				
Economic Development Plan	Yes	No	No	No
Comment: Los Altos General Plan Economic I	Developmen	t Element (adop	oted 2002)	
Transportation Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None Identified				
Shoreline Management Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None Identified				
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None Identified				
Forest Management Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None Identified				
Climate Action Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No
Comment: Los Altos Climate Action Plan, Dec	ember 2013			
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: None Identified				
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Comment: City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan (LAMC 2.28 – Emergency Plan, adopted Oct. 22, 1987)				
Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)	Yes	No	No	No
Comment: City of Los Altos Emergency Opera 22, 1987)	Comment: City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan (LAMC 2.28 – Emergency Plan, adopted Oct. 22, 1987)			
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	Yes	Yes	No	No
Comment: City of Los Altos Emergency Operations Plan (LAMC 2.28 – Emergency Plan, adopted Oct. 22, 1987), Gov't Code: 8642-8644				
==, ::::,, ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::				

Planning, Legal, or Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Comment: Agility Recovery Continuity of Operations Planning & Recovery – Bridging the gap between disaster and the Agency (City of Los Altos)				
Public Health Plan	No	Yes	No	No
Comment: Santa Clara County Public Health Strategic Plan				
Other:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Comment: N/A				

Table 59: Financial Capabilities

Financial Capability	Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation activities?	Has the funding resource been used in the past for mitigation activities? If yes, for what type of mitigation activities?
Community Development Block Grants	Yes	No
Other Federal Funding Programs	No	No
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes	 Yes, the City is currently designing a new EOC that should be completed by 2024. The City annually conducts road maintenance to enable reliable access for emergency vehicles and evacuation routes. The City has plans to budget for updating emergency generators at city hall and the maintenance yard and to install battery backup generation at every traffic signal.
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Yes – Subject to voter approval	Unknown
User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Services	Yes	Unknown
Stormwater Utility Fee	Yes	No
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	Yes	Unknown
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	Yes	Unknown
Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	Yes	Unknown
Withhold Public Expenditures in Hazard-Prone Areas	Yes	Unknown
State Funding Programs	Yes	Unknown

Financial Capability	Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation activities?	Has the funding resource been used in the past for mitigation activities? If yes, for what type of mitigation activities?
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	Yes	Yes, only for capital improvements and if there is a nexus to the growth. Examples might include additional fire department structures for staff needed to serve new population/buildings, or new transportation infrastructure to ensure evacuation/safety access if growth exceeds existing transportation capacity.
Public or Private Partnership Funding Sources	Yes	No

Table 60: Staffing Capabilities

Staffing Capability	Have Capability?	Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations?	Is staff trained on natural hazards and mitigation?
Chief Building Official	 Yes Full Time Department of Development Services, Building Division Chief Building Official and Building Inspectors 	Yes	Yes
Parks and Recreation Director	YesFull TimeDepartment of Parks and Recreation	Yes	Yes
Emergency Manager	NoPosition VacantPolice Department	N/A	N/A
Community Planner	YesFull TimeDevelopment Services Department	Yes	Yes
Civil Engineer	 Yes Full Time Public Works Department and Community Development Department – Building Division 	No	No

Staffing Capability	Have Capability?	Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations?	Is staff trained on natural hazards and mitigation?
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	 Yes Full Time Public Works Department and Community Development Department - Building Division 	Unknown	Unknown
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	 Yes Full Time Community Development Department, City of Los Altos, Senior Staff 	Unknown	Unknown
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	 Yes Full Time Community Development Department, City of Los Altos, Senior Staff 	Unknown	Unknown
Surveyors	YesFull TimePublic Works On-Call	Unknown	Unknown
GIS Coordinator or personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	 Yes Full Time Public Works Department, Community Development Department, City of Los Altos, Senior Staff 	Unknown	Unknown
Public Works Director	 Yes Full Time Development Services Department and Public Works Department 	Unknown	Unknown
Fire Chief	 Yes The City contracts with the Santa Clara County Fire District for Fire and Medical services. 	Yes	Yes
Environmental Director	No	N/A	N/A

Staffing Capability	Have Capability?	Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations?	Is staff trained on natural hazards and mitigation?
Staff with training in benefit/cost analysis	 Yes Full Time Public Works Department, Community Development Department, City of Los Altos, Senior Staff 	Unknown	Unknown
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area	No	N/A	N/A

Table 61: Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Administrative or Technical Capability	Have Capability?	Has the capability been used to assess or mitigate risk in the past? If yes, what type of hazard event?
Maintenance programs to reduce risk	Yes	Yes, All Hazards
Mutual aid agreements	Yes	The Santa Clara County Fire Department has the ability to deploy as a single resource or as a crew when requests for mutual aid are received.
Hazard data and information	No	N/A
Hazus analysis or GIS software	Yes	Yes, All Hazards
Grant writing	Yes – City Staff or Contracting with Consultants	No
Does your jurisdiction have any established warning systems or services for hazard events?	Yes	Yes, AlertSCC. Alerts are sent directly to your mobile device, landline, and or email. Alerts for fire, earthquake, Heavy rain, heavy winds, extreme temperaturescrime, and instructions during a disaster.

Table 62: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Compliance

Topic	Response
What department in your jurisdiction is responsible for floodplain management?	Public Works/Community Development Department
Who acts as your jurisdiction's floodplain administrator?	Planning Division, Planning Services Manager – Advance Planning

Topic	Response
Is the floodplain administrator or NFIP Coordinator certified?	No
Is floodplain management an auxiliary function in your jurisdiction?	No
What is the date of adoption of your flood damage prevention ordinance?	March 14, 1988, revised March 30, 2009 Effective FIRMs dated 5/18/2009 adopted automatically as a part of the City's municipal code Chapter 12.60 – Floodplain Management
Provide an explanation of the permitting process for development within the floodplain.	Refer to City Code, Chapter 12.60, Article 4
Does your floodplain management program meet or exceed minimum requirements?	Yes
How are the substantial improvement/substantial damage provisions implemented?	The Floodplain Administrator in coordination with the Building Official is authorized to conduct inspections and document determinations of substantial improvement and substantial damage. In addition to physical inspections, the permit review process can be used to track potential substantially improved/substantially damaged structures. The Floodplain Administrator is responsible for reviewing all development permits.
When did your jurisdiction enter the NFIP?	July 16, 1980
Is your jurisdiction in good standing with the NFIP?	Yes
Are the jurisdiction's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital, paper, or both?	Digital
Explanation of NFIP administration services within your jurisdiction.	Permit review in accordance with City Code, Chapter 12.60, Article 4 and NFIP standard; public education and outreach; documented elevation certificates
Barriers to running an effective NFIP program in your jurisdiction.	No known barriers
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?	8/11/16
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?	No
Does your jurisdiction have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations that need to be addressed?	No
Do your flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within your jurisdiction?	Yes
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program?	No
Does your jurisdiction participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)?	Yes – currently class 8

