CITY OF DUARTE
PLANNING COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
May 17, 2021

I. NOTICE: Due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Newsom has issued Executive Order N-29-20 in which Section 3 supersedes Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (issued on March 12, 2020) addressing Brown Act regulations. This new order states that the City does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. The Order allows the City to hold City Council meetings via teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting electronically.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTATION OF ANY ABSENCES:

Chair Vasquez called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following were in attendance:

PRESENT:	Vasquez, Heany, Ramirez
ABSENT:	Wolff
STAFF:	Hensley, Golding, Baldwin, McCurley, Hernandez
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY:	Phan

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 26, 2021

Vasquez moved the approval of the minutes of April 26, 2021 to the next meeting due to lack of quorum and new commissioner.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER: Danny Ramirez

Vasquez welcomed Commissioner Danny Ramirez to the Planning Commission.

Director Hensley informed the Commission of Farra's resignation and possible recruitment for the new commissioner position.

Commissioner Ramirez provided background information of his business, family and expressed his excitement to serve the community.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

None.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Municipal Code Amendment 2020-02: A City-initiated request to replace in its entirety Duarte Development Code Chapter 19.60.160, to provide new development standards for accessory

dwelling units that comply with State law; and to modify Chapter 19.160.050 related to definitions for accessory dwelling units.

Nick Baldwin, Associate Planner, presented a Staff Report on the item and answered questions from the Commission.

Vasquez opened Commissioners' inquiries.

Ramirez inquired of the new maximum construction size for detached units and parking requirements for attached garages on Junior ADUs (JADUs). Baldwin responded.

Vasquez inquired about the types of ADUs and requirements on designs for garage conversions. Baldwin responded.

Hensley provided clarification about the differences between ADUs and Junior ADUs (JADUs).

Planning Manager Golding provided information on the various types and designs of existing ADUs and the complexities of less common JADUs.

Vasquez asked if Exhibit E and F answered the questions from previous attorneys. Baldwin indicated there was no follow-up correspondence from the law firm.

Hensley indicated that the previous attendee from the last meeting did not submit any additional comments and that there were no public comments for the presented item.

Vasquez called for a motion on the item. Heany moved to approve the item as written and seconded by Vasquez. The motion was approved 3-0-0-1. (Vote: Yes: Vasquez, Heany, Ramirez; No: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Wolff).

7. ITEMS FROM DIRECTOR:

Hensley provided development updates. Golding provided an update about the Senators Lounge Restaurant.

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Vasquez commented on the quick sales of houses in the City. Heany commented on the closure of restaurants in the neighboring City.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Monday, June 21, 2021

Vasquez asked for a motion to adjourn. Heany moved to adjourn at 7:41 p.m., seconded by Vasquez. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021.

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Craig Hensley, Secretary

CITY OF DUARTE
PLANNING COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
August 16, 2021

Planning Commission
Commissioners
Sara Vasquez, Chair
Tina Heany, Vice-Chair
Danny Ramirez
Wally Wolff

I. **NOTICE: Due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Newsom has issued Executive Order N-29-20 in which Section 3 supersedes Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (issued on March 12, 2020) addressing Brown Act regulations. This new order states that the City does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. The Order allows the City to hold City Council meetings via teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting electronically.**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTATION OF ANY ABSENCES:

Vice-Chair Heany called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following were in attendance:

PRESENT:	Heany, Ramirez, Wolff
ABSENT:	Vasquez
STAFF:	Hensley, Golding, Baldwin, McCurley, Hernandez
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY:	Phan

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ramirez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 26, 2021 and May 17, 2021

Vice-Chair Heany called for a motion on the Minutes for April and May. Wolff motioned to approved April 26, 2021 minutes, the motion dies in lack of Second. Vice-Chair Heany moved the minutes of May for next meeting due to lack of quorum.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

None.

5. PROJECT REVIEWS:

A. Site Plan Design Review (SPDR) 2021-39. A request by Wei Wei Lin to construct a new second story, 949 square foot, Accessory Dwelling Unit at 1017 Oak Avenue.

Jason Golding, Planning Manager, presented a Staff Report on the item, noting the characteristics of the historic home, the design review process approved by the ARB, and the distinction this project being an ADU, which limits the Commission's decision to only architectural issues, not the use. Golding answered questions from the Commission.

Heany opened Commissioner's inquiries and comments.

Ramirez acknowledge the email sent regarding the 20 feet setback and inquired about the back windows that are being proposed in the plans. Golding responded and confirmed that there were no changes on size/location of the windows.

Hensley advised the Vice-Chair of the request from Phan, City Attorney to comment on the letter received before the meeting.

Phan made clarifications on the differences of the proposed project versus the common ADUs and owner occupancy requirements.

Heany called for a motion on the item. Wolff moved to approve the item and seconded by Ramirez. The motion was approved 3-0-0-1. (Yes: Heany, Ramirez, Wolff; No: None; Abstain; None; Absent: Vasquez).

6. ITEMS FROM DIRECTOR:

Hensley provided development updates and status of the Community Development Housing Element.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Monday, September 20, 2021

Heany asked for a motion to adjourn. Wolff motioned to adjourn at 7:24 PM, seconded by Ramirez. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021.

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Craig Hensley, Secretary

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Date: October 18, 2021

Subject: General Plan Amendment 2021-01
Housing Element 2021-2029

Location: Citywide

Applicant: City Initiated

SUMMARY

The request before the Planning Commission is to consider General Plan Amendment 2021-01, the 2021-2029 Housing Element of the General Plan. The Commission should review the document and related material, the Staff Report, consider all public input, hold a public hearing and recommend that the City Council direct staff to forward the Housing Element to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for final certification.

California Housing Element law mandates that all local governments in the state adequately plan to meet their existing and projected housing needs, including their fair share of the regional housing need (Regional Housing Needs Assessment or RHNA). Guidelines state that in order for the private sector to adequately address housing needs and demand, local governments must adopt land use plans and regulatory schemes that provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development for all income groups.

There are companion general plan amendments to this item to address State mandated updates related to the Housing Element update. These include GPA 2021-02, an update to the Safety Element and GPA 2021-03, an update to various general plan chapters to adopt an Environmental Justice policy. The plan is to hold a joint hearing on all of these items.

This update is referred to as the 6th cycle Housing Element. During the 5th cycle, the City has done an outstanding job of producing a positive housing environment by approving the Town Center Specific Plan and updating the Duarte Station Specific Plan. There have also been positive efforts to address the affordable housing issue, although few units have been constructed to date.

The Draft Housing Element before the Commission this evening addresses the significant challenges of accommodating required growth in a creative way. The State imposes strict mandates on cities to plan for housing growth that may not be popular to some. The Commission, and eventually the City Council, have a difficult task in balancing the concerns about growth and traffic impacts with State requirements. Staff and the consultant, Karen Warner Associates, have taken special care in developing a housing plan that accommodates the required

growth in all income categories in a way that is reasonable. The goal being to encourage that all growth is quality growth. Growth that will strengthen Duarte.

BACKGROUND

The current Housing Element was adopted eight years ago and the City has made significant and positive progress in achieving housing goals. The City also updated its housing policy three years ago, with the 2018 Housing Strategy.

The proposed Housing Element is for the 6th RHNA cycle that covers the 2021-2029 period. A certified housing element is essential for a city for a variety of reasons that include: conformance with State Law, opening access to State funding for housing, legal protection from housing related litigation and a well planned approach to housing growth in the city.