Topic	Response
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within your jurisdiction?	In 10% annual chance flood hazard area: 23 In 1% annual chance flood hazard area: 77 In 0.2% annual chance flood hazard area: 10,332
How many flood insurance policies are in force in your jurisdiction? • What is the insurance in force? • What is the premium in force?	101 policies in force \$31,769,400 insurance in force \$79,333 premium in force
Areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage.	Unknown
 How many total loss claims have been filed in your jurisdiction? How many claims were closed without payment or are still open? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many claims were for substantial damage? 	13 total loss claims have been filed. \$5,896 total payments for losses.
How NFIP compliance will be continued during the next 5 years.	Unknown

Table 63: Education and Outreach Capabilities

Education or Outreach Capability	Response	How does the personnel, program, or organization relate to disaster resilience and mitigation?	Could the personnel, program, or organization help implement future mitigation activities?
Does your jurisdiction have a Public Information Officer or Communications Office?	Yes, Public Information Officer	The PIO can directly communicate hazard and safety related information with the public and surrounding jurisdictions.	Yes
Does your jurisdiction have personnel skilled or trained in website development?	Yes	Websites can be developed to present hazard, preparedness, and other disaster related information.	Yes
Does your jurisdiction have hazard mitigation information available on your website?	Yes	The City of Los Altos Flood Zone information webpage contains links to the FEMA and SCVWD website.	Yes
Does your jurisdiction utilize social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach?	Yes	Nixle, Nextdoor, Facebook, and the City's website are used to build resilience through hazard awareness and other education campaigns.	Yes

Education or Outreach Capability	Response	How does the personnel, program, or organization relate to disaster resilience and mitigation?	Could the personnel, program, or organization help implement future mitigation activities?
Does your jurisdiction have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your jurisdiction have any ongoing public education or information programs that could be used to communicate hazard-related information?	Yes	The Los Altos website provides preparedness information.	Yes
Does your jurisdiction have local citizen groups or nonprofit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, and/or underserved populations?	Yes	CERT groups respond to disasters in the community.	Yes
Does your jurisdiction have natural disaster or safety related school programs?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your jurisdiction have public/private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	No	N/A	N/A

Table 64: Community Classifications

	Participating?	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System	Yes	8	September 14, 2014
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule	Yes	Pending	Pending
Insurance Services Office (ISO) Fire Rating	No	N/A	N/A
National Weather Service StormReady Program®	No	N/A	N/A
Firewise USA® Program	No	N/A	N/A

Table 65: Development and Permitting Capabilities

Development or Permitting Capability	Response
Does your jurisdiction issue development permits?	Yes
• If no, who does? If yes, which department?	Community Development
Does your jurisdiction have the ability to track permits by hazard area?	No
Does your jurisdiction have a buildable lands inventory?	No

Table 66: Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change

Adaptive Capacity Assessment Question	Jurisdiction Rating					
Technical Capacity						
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	High					
Comment: The City's Sustainability Division in the Environmental Services (ESUD) works with the City's Environmental Commission to understand loc and implement the City's 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Assessment was completed as part of the CAAP. Los Altos is also a memb planning groups that tackle different mitigation and adaptation efforts.	al climate change issues . A Climate Vulnerability					
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	Medium					
Comment: The 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan includes a table of indicators (KPI) to measure progress for each Action Item. The City is not collimate change impacts.						
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	High					
Comment: Sustainability Division staff work with the Environmental Commentation Departments to implement actions within the CAAP. The City also hires conspecialized technical work. Staff have limited analysis tools to assess extending the commentation of the comment	nsultants to perform					
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	High					
Comment: The greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory was completed in 2018. GHG inventory every two years, per the Climate Action and Adaptation Plate.						
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	Medium					
Comment: The 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan established goals to incorporate climate preparedness and CAAP goals into City projects, programs, operations, and maintenance protocols. These action items are in progress.						
Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks	Medium					
Comment: The City participates in SVCE's Member Agency Working Ground Climate Collaborative, and ICLEI.	p, the Santa Clara County					

Adaptive Capacity Assessment Question	Jurisdiction Rating				
Implementation Capacity					
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	High				
Comment: CEQA regulations, Los Altos Climate Action Plan, Environment	al Commission, City Council				
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	High				
Comment: The 2022 City of Los Altos Climate Action and Adaptation Plan reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, energy, waste, and					
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	High				
Comment: The 2022 City of Los Altos Climate Action and Adaptation Plan emergency management and community resilience.	includes strategies for				
Champions for climate action in local government departments	Medium				
Comment: The Sustainability Division leads the implementation of the CAP Environmental Commission (seven appointed members), Planning Division Division, and Public Works Department. The City does not currently have "departments.	, Building Division, Facilities				
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	Medium				
Comment: There is strong support from the Environmental Commission, G - local nonprofit), a portion of the community and support from City Council action items.					
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	Low				
Comment: The City Council can allocate funding for climate change adapted applies for grants from local groups such as SVCE and CALTRANS.	ation projects. The City also				
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	Low				
Comment: The Vulnerability Assessment identifies sectors likely to be important that affect certain sectors have authority over the electricity grid and water supply system, which are properties of the comment of the	ctors, but the City does not				
Public Capacity					
Local residents' knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	High				
Comment: Los Altos has a highly educated community, many of whom understand climate risks. Many of the City's high school students are also highly aware and educated on climate change. The local environmental group, GreenTown, has a robust and educational website and they host events, webinars, and workshops focused on various climate topics. The Environmental Commission is also a resource for residents and hosts an education webpage on the City's website.					
Local residents' support of adaptation efforts	High				
Comment: Capacity varies, the younger population is highly aware of the comore likely able to adapt to them depending on severity. More vulnerable make Seniors have a reduced capacity to adapt to climate impacts.					
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	High				
Comment: The State of California and Los Altos have a strong economy at resilience. The community would be able to adapt to minor to medium clima seasonally. However, more long-term impacts could take a toll on the local	ate impacts that occur				
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	High				

Adaptive Capacity Assessment Question

Jurisdiction Rating

Comment: The State of California and Los Altos have a strong economy and COVID taught more resilience. The community would be able to adapt to minor to medium climate impacts that occur seasonally. However, more long-term impacts could take a toll on the local businesses and economy.

Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate impacts

Medium

Comment: Extreme climate impacts like prolonged wildfires and drought would cause pressure on the local ecosystems, waterways, and tree canopy.

4.4.3. Opportunities to Expand Upon and Improve Existing Capabilities

The hazard mitigation planning process presented the opportunity for the community to discuss and evaluate their current capabilities however, building mitigation capabilities is an ongoing process. New capabilities can be added which will support mitigation. Current capabilities can also be enhanced to actively support mitigation and reduce risk. Significant efforts have been made to increase the capabilities of jurisdictions across the OA. By participating in this plan update, each community is reinforcing their support for mitigation and understanding of the capabilities they need to successfully implement mitigation measures. Actions that can expand and improve existing authorities, plans, policies, and resources for mitigation include:

- Developing a Climate Action Plan which incorporates hazard data and actions to adapt to a changing climate.
- Budgeting and passing policies and procedures for mitigation actions.
- Adopting and implementing stricter mitigation regulations.
- Approving the training of staff for mitigation activities.
- Approving mitigation updates to existing plans as new needs are recognized.
- Continuing to update plans as necessary to ensure they are current and reflect the needs of the community or special district.
- Further developing warning systems and messaging.
- Creating and implementing additional public education and outreach offerings and increasing the volume of translated materials.
- Ensuring grant opportunities are capitalized upon to meet mitigation goals.

Each type of the four FEMA-identified capabilities were evaluated, in addition to OA-priority capabilities like adaptive capacity. Gaps and limitations, if any, are discussed in the tables above. Additional jurisdiction-specific opportunities to expand on and improve capabilities for reducing risk include:

- Hire an emergency manager.
- Continue to participate in the Community Rating System and identify additional actions to both reduce flood risk and reduce flood insurance premiums.
- Evaluate areas for flood insurance penetration and determine if there are any high-risk or vulnerable areas with limited coverage.
- Collect hazard data and continue to monitor future events in order to show cost-effectiveness and identify additional mitigation actions needed.
- Consider participating in additional planning mechanisms that support hazard mitigation.

 Since the last plan update, multiple new grant programs that support mitigation measures have been established. FEMA's annual BRIC grant program funds a variety of mitigation actions, including infrastructure projects, nature-based solutions, climate adaptation, hazard resistant building codes, and projects benefitting disadvantaged communities.

4.5. Integration with Other Planning Initiatives

This section describes the process for integrating the hazard mitigation plan into local planning mechanisms.

4.5.1. Existing Integration

The following plans and programs currently integrate the goals, risk assessment and/or recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan:

- Emergency Operations Center Plan/Manual: The hazard mitigation plan is incorporated by reference. At the time of the next update, information obtained in the update of the hazard mitigation plan will be integrated into the Plan/Manual as appropriate.
- Los Altos General Plan, Natural Environment and Hazards Element: Provides background data and the City's Goals, Policies and Programs to address and mitigate natural hazards. This Element of the General Plan includes Program NEH 16: that calls for the preparation and maintenance of an Emergency Preparedness Plan. At the time of the next update, information obtained in the update of the hazard mitigation plan will be integrated into the Plan/Manual as appropriate.
- Capital Improvements Plan: The Capital Improvements Plan was reviewed to identify crossplanning initiatives for inclusion as mitigation projects.

4.5.2. Opportunities for Future Integration

The following plans and programs do not currently integrate the goals, risk assessment and/or recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan, but provide an opportunity for future integration:

- Capital Improvement Plan: The city's 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Program will be updated before the next MJHMP update. Information from this plan that could be incorporation into the Capital Improvement Plan include an understanding of the high-risk areas and mitigation goals and actions designed to reduce risk.
- Legal and Regulatory Capabilities: Those capabilities identified as providing an integration opportunity in <u>Table 57Table 57</u> and <u>Table 58Table 58</u> will be reviewed and updated to include information on hazard risk reduction as feasible and appropriate.

Like other jurisdictions within this MJHMP update, Los Altos has a Planning Division which is responsible for the development and administration of programs to guide the physical development of Los Altos. The Planning Division is located within the Development Services Department. Both Planning and Development Services representatives participated in this plan update. The Local Planning Team will be responsible for ensuring this plan is integrated into other planning mechanisms as possible.

4.6. Jurisdiction-Specific Natural Hazard Event History

Table 67 Table 67 lists all past occurrences of natural hazards within the jurisdiction.

Table 67: Natural Hazard Events

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR-3592	3/10/23	Not available
California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR-4683	1/14/23	Not available
California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, and Mudslides	DR-3591	1/9/23	Not available
Wildfires	DR-4558	8/22/20	Not available
Wildfire – SCU Lightning Complex Fire	DR-5338	8/21/20	Not available
California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Mudslides	DR-4308	4/1/17	Not available
Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, and Mudslides	DR-4301	2/14/17	Not available
Wildfires	DR-3287	6/28/2008	Not available
Summit Fire	DR-2766	5/22/2008	Not available
Croy Fire	FS-2465	9/23/2002	Not available
Tornado	N/A	5/05/1998	\$300,000
Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	2/2/1998	Not available
Severe Storms, Flooding, Mud and Landslides	DR-1155	12/28/1996	Not available
Severe Winter Storms, Flooding Landslides, Mud Flow	DR-1046	2/13/1995	Not available
Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, Mud Flows	DR-1044	1/3/1995	Not available
Severe Freeze	DR-894	12/19/1990	Not available
Loma Prieta Earthquake	DR-845	10/17/1989	Not available
Severe Storms & Flooding	DR-758	2/12/1986	Not available
Grass, Wildlands, & Forest Fires	DR-739	6/26/1985	Not available

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Coastal Storms, Floods, Slides & Tornadoes	DR-677	1/21/1983	Not available
Severe Storms, Flood, Mudslides & High Tide	DR-651	12/19/1981	Not available
Drought	EM-3023	1/20/1977	Not available

4.7. Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

- Hazus loss estimates for a 100-year probabilistic earthquake total \$516 million, or 4.75% of the total replacement value. The three fault-based scenarios estimate losses between \$430 and \$460 million. Although the Hazus model does not project direct population impacts at the city level, it can be inferred that the population will be affected by disruptions to essential services and utilities, experience displacement from their homes, and incur possible physical injuries or death. The Hazus model also did not include damage estimates for specific critical facilities. However, it is estimated that a significant percentage of essential facilities, transportation, and utility structures will receive at least moderate damage (see Table 34 in Volume 1).
- The City has not completed a recent earthquake vulnerability assessment and does not have a mandatory retrofit policy in place. In general, buildings with a higher collapse potential include residential and commercial buildings constructed prior to 1990 that have not had seismic retrofits. Los Altos also includes areas of higher liquefaction potential near creeks. There is concern that these older buildings may include higher proportions of vulnerable populations, such as lower-income households.
- 9.5% of the population of Los Altos are within wildfire risk areas, which is lower than much of the OA. Over \$700 million of buildings and contents are exposed to wildfire hazard. Risk is concentrated around riparian corridors and the edges of the town boundary closer to foothills near Hwy 280. Because a relatively small area is at risk to wildfire, the impacted area is likely to be relatively small. However, the entire area could be impacted by poor air quality from a large wildfire in nearby areas. Poor air quality can have widespread health impacts, particularly to those with chronic underlying health conditions, pregnant women, children, and people over 65 years of age. Climate change can contribute to extreme heat and prolonged drought, which subsequently increase the risk of severe wildfires. No critical facilities are believed to be at high risk to wildfire.
- Los Altos' primary vulnerability related to wildfire is poor air quality due to neighboring wildfire
 events. Vulnerable populations, including seniors, children, unhoused populations, outdoor
 workers, and people with existing respiratory conditions, are more susceptible to health impacts
 from wildfire smoke. Areas near the foothills are part of the wildland-urban interface and are at
 greater risk of exposure to wildfires.
- 3,242 residents of Los Altos are located in the dam inundation area from Stevens Creek Dam. Dam failure can result from structure deterioration, overtopping from heavy precipitation, or from an earthquake. As shown in Volume 1, Figure 59, this is primarily in the southeast area of the city. One school and a bridge on Fremont Avenue are within the inundation boundary. Dam failure can cause extensive damage to structures and can cause injury or death to those caught in the resulting floodwaters. The distance of the dam from the city would not allow residents much warning time to evacuate in the event of a sudden failure. Vulnerabilities include potential flooding, property damage, and loss of life in populated areas downstream of Stevens Creek Dam in the case of dam failure. Areas at risk of inundation primarily include residences, schools, churches, and parks.