To date, the City has held three public workshops (November 16, 2020; March 15, 2021; April 26, 2021); provided information on the City's website with a specific page dedicated to the Housing Element; conducted multiple public surveys and circulated the Draft Element for public review. The Housing Element Survey (administered through FlashVote), provided input on community housing priorities; strategies for addressing Duarte's housing needs; and types of housing like to see more of. A total of 121 Duarte residents participated in the survey which was administered via email, text and phone. In order to solicit input from one of Duarte's most vulnerable populations – senior citizens – the City conducted a separate Senior Housing Needs Survey. A total of 111 seniors responded to the survey, and the majority of respondents provided email contact information so the City could provide them with housing information in the future. The Results of both surveys are provided in Appendix D to the Housing Element.

As required under State law, the City sent the draft Housing Element to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for 60 day review, and received HCDs comment letter on August 24, 2021, included in this packet as Attachment A. Staff and the consultants to working to address these comments and will be resubmitting a revised draft to HCD to confirm compliance prior to adoption by the City Council. After Planning Commission action, this item will be reviewed by the City Council and a final approved Housing Element will be sent to the State for certification.

There are companion items to the proposed Draft Housing Element that are also before the Commission for consideration: Update to the Safety Element of the General Plan; adoption of Environment Justice Policy that results in an update to various other General Plan Elements; and adoption of a Negative Declaration related to environmental review of all proposed changes to the General Plan.

The City hired Karen Warner Associates as the main consultant to prepare the Housing Element as well as Rincon Consultants to assist with the environmental, Safety Element Update and the Environmental Justice Policy.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment -

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is a State mandate that sets a fair share need, by income category, for cities and counties. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the regional agency that is authorized to develop the RHNA allocation for the SCAG region. Duarte was allotted 888 units for the housing period. See table below.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2021-2029

Income Level	Percent of Area Median Income	Units	Percent
Very Low	0-50%	269	30%
Low	51-80%	145	16%
Moderate	81-120%	137	16%
Above Moderate	120%+	337	38%
Total		**888**	**100%**

The Housing Element sets forth the plan to achieve these RHNA goals and develop a well thought out local housing policy.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Housing Element, consistent with the state Guidelines, is to: 1) preserve and improve housing and neighborhoods; 2) provide adequate housing sites; 3) assist in providing affordable housing; 4) remove governmental and other constraints to housing investment; and 5) promote fair and equal housing opportunities. It is important to note that the City must identify potential sites appropriate for various types of housing within City boundaries; however, the Housing Element does not require that these housing units actually be constructed. In other words, the City must plan for these units in terms of having available sites that could feasibly be used for housing.

The four major, and required, components of Duarte's Housing Element are the following:

- **Community Profile:** An analysis of the City's demographic, household and housing characteristics and related housing needs (Section 2).
- **Housing Constraints:** A review of potential market, governmental, and infrastructure constraints to meeting the City's identified housing needs (Section 3).

- **Housing Resources:** An evaluation of residential sites and financial resources available to address the City's housing goals (Section 4).
- **Housing Plan:** A plan for addressing the City's identified housing needs, constraints and resources through housing goals, policies and programs (Section 5).

The 6th cycle Housing Element also include a new section to affirmatively further fair housing, consistent with requirements under AB 686 (refer to Appendix B). Under state law, affirmatively further fair housing means "taking meaningful actions, in addition to combatting discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on projected characteristics".

A major component of the Housing Element is the identification of sites for future housing development and evaluation of the adequacy of these sites for fulfilling the City's fair share of regional housing needs, which is based on RHNA. Because Duarte is a built-out community with few remaining vacant residential sites, the plan is to accommodate RHNA by using a combination of the methods listed below:

- Residential projects in process
- Duarte Station Specific Plan and Town Center Specific Plan
- Accessory Dwelling Units
- Westminster Gardens Specific Plan
- Affordable Housing Overlay

There are several residential and mixed-use projects that are currently somewhere in the process from a filed application to construction. These include The Huntington, 161 units at 1413 Huntington Drive; Esperanza, 344 units at 1700 Fasana Drive; Solana, 292 units at 1750 Fasana Road; and a 20 unit townhouse development at 1401 Santo Domingo. In the past couple of years, there have also been 25 townhouses at Oliva just west of Target, and the 18 units on Third Street west of Oak Avenue.

The Duarte Station Specific Plan was updated in 2019 and would allow up to 1,400 residential units at full buildout. The proximity to high quality transit makes the area a prime location for higher densities. The Town Center Specific Plan also has excellent access to transit and provides a maximum buildout of 800 units.

The City has seen a steady increase in applications for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The City recently adopted an ADU Ordinance and ADUs have very specific restrictions imposed by the State. It is likely that the number of ADUs will continue to increase.

Westminster Gardens is a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) originally developed in 1950 on a large, 30-acre site located south of Huntington Drive. The property is now under not-for-profit ownership (HumanGood), and the owners have recently expressed interest in an update to the existing Specific Plan to accommodate at least 300 additional housing units to

augment the current 147-unit facility. Because of the size of the property, the proximity to regional transit and to the Town Center and Duarte Station Specific Plan areas, the location is ideal for increased density.

A new option to address future housing growth that is proposed in the Housing Element is an Affordable Housing Overlay. The plan identifies six local properties that are proposed for an Affordable Housing Overlay. Two of the sites are currently zoned commercial, one is zoned industrial, and three are zoned residential (R-1, R-3 & R-4). The overlay would layer on top of the base zoning regulations, leaving in place the option to develop under the base zoning, but providing the opportunity to develop to a greater intensity without the requirement for a General Plan amendment or zone change.

The Affordable Housing Overlay would provide the following incentives in exchange for providing 100% lower income units on these sites:

- Increased densities of 30 units/acre
- Increased four story height limits
- Reduced parking standards consistent with State density bonus law
- By-right development processing

As an additional incentive, developers can access state density bonus law and the City's 100% density bonus for senior housing in addition to using the densities allowed in the overlay.

One of the goals of the overlay is to choose properties, and groups of properties, that could accommodate residential development or increased density but also work well as currently zoned, as well as properties that would be beneficial as affordable housing but where market rate housing is not as desirable. The overlay is also a creative way to attempt to provide locations where the City can accommodate its share of affordable housing.

In addition to the specific properties eligible for the AHO, the AHO would also be available to congregational (religious) sites to enable the addition of affordable housing on properties, with the requirement that the existing religious use either remains or that the property be redeveloped as mixed use with a religious use a one of the non-residential uses. This provision will be added in the AHO Zone and specific development standards for the residential use would be defined through a Planned Development Permit.

The proposed Housing Element lays out the plan for the Affordable Housing Overlay. After final Housing Element approval, Staff will begin the process of developing the overlay zone which will include detailed standards. The final Affordable Housing Overlay will require action by the Planning Commission and City Council.

Housing Opportunity Sites

The State requires cities to identify adequate sites to accommodate it RHNA allotment in all affordable categories. It is important for the City to have a sufficient buffer to meet the RHNA. If a project on a site in the housing inventory is proposed and approved with less units than originally identified in the Housing Element or at a higher level of affordability, for example, other sites in the inventory should be able to make up for that decrease so that there is "no net loss" of RHNA units. If there is an insufficient buffer, within six (6) months after the City approves a project with less density than projected, another site would need to be re-zoned and added to the housing inventory.

The City has identified a total of 11 opportunity sites that have the greatest potential to accommodate Duarte's regional housing growth needs (RHNA) during the 2021- 2029 planning period. The selection of the 11 housing opportunity sites was based on a combination of factors, including: physical underutilization of the site; economic obsolescence of the existing use (as measured by an improvement-to-land value ratio of < 1.0); developer and/or property owner interest in acquiring and assembling underdeveloped parcels into larger development sites; and site proximity to various resources. These resources include proximity to transit, shopping, medical facilities and open space. The sites are also spread throughout the city as shown in Figure 1.