- 3.4% of the city population are in high landslide hazard areas. Similarly, 3.4% of the structural value in the city is vulnerable to landslides. The risk is primarily along the foothills at the southern border of the city near Hwy 280 and along stream banks such as Stephens Creek and Permanente Creek. However, Los Altos rated risk to landslide as very low and did not choose to select a landslide-specific mitigation action as a result of low risk.
- Hazus model results indicate relatively low potential losses to flooding in Los Altos, totaling \$2.2 million and no population directly impacted for a 1% annual chance flood. However, damage from localized flooding is still a possibility from heavy rain/atmospheric rivers. The FEMA SFHA for .02% flood covers much of the city, so although Hazus did not project large dollar losses from flood damage, flood risk is still present. Hazus did not project damage to the critical facilities in Los Altos, but it should be noted that because of the widespread area of the city in the .02% SFHA there may still be flood risk to these facilities. The city could benefit from additional study to better understand areas of flood risk from riverine flooding and heavy precipitation events.
- The City's greatest vulnerabilities are extreme heat, drought, and wildfires which can negatively impact community health and resources such as air quality, water availability, shelter, outdoor labor, utility assets, and biodiversity. Additionally, increases in the intensity of storms causing extreme precipitation, flooding, and high winds that cause trees to fall and power outages is a growing vulnerability as a result of climate change. The City does not have financial resources to implement stormwater infrastructure to prevent or lessen flooding risk or even maintain or rehabilitate most of the existing stormwater infrastructure. Recently, this vulnerability has resulted in increased demand from City safety crews working in emergency response.
- Wildfire risks and potable water supply availability are of great concern in relation to drought.
 These risks are expected to increase with continued climate change.
- The Emergency Operations Center needs replacement.
- Some utilities are aboveground and subject to outage resulting from natural hazard events such
 as high wind and heavy rain. Power outages can be harmful to human health if it occurs during
 periods of extreme heat or extreme cold. It can disrupt essential services and can also have
 economic impacts from business interruption or closure.
- Impacts from inclement weather such as heavy rain, hail, and wind are likely to be very similar across the OA. Individual events may impact only limited areas, but the entire OA is at risk to similar conditions. Heavy rain may cause localized flooding on roadways and low-lying areas which may disrupt transportation for the general public and can also delay emergency response. Heavy rain can also have cascading impacts on landslide potential or strain the capacity of dams. High winds can disrupt power, communication and other services and cause damage to structures. Extreme heat or cold can be harmful to health, particularly to those without access to housing with adequate warming and cooling systems, outdoor workers, or others participating in outdoor events.
- Because of the variable nature of severe weather events, it is not well understood how critical
 facilities and vulnerable populations might be impacted. In particular, the city lacks information on
 areas where extreme heat is a concern. This may become a more significant problem in the
 future due to ongoing climate change. Nature-based solutions may be suitable to address heat or
 other risks in Los Altos.
- There are four creeks that run through Los Altos: Adobe Creek, Hale Creek, Permanente Creek, and Stevens Creek. In addition, there is the by-pass near Blach School that carries overflow from Permanente Creek to Stevens Creek. During heavy rain, stormwater flows naturally and through conveyance infrastructure to the creeks, and eventually to the San Francisco Bay. However, during periods of heavy storms, the amount of water flowing to the creeks can be too much to be contained within the creek banks and cause flooding. Most flooding is limited to properties closer to creek areas; however, shallow flooding has occurred in areas throughout the City, including streets that do not have sufficient funding for necessary storm infrastructure upgrades and rehabilitation. Lack of consistent and dedicated stormwater infrastructure and Operation &

Maintenance funding (discussed further in Volume 1, Section 13) leaves some communities more vulnerable to flooding, as these conveyance systems can't be properly maintained to function as intended.

- Storm drain improvements in the City of Los Altos do not have a dedicated funding source. The
 City sought the creation of a dedicated funding source through the Clean Water and Sustainable
 Storm Drain ballot initiative in 2019. The City proposed a Storm Drainage Fee to fund stormwater
 improvements, but the ballot did not pass. Therefore, there is no funding to perform the storm
 drain improvements throughout the City.
- During the heavy winter storm of 2022-2023, there were severe drainage issues happening
 throughout the City. Heavy rain events caused inland flooding. However, the City was not able to
 address these issues due to lack of funding appropriated for stormwater issues. With no
 dedicated funding source, storm infrastructure cannot be maintained or rehabilitated which leads
 to dilapidated culverts and outfalls that can either be corroded, broken, or plugged with sediment.
 These issues can cause unwanted infiltration and underutilization of storm pipes leading to
 flooding.
- Drought is a hazard that has similar conditions over broad areas. It is anticipated that the impacts of drought will be consistent across the OA. Drought is also expected to become more frequent and possibly more severe in the future due to climate change. Drought impacts vegetation and can make it more vulnerable to disease and wildfire. Extended drought may necessitate limits on landscape irrigation or higher costs for irrigation, which can have economic impacts. Although agriculture is not a primary economic sector in Los Altos or the OA, drought can have severe negative impacts on growth of crops and gardens. Preserving the water supply for the long-term via conservation, recycling, or other methods is critical to the city.
- Los Altos has no direct tsunami risk, so tsunami is not profiled in this annex. Some regional
 transportation or utility services have potential to be disrupted which may have indirect impacts
 on residents.

Repetitive loss records are as follows:

- Number of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-identified Repetitive-Loss Properties (RL): 0
- Number of FEMA-identified Severe-Repetitive-Loss (SRL) Properties: 0
- Number of RL Properties or SRL Properties that have been mitigated: 0

4.7.1. Social Vulnerability

<u>Figure 41 Figure 41</u> shows the social vulnerability of Los Altos. Most of the community has relatively low vulnerability. Based on social characteristics, people in Los Altos will be comparatively resilient to the impacts of natural hazards. SVI data is aggregated by census tract and is not able to be used to identify all persons who may have unique vulnerabilities to individual hazard areas. Educational outreach to inform all residents of their risks and appropriate actions to reduce their risk is needed.

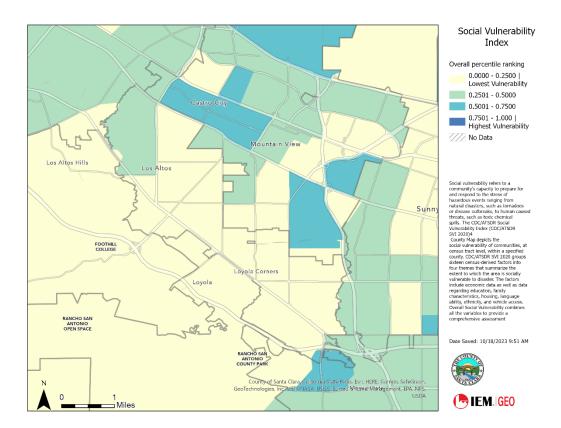


Figure 41: Los Altos Social Vulnerability

4.8. Hazard Risk Index

<u>Table 68 Table 68</u> presents the hazards of concern from highest risk index number to lowest, as assigned by the City of Los Altos.

Table 68: Hazard Risk Index

Hazard	Probability	Life Impact	Property Impact	Percentage of Area Impacted	Maximum Probable Extent
Drought	Highly Likely	Limited	Limited	Extensive	Moderate
Earthquake	Likely	Critical	Critical	Significant	Major
Heavy Rain / Atmospheric River	Highly Likely	Critical	Limited	Significant	Moderate
Extreme Heat	Likely	Minor	Minor	Significant	Moderate
High Wind	Occasional	Minor	Limited	Minimal	Moderate
Climate Change	Highly Likely	Minor	Critical	Significant	Major
Wildfire/Smoke/Air Quality	Highly Likely	Critical	Limited	Minimal	Moderate
Dam/Levee Failure	Unlikely	Critical	Limited	Negligible	Weak
Flood	Occasional	Minor	Limited	Minimal	Moderate

Hazard	Probability	Life Impact	Property Impact	Percentage of Area Impacted	Maximum Probable Extent
Landslide/Mass Movement	Unlikely	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Weak

Table 69: Comparison of Los Altos Hazard Risk Score to Operational Area (OA)

Risk Score	Earth- quake	Dam/ Levee Failure	Heavy Rain	High Wind	Extreme Heat	Wildfire	Drought	Flood	Land- slide	Climate Change
Los Altos	2	0.95	2.05	1.25	1.15	1.95	1.8	0.65	0	1.6
OA	2.24	1.19	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.68	1.21	0.90	0.36	1.13

4.9. Future Needs to Better Understand Risk/Vulnerability

An earthquake vulnerability assessment is needed to identify buildings in need of retrofits. Other needs include updating the citywide flood risk assessment (CAAP Goal 6.1A), conducting a heat study and mapping (CAAP Goal 6.2A), conducting a social vulnerability assessment, including a socio-economic and demographic analysis of the City population, including residents, people who work in the City, and commuters who traverse the City on their way to or from other places, to help inform public messaging needs, including alert and warning messaging.

4.10. Status of Previous Plan Actions

Participants were asked to report the status of their mitigation actions listed in the previous plan as a part of this plan update. Where further information isn't provided, the answers are defined as follows:

- Completed work on this action is totally complete.
- Completed and ongoing work on this action is complete; however, it is an ongoing project that will continue to be implemented. An example is a public outreach campaign that was created and will continue to be implemented.
- In progress work on this action has begun and is in progress, but the action is not yet complete.
- Retain work on this action has not begun yet, the action is still relevant, and it should be in the 2023 MJHMP.
- No longer relevant Action item is no longer relevant due to reduce or eliminated risk, it no
 longer being feasible, there has been a change in jurisdictional or organizational priorities, or
 another reason as stated.

Unless specifically requested otherwise, only those actions listed as "retain" are incorporated into the 2023 action plan.

Table 70: Status of Action Items from the 2017 MJHMP

Action Item Number*	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Current Status and Comments
LA-1	Implement the adopted Stormwater Master Plan	Flood	In progress
LA-2	Continue to maintain good standing and compliance under the National Flood Insurance Program through enforcement of flood zone ordinance, cooperation with Santa Clara Valley Water District, participation in floodplain identification and mapping updates and continued public education	Flood	Completed and ongoing
LA-3	Improve/ replace the substandard Emergency Operation Center Replace substandard EOC by relocating to the Los Altos Community Center.	All Hazards	In progress
LA-4	Continue to work with PG&E on the City's Utility Undergrounding Program	Earthquake, Wildfire, Heavy Rain, Flood, Landslide	Completed and ongoing
LA-5	Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans and programs that dictate land use decisions within Los Altos	All Hazards	Completed and ongoing
LA-6	Develop a post-disaster recovery plan and a debris management plan	All Hazards	In progress
LA-7	Educate general public through the construction of a demonstration garden that showcases drought-tolerant landscaping and stormwater best management practices	Drought, Flood	Completed

Action Item Number*	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Current Status and Comments
LA-8	Incorporate modern security technology into critical facilities upgrade and new construction	Human-caused	In progress
LA-9	Conduct comprehensive police officer training pertaining to human- caused multi-casualty incidents. This training will incorporate a multi- disciplinary approach with police action and rescue operations	Human-caused	Completed and ongoing
LA-10	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas and prioritize those structures that have experienced repetitive losses	All Hazards	Retain
LA-11	Actively participate in the plan maintenance protocols outlined in Volume 1 of the hazard mitigation plan	All Hazards	Completed and ongoing

^{*} Number given to action item in 2017 Santa Clara County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan

4.11. Mitigation Successes

The City of Los Altos has taken steps to reduce its risk from hazards, particularly flooding, by implementing mitigation activities. Partnerships are key to the City's success. It takes a "Whole Community" approach to responding and recovering from significant emergencies and major disasters which includes the inclusion and integration of community partners, neighbors, and other stakeholders into all phases of emergency management. The Emergency Operations Plan indicates the mitigation actions that are available including:

- Building and Safety Codes
- Disaster/Fire/Flood Insurance
- Land Use Planning and Management
- Hazard Research and Analysis
- Land and Repetitive Loss Acquisition
- Monitoring and Inspection

- Public Outreach and Education
- Relocation
- Risk Mapping
- Safety Codes, Statutes, and Ordinances
- Tax Incentives and Disincentives
- Seismic Strengthening or Retrofitting

The Los Altos 2022 Climate Action & Adaptation Plan also addresses hazard mitigation through a strategic roadmap including strategies, goals and actions designed to help Los Altos be more resilient and carbon neutral. It recognizes the hazards Los Altos has recently faced including severe drought, heat

waves, and poor air quality due to wildfire and identifies additional mitigation actions the City can take in the future to reduce risk.