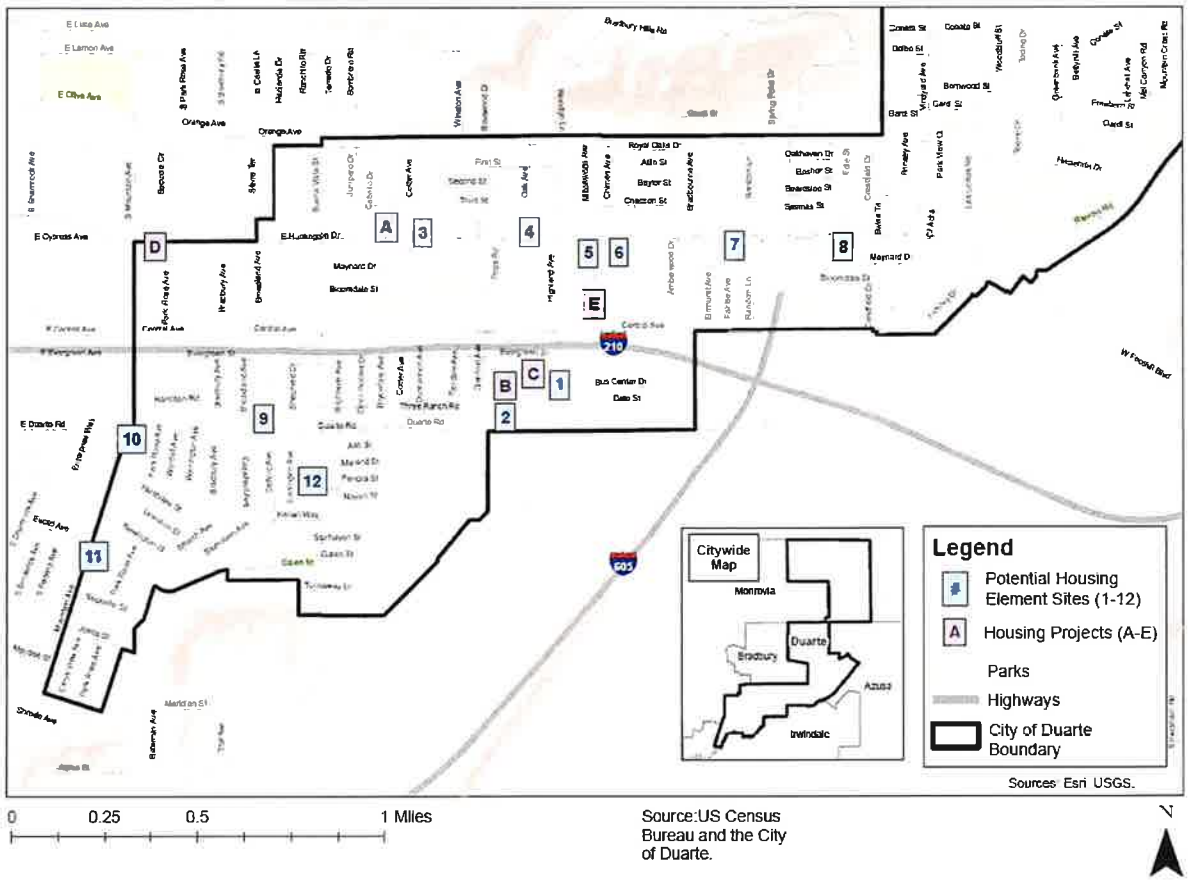
HOUSING OPPORTUNITY SITES

Site No.	Site Description	Acres	Current Zoning	Proposed Zoning Action	Net Unit Potential
1	Metro Gold Line Parking	1.4	Duarte Station S.P.	n/a	62
2	1801 Highland Ave.	6.6	Duarte Station S.P.	n/a	495
3	1501-1515 Huntington Dr.	1.27	Town Center S.P.	n/a	50
4	1709-1735 Huntington Dr.	1.05	Town Center S.P.	n/a	42
5	1838-1856 Huntington Dr.	2.0	Town Center S.P.	n/a	80
6	Westminster Gardens	30	Westminster Gardens S.P.	Update S.P.	300
7	2150-2200 Huntington Dr.	1.8	Commercial C-G	Affordable Overlay	54
8	2400-2422 Huntington Dr.	1.4	Residential R-4	Affordable Overlay	40
9	1159 3 Ranch Road	1.1	Industrial M-1	Affordable Overlay	30
10	1806-1812 Mountain Ave.	0.35	Residential R-1	Affordable Overlay	11
11	2012-2018 Mountain Ave.	0.61	Residential R-1	Affordable Overlay	18
12	1900 Buena Vista St.	4.34	Residential R-4	n/a	30

Total Opportunity Sites	**51.92**			**1,212**

Figure 1

Potential Housing Element Sites



Housing Plan -

The Housing Element sets forth a set of programs that will help move the city towards its housing goals. These programs are a combination of continuing programs and new programs, The Housing Element includes this information starting in page 5-13.

The following table provides an overview of the proposed housing program items and lays out the implementation plan. After adoption, Staff will begin the process of processing the implementation measures.

2021-2029 HOUSING PROGRAMS SUMMARY

Housing Program	Program Goal	2021-2029 Objective	Funding Source	Responsible Agency	Time Frame
EXISTING HOUSING QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY					
1. Housing Code Enforcement and Abatement	Bring all housing into code compliance.	Monitor housing conditions and respond to complaints. Provide referrals to rehab programs available through the County.	General Fund	Public Safety	2021-2029
2. Multi-family Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program *(new)*	Improve deteriorated housing and provide as long-term affordable housing.	Monitor availability of LIHTCs as State budgets are released for their feasibility for Acquisition and Rehabilitation projects.	Low Income Housing Tax Credits; Former RDA Housing Asset Fund; Housing Trust Fund; other outside sources.	Community Development Department	Monitor LIHTCs annually through State budgets and award of funds.
3. Apartment Inspection Program *(new)*	Maintain and improve multi-family housing conditions.	Evaluate establishing inspection program. If implemented, prioritize census tract 4301.02.	General Fund	Community Development Department	By 2024
4. Preservation and Monitoring of Assisted Rental Housing *(expanded)*	Preserve the existing stock of affordable housing.	Establish monitoring procedures for affordable units provided through City incentives or assistance.	General Fund	Community Development Department	Monitoring procedures – 2022.
5. Tenant Protections	Implement State laws to protect tenants from displacement.	Inform developers of replacement housing under State law.	General Fund	Community Development Department	2021-2029
REMOVE GOVERNMENTAL CONSTRAINTS					
6. Affordable Housing Density Bonus	Provide incentives to facilitate affordable housing development.	Promote use of density bonus through City website and in discussions with development applicants.	General Fund	Community Development Department	2021-2029
7. Efficient Project Review	Minimize the time required for project approvals, thereby reducing the cost of development.	Offer concurrent processing of residential projects, pre-application reviews, CEQA exemptions for infill projects, and use of Program EIRs in the specific plans as appropriate.	General Fund	Community Development Department	2021-2029
Housing Program	**Program Goal**	**2021-2029 Objective**	**Funding Source**	**Responsible Agency**	**Time Frame**
8. Zoning Text Amendment for Special Needs Housing *(new)*	Provide zoning standards to facilitate the provision of housing for persons with special needs.	Amend the Zoning Code to: 1) allow supportive housing by right in multi-family and mixed use zones; 2) amend parking standard for shelters based on the number of staff; 3) est. processing procedures for low barrier navigation centers; and 4) allow employee housing in residential zone districts.	General Fund	Community Development Department	Amend the Zoning Code in 2022.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS					
9. Fair Housing Program	Promote fair housing practices and prevent housing discrimination.	Refer to Objectives in Table H 5-3	General Fund	Community Development Dept; Parks & Recreation Dept; Housing Rights Center	Refer to time frames in Table H 5-3

10. Senior Housing Opportunities	Provide a range of housing options to address the diverse needs of Duarte's growing senior population.	Actively pursue senior housing opportunities. Provide incentives and potential assistance for inclusion of affordable units in Westminster Gardens.	Former RDA Housing Asset Fund; Housing Trust Fund; other outside sources.	Community Development Department	Adopt Westminster Gardens Specific Plan by 2024 inclusive of incentives for affordable units.
11. Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with Disabilities	Support a range of housing options for persons with developmental disabilities.	Coordinate with SGPRC to publicize info on resources for housing and services. Pursue State and Federal funds available for supportive housing and services in future affordable housing projects.	Low Income Housing Tax Credits; other State and Federal funds.	Community Development Department	Pursue supportive housing funding in conjunction with affordable projects.
12. Homeless Services Strategy *(expanded)*	Assist the homeless and persons at-risk of homelessness in obtaining shelter and services.	Implement City's Homelessness Plan. Coordinate with and support the SGVCOG and SGV Regional Housing Trust.	PLHA funds; General Fund; other State and Federal funds.	Community Development Department	Review City's Plan and report to Council on annual basis.
PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING					
13. Affordable Housing Development Assistance *(expanded)*	Provide regulatory incentives and available financial assistance for affordable housing.	Incentives include: -Reduced fees -Flexible standards -Density bonus -Town Center community benefit -Affordable Overlay -Available financial & land write-down assistance	Former RDA Housing Asset Fund; Housing Trust Fund; other outside sources.	Community Development Department	Provide information on incentives during individual dealings with developers.

Housing Program	Program Goal	2021-2029 Objective	Funding Source	Responsible Agency	Time Frame
14. Homeowner Assistance	Expand homeownership opportunities to low and moderate income households.	Provide information on available County and State programs. City website .Apply to State in conjunction with future City assisted workforce housing.	General Fund; State and County funds	Community Development Department; LA County CDC; State HCD	Apply to State as workforce projects are proposed.
15. Section 8 Rental Assistance	Provide rental assistance to extremely low and very low income households.	Continue participation and coordination with HACoLA and provide information on the City website. Reach out to landlords re: participation.	HUD Section 8	Community development Department; HACoLA	Twice during the planning period, reach out to landlords
16. Sustainable Development and Green Programs	Encourage energy and natural resource conservation and reduce greenhouse gases.	Implement Sustainable Development Practices in new development, and promote green programs among residents and businesses.	General Fund	Community Development Department	2021-2029

ADEQUATE HOUSING SITES					
17. Duarte Station Specific Plan *(expanded)*	Provide expanded sites for multi-family residential and mixed - use housing development.	Facilitate residential and mixed-use development in the Transit Station TOD. Coordinate with Metro in selection of developer for parking lot site.	General Fund	Community Development Department	Select parking lot developer by 2022
18. Town Center Specific Plan *(new)*	Provide expanded sites for multi-family residential and mixed-use housing development.	Amend Specific Plan to include affordable housing as Tier 3 Community Benefit and to provide for density transfers.	General Fund	Community Development Department	Amend Plan by 2022
19. Affordable Housing Overlay & Rezone Program *(new)*	Incentivize development of affordable housing on designated sites and on congregational lands.	Provide Incentives for affordable housing on designated sites: -Increased 30 du/ac densities -Increased height -Reduced parking -Ministerial processing	General Fund	Community Development Department	Adopt Affordable Housing Overlay by 2023, and contact property owners within one year regarding lot consolidation.
Housing Program	**Program Goal**	**2021-2029 Objective**	**Funding Source**	**Responsible Agency**	**Time Frame**
20. Westminster Gardens Specific Plan & Rezone Program *(new)*	Provide expanded sites for market rate and affordable senior housing.	Amend the Specific Plan to accommodate at least 300 additional units, at least half of which would be affordable to lower and moderate income households.	General Fund	Community Development Department	Amend Plan by 2024, including incentives for inclusion of affordable units.
21. Accessory Dwelling Units *(expanded)*	Provide opportunities for small rental units within existing neighborhoods.	Achieve production of an average of 12 ADUs annually. Provide pre-approved ADU construction plans. Conduct mid-cycle review of ADU production, and if falling short, ensure have adequate sites to meet lower income RHNA or commit to rezoning to offset any shortfall.	General Fund	Community Development Department	Provide pre-approved plans by 2023. Monitor ADU production on an annual basis. Conduct mid-cycle review in 2025.
22. No Net Loss Monitoring	Maintain adequate sites to accommodate the City's RHNA allocation by income category throughout the planning period.	*Develop procedure to monitor development of Housing Element sites. Provide information on available sites and development on City website.*	General Fund	Community Development Department	Develop monitoring procedures in 2022. Place site inventory and information on incentives on website in 2022.

Short term implementation -

The table above summarizes the overall plan to implement the housing plan. Many of the programs on ongoing but some of the items will require implementation in the short term. For example:

Metro Parking Lot Affordable Housing. For some time, Staff has been working with Metro on development of its Gold Line parking lot with an affordable housing project. Initially , the city brought in Jamboree Housing who proposed a 62 unit development. Jamboree developed a concept site plan and elevations and made some progress. However, Metro decided to classify the property as surplus and seek new proposals to develop the site. Staff has continued to work with Metro and the process is going well. This property should yield at least 60 units of affordable housing. The City has expressed interest in a multi-generational affordable development that would have similar design quality to Solana and Esperanza buildings directly to the west.

Develop the Affordable Housing Overlay Zone. The Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) zone is addressed in detail earlier in this report. The AHO zone will included detailed development standards and affordability requirements that developments on these sites would need to meet to be developed as affordable housing. Because the this is an overlay zone, none of the sites eligible will become non-conforming uses with the change. For an example, if the property is zoned as commercial, it can remain as a commercial use with no additional restrictions. The AHO simply allows the site to be developed with residential as long as it is has affordablity restrictions.

Amend the Town Center Specific Plan. The housing plan call for an amendment to the specific plan to add affordable housing as a community benefit and to create a density transfer program. A significant component of the Town Center Specific Plan is incentive zoning. This is a process that allows a development to gain additional development potential by doing positive things such a providing public art, paying a community economic development fee, and other similar items. For example, The Huntington mixed use project was permitted to expand from two stories to four stories and 55 units per acre by providing: public art, adding landscape bulbouts in parking lanes, and payment into the community benefit fund. The density transfer program would be a new provision in this specific plan that would permit the allowable density from one property to another property, if the first property was brought up to Code, meeting all requirements of the specific plan.

Developer Outreach. The Housing Authority has limited financial resources. To help implement the Housing Element policies, City Staff will develop a plan for an organized outreach to affordable housing developers and will provide assistance in the development of affordable units in the city. Within the past few months, staff is met with multiple developers to discuss potential for new developments in the city. The plan would be to continue this process.

Responses to Letter From HCD –

There have been several revisions made to the draft element as a result of the August 24, 2021 comment letter from HCD. Those changes are summarized below. Early public copies of the draft element did not include these changes, but for the past several weeks the revised draft (attached) has been available for online review.