Figure 42: Relationship Between Mitigation and Adaptation Actions

One example of a project that will reduce risk in Los Altos is the Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project. This project is part of Valley Water's ongoing efforts to protect over 2,200 properties in Los Altos and Mountain View. Elements of this project include retrofitting floodwalls, channel widening, and adding a detention basin. Valley Water has submitted documentation to FEMA for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) in order to change the local flood map to reflect the impact of this project. The City of Los Altos has also implemented a number of green infrastructure projects and has a plan to conduct more. These projects include bioretention areas, rain gardens, and drainage and landscaping improvements around roadways in order to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater and runoff.

The City also supports education and outreach activities. Los Altos provides flood risk and floodplain management information for residents on its website. In addition, the City contacted residents living in the Special Flood Hazard Area to inform of their risk and options as a part of a national program to increase awareness of the possibility of flooding, reducing risk and preparing for floods, and responding to hazards and damage caused by floods.

4.12. Hazard Mitigation Action Plan and Evaluation of Recommended Actions

<u>Table 71 Table 71</u> lists the actions that make up the City of Los Altos hazard mitigation action plan. The maps in <u>Figure 43 Figure 43</u> through <u>Figure 50 Figure 50</u> present the City's critical infrastructure, facilities, and identified hazard risk areas.

Descriptions of the expected time frames for actions are provided below:

• Short term: 1-5 years

Medium term: 5–10 years

Long term: Over 10 years

Ongoing: Currently being funded and implemented under existing programs

The planning partners utilized the following criteria to prioritize action items into the categories of high, medium, or low.

- High Priority— A project that:
 - Meets multiple goals and objectives (i.e., multiple hazards);
 - Addresses multiple hazards;
 - Has benefits that exceed cost;
 - Has funding secured or is an ongoing project;
 - Meets eligibility requirements for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants;
 - Can be completed in the short term (1 to 5 years);
 - Addresses immediate short-term impacts of climate change;
 - Benefits underserved and/or socially vulnerable populations; AND
 - Considers the Multi-Benefit Criteria utilized by the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, including equity, long-term value, ecosystem benefit, community benefit, and crossjurisdictional alignment.
- Medium Priority— A project that:
 - Meets multiple goals and objectives;
 - Addresses multiple hazards;
 - Has benefits that exceed costs;
 - Has funding has not been secured, but that is grant eligible under Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants or other grant programs;
 - Project can be completed in the short term (1-5 years), once funding is secured. Medium priority projects will become high priority projects once funding is secured;
 - Addresses immediate short-term impacts of climate change;
 - Benefits underserved and/or socially vulnerable populations; AND
 - Considers the Multi-Benefit Criteria utilized by the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, including equity, long-term value, ecosystem benefit, community benefit, and crossjurisdictional alignment.
- Low Priority— A project that:
 - Will mitigate the risk of at least one hazard;
 - Has benefits that do not exceed the costs or are difficult to quantify:
 - Does not have secured funding;

- Is not eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding;
- Has a timeline for completion that is long term (greater than 5 years). Low priority projects may be eligible for other sources of grant funding from other programs;
- May address impacts of climate change;
- May benefit underserved and/or socially vulnerable populations; AND
- Considers the Multi-Benefit Criteria utilized by the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, including equity, long-term value, ecosystem benefit, community benefit, and crossjurisdictional alignment.

Table 71: City of Los Altos 2023 Action Items

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
LA-10*	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas and prioritize those structures that have experienced repetitive losses.	All Hazards	Public Works and Community Development	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre- Disaster Mitigation (PDM), (Flood Mitigation Assistance) FMA, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR)	Long-term	High
1	Create a COOP for City operations. This will include the 10 elements of a viable continuity plan: Essential Functions, Orders of Succession, Delegations of Authority, Continuity Facility, Continuity Communications, Records Management, Human Capital, Training/exercise Program, Devolution of Control and Direction, and Reconstitution Operations.	Climate Change, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Heavy Precipitation, Extreme Heat, High Wind, Wildfire	Emergency Management	General fund	Ongoing	High
2	Update citywide flood risk assessment.	Climate Change, Flood, Heavy rain, High Wind, Landslide	Environmental Services	General fund	Ongoing	Medium
3	Conduct a heat study and mapping project to identify areas of high risk and vulnerable assets.	Climate Change, Extreme Heat	Environmental Services	General fund	Ongoing	Medium

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
4	Implement and prioritize nature- based solutions to promote resilience in the community.	Flood, Heavy Precipitation, Extreme Heat, High Wind, Drought, Climate Change	Community Development/Environmental Services	General fund	Medium-term	Med
5	Work with the Wastewater Treatment Plant to implement upgrades to increase the amount of recycled water production and add desalination and treatment to provide a drought resilient, potable water supply.	Drought	Environmental Services	General fund	Medium-term	Med
6	Develop and implement comprehensive riparian ecosystem restoration plan and relevant floodplain management policies.	Flood	Environmental Services	General fund, FMA, BRIC	Short-term	Med
7	Work with Valley Water to revitalize and restore creeks, learning from case studies like Adobe Creek Reach 5 Restoration. Restore the riparian ecosystem of creeks flowing through Los Altos, add managed ponds and dams to slow the flow of water, and increase percolation to the ground. Increase natural floodplain management through policies and education to establish "Buffer Zones" and limit new construction.	Flood, Dam/Levee Failure, Landslide/Mass Movement, Heavy Precipitation, Extreme Heat, High Wind, Drought, Climate Change	Environmental Services	General fund, FMA, BRIC, ICARP	Short-term	Med

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
8	Expand green infrastructure program to reduce impermeable surface areas and capture runoff from paved by implementing porous paving in sidewalks, parking lots and driveways, and other water percolation methods like bioswales to reduce stormwater runoff to streets.	Flood, Heavy Precipitation, Dam Failure	Environmental Services	General fund, FMA, BRIC, ICARP	Short-term	Med
9	Develop resilience hubs which can serve as evacuation centers, safe zones, cooling centers depending on the event.	All Hazards, including Extreme Heat, Heavy Rain, High Wind, Flood, Dam Failure, Wildfire, Earthquake	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	General fund, BRIC	Medium-term	High
10	Retrofit and/or install air filtration systems on resilience hubs, schools, and other facilities in order to protect vulnerable populations on bad-air-quality days.	Wildfire	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator/Public Works	General fund	Medium-term	High

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
11	Conduct survey of and outreach to vulnerable populations (e.g., isolated seniors, outdoor workers, long-term care residents) and the people and institutions that care for them. Collaborate with community-based organizations to develop outreach and a comprehensive care strategy for vulnerable populations.	All Hazards, including Heavy Rain, High Wind, Extreme Heat, Drought, Flood	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	General fund	Short-term	Med
12	Form partnerships with neighborhood-based organizations like CERT and businesses to develop Neighborhood Resilience Hub programs and prepare residents, mitigate risk, and respond to climate change. Develop community outreach and engagement materials.	Climate Change, Drought, Extreme Heat, Heavy Rain, High Wind	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	General fund	Short-term	Med

^{*} Number given to action item in 2017 Santa Clara County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan.