Environmental Review –

To adderss California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Housing Element and the Safety Element amendments, Rincon Consultants were brought on to complete an Initial Study (IS) for the proposed changes. The determination was made that the project could not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration is proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Planning Commission approve Resolution 21-03 which recommends to the City Council approval of GPA 2001-01, the 2021-2029 Housing Element for Duarte and the associated Negative Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Hensley, AICP
Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A - Letter from HCD 8/20/21
Exhibit B - Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element
Exhibit C - Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update – Initial Study (attached to GPA 2021-02 & 03 report)
Exhibit D - Resolution 21-03

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT
2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-2911 / FAX (916) 263-7453
www.hcd.ca.gov

August 20, 2021

Craig Hensley, Director
Community Development Department
City of Duarte
1600 Huntington Drive
Duarte, CA 91010

Dear Craig Hensley:

RE: Review of the City of Duarte's 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Draft Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the City of Duarte's (City) draft housing element received for review on June 21, 2021, along with revisions received on August 6, 2021. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, subdivision (b), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review. Our review was facilitated by a telephone conversation on July 27,2021 with you, Associate Planner Maia McCurley, and the City's consultants Karen Warner and Lori Parrington.

The draft element addresses many statutory requirements; however, revisions will be necessary to comply with State Housing Element Law (Article 10.6 of the Gov. Code). The enclosed Appendix describes the revisions needed to comply with State Housing Element Law.

To remain on an eight-year planning cycle, the City must adopt its housing element within 120 calendar days from the statutory due date of October 15, 2021 for Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) localities. If adopted after this date, Government Code section 65588, subdivision (e)(4), requires the housing element be revised every four years until adopting at least two consecutive revisions by the statutory deadline. For more information on housing element adoption requirements, please visit HCD's website at: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/housing-element-memos/docs/sb375_final100413.pdf.

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the City must continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly available and considering and incorporating comments where appropriate.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the City to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_Appendix_C_final.pdf and http://opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant; the Strategic Growth Council and HCD's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs; and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the City will meet housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

HCD appreciates the hard work, responsiveness, and dedication you, Associate Planner Maia McCurley, and the City's consultants Karen Warner and Lori Parrington provided during our review. We are committed to assist the City in addressing all statutory requirements of State Housing Element Law. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact Jose Ayala, of our staff, at Jose.Ayala@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Shannan West
Land Use & Planning Unit Chief

Enclosure

APPENDIX
CITY OF DUARTE

The following changes are necessary to bring the City's housing element into compliance with Article 10.6 of the Government Code. Accompanying each recommended change, we cite the supporting section of the Government Code.

Housing element technical assistance information is available on HCD's website at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/housing-element-memos.shtml. Among other resources, the housing element section contains HCD's latest technical assistance tool, *Building Blocks for Effective Housing Elements (Building Blocks),* available at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/building-blocks/index.shtml and includes the Government Code addressing State Housing Element Law and other resources.

A. Housing Needs, Resources, and Constraints

1. *Affirmatively further[ing] fair housing (AFFH) in accordance with Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8899.50) of Division 1 of Title 2…shall include an assessment of fair housing in the jurisdiction. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c)(10)(A).)*

   Access to Opportunity and Disproportionate Housing Need: While the element provides data related to overcrowding, it should also address the local patterns and trends within the City. In addition, the element includes a general overview of access to transportation in Duarte and the region but should also provide supporting information and analysis such as job proximity and access to transit within the City.

   Goals, Priorities, Metrics, and Milestones: While the element provides additional analysis and identifies contributing factors to fair housing issues in Duarte, it does not include sufficient action to overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities. As a result, programs must be added as appropriate to sufficiently respond to contributing factors to fair housing issues. In addition, all actions related to AFFH must contain metrics and timelines. Please see HCD's AFFH memo for more information: https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/affh/docs/affh_document_final_4-27-2021.pdf#page=23.

2. *An inventory of land suitable and available for residential development, including vacant sites and sites having realistic and demonstrated potential for redevelopment during the planning period to meet the locality's housing need for a designated income level, and an analysis of the relationship of zoning and public facilities and services to these sites. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (a)(3).)*

   Realistic Capacity: The element must include an analysis to support the number of units estimated on each site in the inventory and the likelihood of residential development in zones allowing nonresidential uses (e.g., Commercial/CGH and Industrial/M-1 zones). Currently, the element assumes full build-out of sites listed for very low and low-income households but must also adequately support or correct this assumption based on factors such as land-use controls, overlay zone

requirements, and other standards and typical densities of existing or approved residential developments at a similar affordability level in that jurisdiction.

In addition, the element appears to assume residential development on sites with zoning that allows 100 percent nonresidential uses. While the element mentions the overlay and incentives for residential development, it must still account for the likelihood of nonresidential uses. The element should include analysis based on factors such as development trends, performance standards or other relevant factors. For example, the element could analyze all development activity in these nonresidential zones, how often residential development occurs and adjust residential capacity calculations, policies, and programs accordingly. For additional information, see the *Building Blocks* at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/building-blocks/site-inventory-analysis/analysis-of-sites-and-zoning.shtml#zoning.

Suitability of Sites: While the element provides information regarding recent trends and factors utilized to demonstrate the potential for redevelopment on nonvacant sites, it should link the recent trends to the factors utilized for identifying sites. For example, the element provides an improvement-to-land value (ILV) ratio for the sites listed in the inventory but must provide analysis of trends to support assumptions that sites with a high ILV have potential for redevelopment. Further, sites larger than ten acres in size or smaller than a half-acre in size are deemed inadequate to accommodate housing for lower-income households unless it is demonstrated, with sufficient evidence, that sites are suitable to accommodate housing for lower-income households. While the element included a few examples about developments with lot consolidation (most of which contained City-owned sites), it must also provide specific examples with the densities, affordability and, if applicable, circumstances leading to consolidation then link those characteristics to identified sites. In addition:

- *Site 4*: Include additional discussion of the potential for consolidation and potential for redevelopment given a high ILV on one property.
- *Site 6*: This site is over 30 acres. While the inventory discusses interest in affordable senior and other housing, it should include additional discussion on how this site and zoning are appropriate for lower-income households given what appears to be lower densities.
- *Site 8*: The inventory indicates this site has interest in development but then states the site has been marketed but no development has happened. The inventory should reconcile this information. Without interest in development, the inventory should include additional discussion given the high ILVs and number of parcels requiring assemblage.
- *Site 9*: Given the higher ILV, the inventory should include other indicators of redevelopment potential such as existing versus allowable floor area ratio.
- *Site 11*: Include additional discussion to demonstrate the potential for consolidation.
- *Site 12*: This site is occupied by units where affordability terms have recently been extended. The inventory indicates the intention is to add units to the site and not redevelop the existing structure but should include additional discussion to demonstrate the viability of this approach. For example, the

element could describe interest, seek the input of affordable developers, demonstrate under-utilized space and potential site planning.

As noted in the element, the housing element relies upon nonvacant sites to accommodate more than 50 percent of the RHNA for lower-income households, so the housing element must demonstrate that the existing use is not an impediment to additional residential development in the planning period (Gov. Code, § 65583.2, subd. (g)(2).). This can be demonstrated by providing substantial evidence that the existing use is likely to be discontinued during the planning period.

Suitability and Availability of Infrastructure: The element provides an overview of the availability of infrastructure and public services. While this information is useful, the element should clarify sufficient (existing and planned) water and sewer capacity to accommodate the regional housing need.

Electronic Sites Inventory: For your information, pursuant to Government Code section 65583.3, subdivision (b), the City must utilize standards, forms, and definitions adopted by HCD when preparing the sites inventory. Please see HCD's housing element webpage at https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/index.shtml#element for a copy of the form and instructions. The City can reach out to HCD at sitesinventory@hcd.ca.gov for technical assistance. Please note, upon adoption of the housing element, the City must submit an electronic version of the sites inventory with its adopted housing element to sitesinventory@hcd.ca.gov.