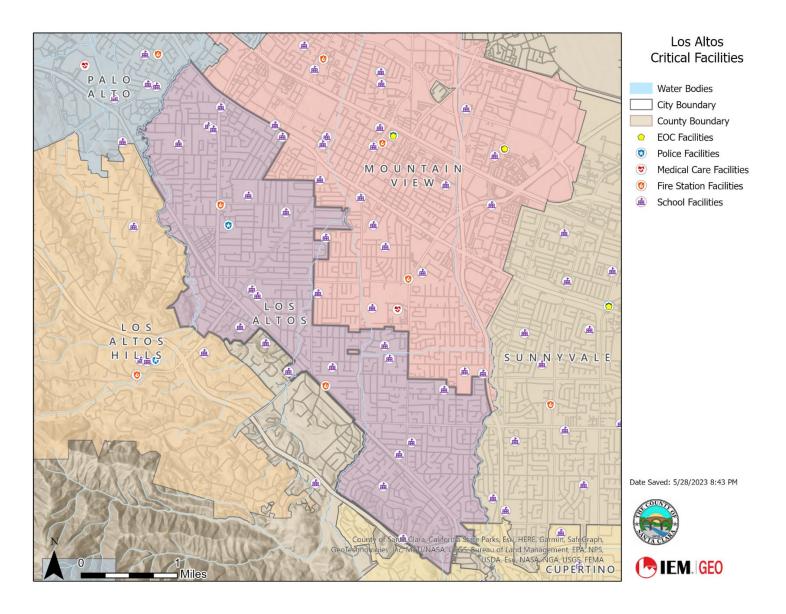


Figure 43: City of Los Altos Critical Facilities Map

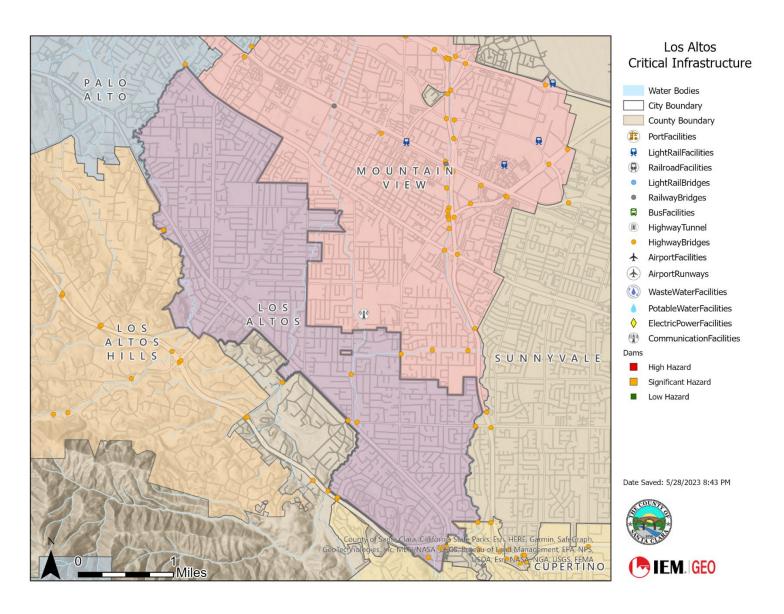


Figure 44: City of Los Altos Critical Infrastructure Map

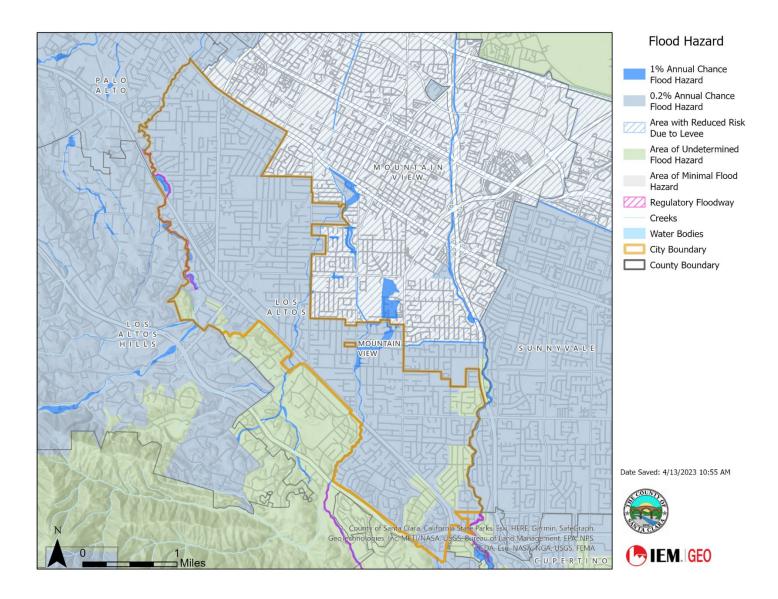


Figure 45: City of Los Altos Flood Hazard Area

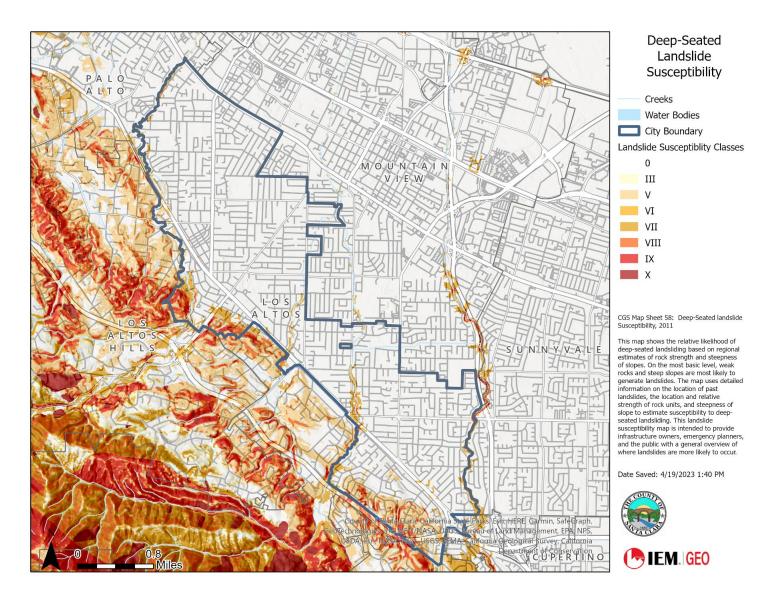


Figure 46: City of Los Altos Deep-Seated Landslide Susceptibility

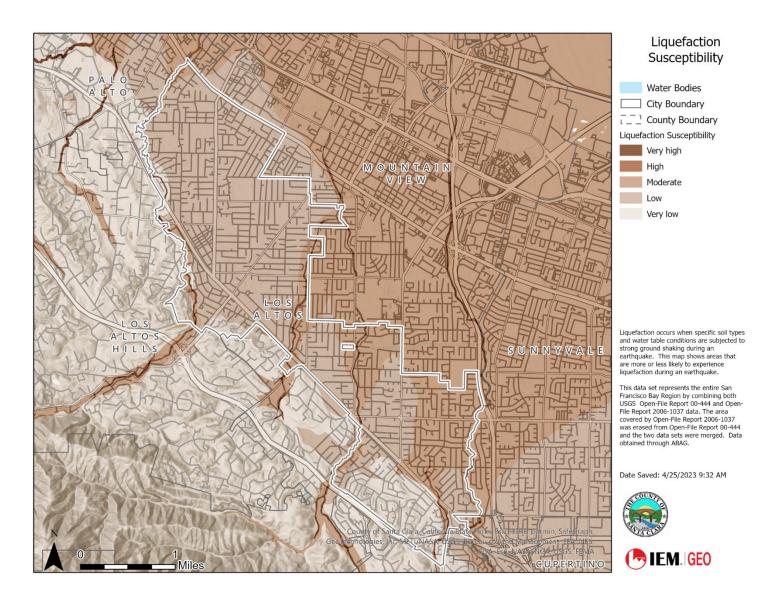


Figure 47: City of Los Altos Liquefaction Susceptibility

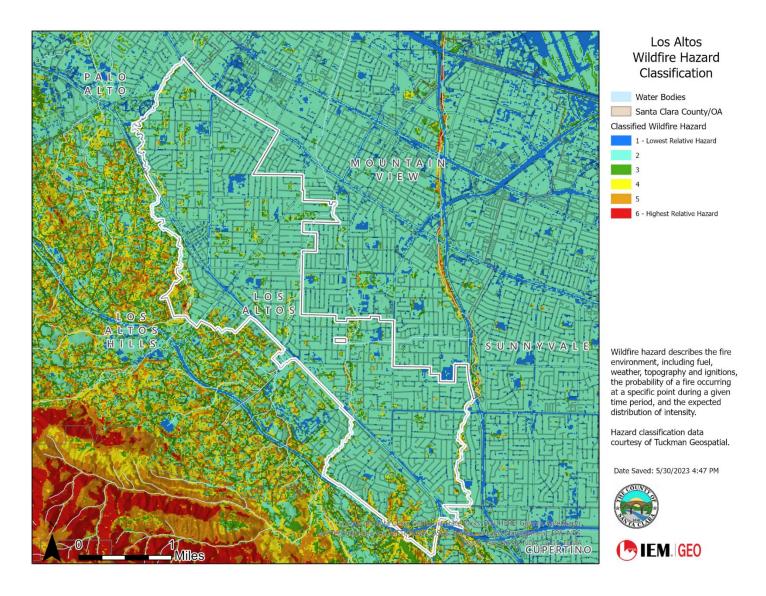


Figure 48: City of Los Altos Wildfire Hazard Classification

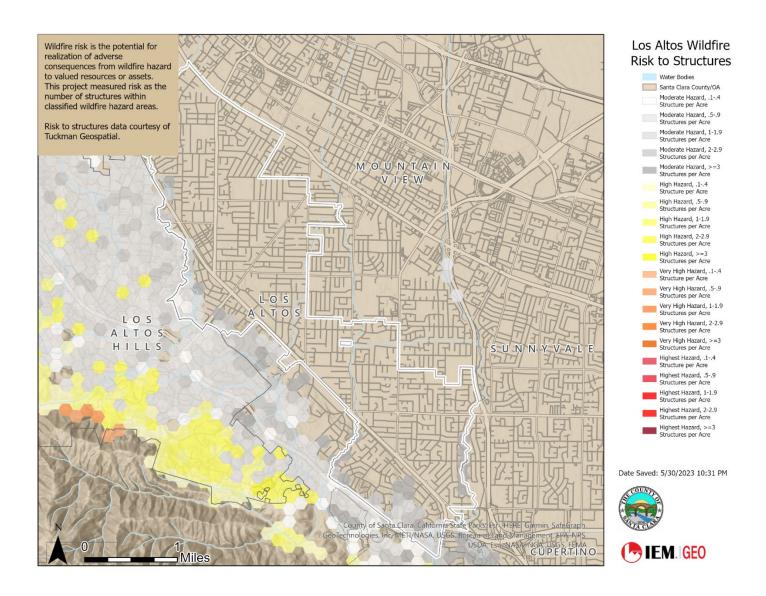


Figure 49: City of Los Altos Wildfire Risk to Structures

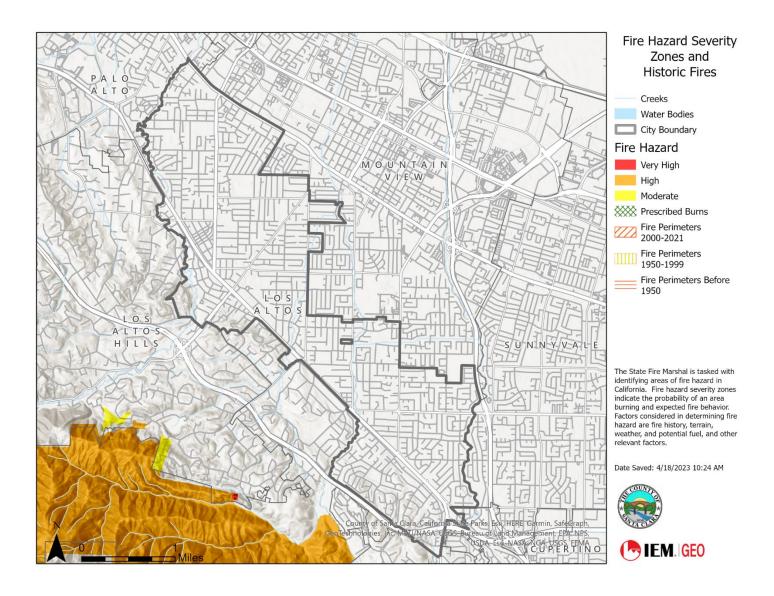


Figure 50: City of Los Altos Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Historic Fires