3. *An analysis of potential and actual governmental constraints upon the maintenance, improvement, or development of housing for all income levels, including the types of housing identified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c), and for persons with disabilities as identified in the analysis pursuant to paragraph (7), including land use controls, building codes and their enforcement, site improvements, fees and other exactions required of developers, and local processing and permit procedures. The analysis shall also demonstrate local efforts to remove governmental constraints that hinder the locality from meeting its share of the regional housing need in accordance with Government Code section 65584 and from meeting the need for housing for persons with disabilities, supportive housing, transitional housing, and emergency shelters identified pursuant to paragraph (7). Transitional housing and supportive housing shall be considered a residential use of property and shall be subject only to those restrictions that apply to other residential dwellings of the same type in the same zone. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (a)(5).)*

   Land-Use Controls: The element must identify and analyze all relevant land-use controls impacts as potential constraints on a variety of housing types. The analysis should address parking requirements for multifamily development, particularly studios and one-bedroom units, for impacts on cost, supply, housing choice and affordability and include programs to address identified constraints.

   Local Processing and Permit Procedures: The element describes the Site Plan and Design Review process for most development including intent related to

compatibility and findings of approval for impacts on surrounding property. However, the element should analyze these standards for impacts on timing, cost, supply and approval certainty and include programs to address identified constraints.

Codes and Enforcement: The element provides an overview of the building code implementation in Duarte but should also identify any local amendments to the building code and analyze impacts on the cost and supply of housing.

Constraints on Housing for Persons with Disabilities: The element acknowledges that group homes for seven or more persons are subject to a conditional use permit (CUP) requirement and apparently excluded from lower density residential zones. However, the element should analyze this procedure and the exclusion of housing for persons with disabilities as a constraint and include programs as appropriate. Particularly, the element should address approval findings and impacts on certainty and objectivity. Moreover, the element should commit to amend zoning and permit group homes for seven or more persons in the R-1 and R-2 zones. Finally, the element identifies approval findings for granting a reasonable accommodation including a finding related to impacts on surrounding uses – essentially a CUP finding. However, reasonable accommodation should be a unique exception process from a CUP, especially given its importance in addressing barriers to housing for persons with disabilities. The element should include a program to amend the reasonable accommodation ordinance and remove constraints, namely the "potential impact on surrounding uses" approval finding.

4. *Analyze any special housing needs such as elderly; persons with disabilities, including a developmental disability; large families; farmworkers; families with female heads of households; and families and persons in need of emergency shelter. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (a)(7).)*

   The element essentially explains (p. 2-12) the housing needs of farmworkers are negligible because Duarte does not have land dedicated for agricultural uses. However, farmworkers from the broader area and those employed seasonally may have housing needs, including within the City's boundaries. As a result, the element should at least acknowledge the housing needs of permanent and seasonal farmworkers at a county-level (e.g., using USDA county-level farmworker data) and add or modify programs as appropriate.

B. Housing Programs

1. *Include a program which sets forth a schedule of actions during the planning period, each with a timeline for implementation, which may recognize that certain programs are ongoing, such that there will be beneficial impacts of the programs within the planning period, that the local government is undertaking or intends to undertake to implement the policies and achieve the goals and objectives of the housing element through the administration of land use and development controls, the provision of regulatory concessions and incentives, and the utilization of appropriate federal and state financing and subsidy programs when available. The program shall include an*

identification of the agencies and officials responsible for the implementation of the various actions. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c).)

To have a beneficial impact in the planning period and address the goals of the housing element, programs must be revised with discrete timelines, including for Program 5 (Preserve and Protect Existing Tenants and Housing), Program 11 (Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with Disabilities, Program 12 (Homeless Services Strategy), Program 14 (Homeownership Assistance), Program 18 (Town Center Specific Plan), and Program 21 (Promote Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)).

In addition, Program 13 (Affordable Housing Development Assistance) should be revised with specific commitment to annually reach out and explore opportunities with developers of affordable housing.

2. *Identify actions that will be taken to make sites available during the planning period with appropriate zoning and development standards and with services and facilities to accommodate that portion of the city's or county's share of the regional housing need for each income level that could not be accommodated on sites identified in the inventory completed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) without rezoning, and to comply with the requirements of Government Code section 65584.09. Sites shall be identified as needed to facilitate and encourage the development of a variety of types of housing for all income levels, including multifamily rental housing, factory-built housing, mobilehomes, housing for agricultural employees, supportive housing, single-room occupancy units, emergency shelters, and transitional housing. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c)(1).)*

   As noted in Finding A2, the element does not include a complete site analysis; therefore, the adequacy of sites and zoning were not established. Based on the results of a complete sites inventory and analysis, the City may need to add or revise programs to address a shortfall of sites or zoning available to encourage a variety of housing types. In addition:

   - *City-owned Sites:* Given some identified sites toward the regional housing need are City-owned, the element should commit to facilitate development on these sites, including actions such as zoning, financing, technical assistance, requests for proposals and other steps and timing related to development.
   - *ADUs:* In addition to annually monitoring production, Program 21 (ADUs) should commit to monitor affordability, and if necessary to address under-production, additional actions should be taken in a timely manner (e.g., within 6 months). Finally, additional incentives or actions should be considered to encourage ADUs.

3. *Address and, where appropriate and legally possible, remove governmental and nongovernmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing, including housing for all income levels and housing for persons with disabilities. The program shall remove constraints to, and provide reasonable accommodations for housing designed for, intended for occupancy by, or with supportive services for, persons with disabilities. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c)(3).)*

As noted in Findings A3, the element requires a complete analysis of potential governmental constraints. Depending upon the results of that analysis, the City may need to revise or add programs and address and remove or mitigate any identified constraints. In addition, as noted in the element, the element does not have a written procedure to comply with streamlining requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65913.4 (SB 35, 2017) and as a result, the element should include a program to establish a procedure early in the planning period.

4. *Promote AFFH opportunities and promote housing throughout the community or communities for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, familial status, or disability, and other characteristics protected by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act Part 2.8 (commencing with Section 12900) of Division 3 of Title 2), Section 65008, and any other state and federal fair housing and planning law. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c)(5).)*

   As noted in Finding A1, the element must complete its analysis of AFFH. Based on the outcomes of that analysis, the element must add or modify programs.

5. *The housing program shall preserve for low-income household the assisted housing developments identified pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a). The program for preservation of the assisted housing developments shall utilize, to the extent necessary, all available federal, state, and local financing and subsidy programs identified in paragraph (9) of subdivision (a), except where a community has other urgent needs for which alternative funding sources are not available. The program may include strategies that involve local regulation and technical assistance. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c)(6).)*

   As noted in the element, Duarte has assisted housing developments at risk of converting to non-low income uses. As such, the element should include a program to mitigate the potential loss of "at-risk" units. Actions to be considered include ensuring compliance with notification requirements, outreach and coordination with property owners and qualified entities to preserve at-risk units, assistance with funding and commitment to support funding applications and education, outreach and assistance for tenants. For additional information, please see the *Building Blocks* at https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/building-blocks/program-requirements/preserve-units-at-risk-conversion-market-rate.shtml.

C. Public Participation

Include a diligent effort by the local government to achieve public participation of all economic segments of the community in the development of the housing element, and the program shall describe this effort. (Gov. Code, § 65583, subd. (c)(9).)

While the City made considerable effort to include the public through workshops and a survey, moving forward, the City should employ additional methods for public outreach efforts in the future, particularly to include lower-income and special needs households and neighborhoods with higher concentrations of lower-income households. For

example, the City could conduct targeted stakeholder interviews or establish a committee representative of lower-income households in future public outreach efforts. For additional information, see the Building Blocks at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/building-blocks/getting-started/public-participation.shtml.

In addition, HCD understands the City made the element available to the public concurrent with its submittal to HCD. By not providing an opportunity for the public to review and comment on a draft of the element in advance of submission, the City has not yet complied with statutory mandates to make a diligent effort to encourage the public participation in the development of the element and it reduces HCD's ability to consider public comments in its review. The availability of the document to the public and opportunity for public comment prior to submittal to HCD is essential to the public process and HCD's review. The City must proactively make future revisions available to the public, including any commenters, prior to submitting any revisions to HCD and diligently consider and address comments, including making revisions to the document where appropriate. HCD's future review will consider the extent to which the revised element documents how the City solicited, considered, and addressed public comments in the element. The City's consideration of public comments must not be limited by HCD's findings in this review letter.

RESOLUTION PC 21-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUARTE APPROVING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 21-1, RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT FOR THE CITY OF DUARTE, AND A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Section 65588 of the State Government Code requires a periodic review and update of the Housing Element of the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed update of the Housing Element identifies housing needs in the community and programs to achieve the housing goals, policies and objectives of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City initiated an update to the Housing Element of the General Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period; and

WHEREAS, a notice of the public hearing was published in the local newspaper, posted at three public locations and provided on the City's website; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2021, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte conducted a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered the information provided by City staff, and public testimony. This Resolution is based upon the evidence presented at the public hearing on October 18, 2021. Such evidence includes, without limitation, the staff report submitted by the Community Development Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte, based on the preceding findings, hereby forwards the 2021-2029 Housing Element of the General Plan and the Findings of Consistency with the General Plan to the City Council with recommendation for approval, and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1: The 2021-2029 Housing Element of the General Plan is recommended for adoption as shown in attached Exhibit 1.

SECTION 2: The Planning Commission recommends adopting of a Negative Declaration determining that the 2021-2029 Housing Element of the General Plan and related General Plan changes could not have a significant effect on the environment. The Initial Study – Negative Declaration is in attached Exhibit 2.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 18st day of October, 2021.

Tina Heaney, Chairperson,
City of Duarte Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

CITY OF DUARTE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss.
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

I, Craig Hensley, Community Development Director of the City of Duarte, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held on October 18, 2021, and carried by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

RESOLUTION PC 21-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUARTE APPROVING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 21-1, RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT FOR THE CITY OF DUARTE, AND A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 18st day of October, 2021.

_____

Tina Heaney, Chairperson,
City of Duarte Planning Commission

ATTEST:

_____

Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

CITY OF DUARTE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss.
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____

Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Date: October 18, 2021

To: Planning Commission

Cases: General Plan Amendment (GPA) 2021-02; General Plan Amendment (GPA) 2021-03

Location: City-wide

Project: GPA 2021-02: A City-initiated request to amend the Safety Element of the City of Duarte General Plan

GPA 2021-03: A City-initiated request to amend various Elements of the City of Duarte General Plan with the incorporation of Environmental Justice policies

SUMMARY

The City's update to the Housing Element of the City of Duarte General Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period is accompanied with updates to the other elements of the City of Duarte General Plan in accordance with State law. Specifically, the proposed updates consist of a comprehensive update to the Safety Element as well as the incorporation of Environmental Justice policies throughout all of the elements of the Duarte General Plan.

The Safety Element, which outlines goals, objectives, and policies related to hazards, emergency response and preparedness, and public safety, has been updated to ensure consistency with the Housing Element Update and the City's recently updated Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), as well as compliance with recent State legislation and guidelines. The other elements of the Duarte General Plan, including the Open Space, Conservation, Noise, Land Use, Historic Preservation, Economic Development, and Circulation Elements, have been updated to incorporate Environmental Justice policies, which promote the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all groups with respect to environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Adoption and implementation of the proposed Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice policies requires official amendments to the City of Duarte General Plan, which must be reviewed and approved by the City Council. Staff is presenting the proposed General Plan Amendments for the Safety Element Update and the Environmental Justice policies to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation on to the City Council.

BACKGROUND

The City's General Plan is a State mandated, long-term policy document directing the community's vision for the City's future. The General Plan document is divided into various elements focused on specific topics. There are seven (7) mandatory elements, including Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety. State law requires periodic updates to certain elements, including the Housing Element, in order to ensure the City's

policies and goals remain current with evolving community needs and State objectives. The current Housing Element was adopted for the 2014-2021 planning period and an updated Housing Element is required to be adopted for the 2021-2029 planning period. As a result of new State laws that have been adopted within recent years, the required Housing Element Update for the 2021-2029 planning period triggered a requirement for the City to complete a Safety Element Update and adopt Environmental Justice policies in the General Plan.

In conformance with these State requirements, in late-2020, the City, with the assistance of Karen Warner Associates and Rincon Consultants, Inc., initiated the process of developing the Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and Environmental Justice policies, concurrently. As part of the process to develop these element updates and policies, City staff and consultants have spent the past year reviewing and analyzing existing documents; conducting public outreach; and facilitating meetings with the community, Planning Commission, and City Council, in order to craft documents that address the community's needs and desires, while also fulfilling the City's legal obligations and requirements per State legislation and guidelines.

The final drafts of the Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and proposed Environmental Justice policies must be adopted as amendments to the General Plan before they may be implemented. The Planning Commission is being presented with these draft documents for their review and recommendation on to the City Council, which must authorize final approval and adoption. Though staff has processed the Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and proposed Environmental Justice policies concurrently as one overall project captured under a single environmental review document, separate General Plan Amendments are required to be adopted for each document. Considering that the Housing Element is substantially lengthier than both the Safety Element Update and the Environmental Justice policies, a standalone staff report has been prepared for the Housing Element Update and the focus of this staff report will be solely upon the Safety Element Update and Environmental Justice policies.

ANALYSIS – SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE

The existing Safety Element was approved and adopted on August 14, 2007 by the City Council as part of the City's overall Duarte 2007 General Plan Update. Though various General Plan Amendments have occurred in the time since, no updates have occurred to the Safety Element. The Safety Element is required to be updated at this time in order to ensure consistency with the proposed Housing Element Update for the 2021-2029 planning period, as well as the City's updated HMP, which was adopted in May 2020. Additionally, the Safety Element Update must demonstrate compliance with recent State legislation and guidelines, including Assembly Bill 162, Senate Bill 1241, Senate Bill 99, Assembly Bill 747, Senate Bill 1035, Senate Bill 379, and Senate Bill 1000.

The purpose of the Safety Element remains the same and the element continues to outline the City's policies, goals, and objectives aimed at reducing the potential risks and harms that may result from natural or man-made hazards and disasters. Furthermore, the element maintains its existing emphasis on emergency preparedness and hazard-specific safety and mitigation. The following list provides an overview of the primary updates to the various sections of the Safety Element:

1. **Goals, Objectives, and Policies.** The Goals, Objectives, and Policies section of the element includes minor modifications to the existing goals and objectives to be consistent with other updates that have occurred within the element, and specifically, the additional policies that have been incorporated. New policies have been incorporated and existing policies have been modified in order to position the City to better address climate change exposure and vulnerability; emergency preparedness and response; seismic and geologic hazards; and risks associated with wildfire and development within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).

2. **Related Agencies, Laws, and Plans.** The Related Agencies, Laws, and Plans section of the element includes new and updated descriptions of laws, plans, and programs which are relevant to the Safety Element; descriptions of any agencies responsible for administering or enforcing the noted laws, plans, and programs; and summations of how the Safety Element complies with the law, plan, or program. New laws incorporated into the element include the following:

    - **California Senate Bill 1000:** Approved in 2016, SB 1000 requires the General Plan to include Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives. California Government Code section 65040.12 defines "Environmental Justice" as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. With respect to Environmental Justice, the Safety Element incorporates strategies to reduce health risks, such as pollution exposure, to disadvantaged communities (DACs); promote civic engagement; and prioritize the needs of DACs.

    - **California Senate Bill 379:** Approved in 2015, SB 379 requires the Safety Element to address applicable climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, and also requires the development of a climate change vulnerability assessment report that evaluates the potential impacts of climate change on community assets and populations. The Safety Element incorporates both the climate change vulnerability assessment report (Exhibit A2) as well as policies and implementation measures to enhance the City's adaptive capacity, or ability to cope with climate change impacts.

    - **California Senate Bill 1241:** Approved in 2012, SB 1241 requires the Safety Element to address the risk of fire in state responsibility areas and VHFHSZs, as identified by CalFire. In compliance with this law, the Safety Element incorporates figures identifying state or federal responsibility areas and VHFHSZs, and also includes a detailed overview of the fire hazards that have been identified within the City.

    - **California Senate Bill 99:** Approved in 2019, SB 99 requires the identification of residential developments within the City that are located in hazard areas and do not

have at least two (2) emergency evacuation routes. To comply with this requirement the Safety Element features figures identifying emergency evacuation routes within the City and policies to improve emergency evacuation procedures, especially within vulnerable areas.

- **California Assembly Bill 2140:** Approved in 2006, AB 2140 limits the amount of state funding available for certain disaster recovery projects unless a jurisdiction can demonstrate that a HMP has been adopted and incorporated into the Safety Element. Compliance with AB 2140 is optional and is not required. The Safety Element Update references the City's adopted 2020 HMP and integrates goals from the plan to ensure consistency between the Safety Element and the HMP. It is not necessary to adopt the HMP as part of the Safety Element at this time.

3. **Overview of Duarte's Safety Issues.** This section of the Safety Element incorporates updated summaries of the safety issues facing the City, including fire hazards; seismic and geologic hazards; and flood hazards.

   The Fire Hazards component of this section provides updated information on historic wildfires that have occurred within the City, including the recent 2016 San Gabriel Complex Fire, and describes the wildfire risks and vulnerabilities that have been identified within the community. New and updated figures illustrating these risks and vulnerabilities are incorporated into the element, along with policies and implementation measures to address these issues and concerns.

   The Seismic and Geologic Hazards component provides updated data on the probability of earthquake impacts within the community and on the existing earthquake faults that would likely have substantial impact within the City. Assessments of various risk scenarios and areas especially susceptible to seismic and geologic hazards are identified in new and updated figures. The policies and implementation measures incorporated into the updated element strive to minimize and mitigate the potential destructive effects of seismic and geologic hazards.

   The Flood Hazards component provides updated information on areas of the City that are susceptible to urban flooding and includes new figures illustrating the flood hazard areas that have been identified within the City.

4. **Implementation Measures.** In accordance with California Government Code section 65400, the Safety Element, like all elements of the General Plan, must identify implementation measures that correspond with the identified policies of the element. With the revisions to existing goals and objectives, as well as addition of new policies, both new and updated implementation measures have been incorporated to align with the other updates that have occurred within the element.

5. **Safety Element Definitions.** Definitions for Environmental Justice, Disadvantaged Community, and Development have been incorporated into the Safety Element's

definitions to be consistent with the definitions within the California General Plan Glossary in Appendix 1 of the City of Duarte General Plan and to be consistent with the definitions in California Government Code section 65040.12 and section 65302.

The above-noted updates constitute the primary changes that have been made to the Safety Element. The update incorporates and addresses all State mandated requirements, with other minor modifications throughout the document which enhance the element's overall clarity as well as consistency with other internal documents and elements, as required by State law.

The draft Safety Element Update is required to be reviewed by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The draft Safety Element Update has been preliminarily reviewed and assessed by CalFire as a precursor to ultimate review and certification by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board), a government appointed body within CalFire. Comments from CalFire's initial assessment primarily consisted of recommendations to incorporate policies and policy revisions that emphasize minimizing risks within the VHFHSZs. These recommendations and comments have been addressed through minor revisions to the element, which are incorporated in the draft element that is being presented to the Planning Commission with this report (Exhibit A1). CalFire has reviewed the updated draft and has recommended that staff proceed with submitting the element to the Board. The element is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed by the Board at their Tuesday, November 2, 2021 meeting. It is not anticipated that the Board will require any additional revisions to the element; however, the element will not be considered finalized until receiving certification by the Board, after which the Safety Element Update can be officially adopted by the City Council.

Once adopted by the City Council, the next update to the Safety Element will likely occur in conjunction with the next Housing Element Update for the anticipated 2029-2037 planning period, but the Safety Element shall not be updated less than once every eight (8) years, per California Government Code section 65302.

ANALYSIS – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

Senate Bill 1000 requires the General Plan to include Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives. The requirements of Senate Bill 1000 are triggered when two (2) or more elements of a General Plan are revised or adopted on or after January 1, 2018. Due to the City's concurrent update of both the Housing Element and the Safety Element, compliance with the Environmental Justice requirements of Senate Bill 1000 is mandatory.

Environmental Justice strives to correct inequities that arise when communities are disproportionately burdened by pollution and associated health risks; and promote the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all groups with respect to environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental Justice emphasizes creating equity in DACs by reducing harmful pollutants and associated health risks; facilitating transparency, encouraging civil engagement, and reducing barriers to participating in planning and decision making processes; promoting equitable access to health-inducing benefits, such as healthy food options, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity and recreation, and public facilities; and increasing protections for DACs. DACs, which are the focus of Environmental Justice efforts, are identified through the

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's CalEnviroScreen mapping tool, which models various indicators that characterize a community's pollution burden and population characteristics relative to other Census tracts within the state, and then computes an overall CalEnviroScreen percentile range score for each Census tract. Census tracts with a CalEnviroScreen score of seventy-five percent (75%) or higher are designated as DACs.

To comply with the requirements of Senate Bill 1000, the development of Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives for Duarte involved the identification of DACs utilizing the CalEnviroScreen tool. Of the four (4) Census tracts within the City of Duarte, one (1) qualifies as a designated DAC based on a CalEnviroScreen score of eighty-percent (80%). The DAC identified within Duarte is Census tract no. 6037430101, which encompasses the area to the north of Duarte Road and west of Highland Avenue. The Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives that have been incorporated into the Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update, along with the Environmental Justice-focused revisions that are proposed to policies within the other elements of the City of Duarte General Plan, give particular attention to the needs of the designated DACs that are currently identified within Duarte.

Consistent with the overarching objectives of Environmental Justice, the proposed policies within the City of Duarte General Plan aim to advance equity within the community first and foremost by recognizing those communities that are underserved, under-resourced, vulnerable, and disadvantaged, and secondly, by ensuring that in the course of various City endeavors these communities are strategically prioritized and engaged with. A memorandum prepared by the City's consultant outlines the new Environmental Justice policies and policy revisions that are proposed throughout the General Plan, including within the Housing Element Update and Safety Element Update (Exhibit B). The proposed Environmental Justice policies within the Safety Element Update are accompanied with Environmental Justice related implementation actions. The Environmental Justice policies that have been added to the other elements, including the Housing Element Update, do not include Environmental Justice specific implementation actions since the Environmental Justice policies are primarily focused on prioritizing decision making.

Once the proposed Environmental Justice policies have been adopted by the City Council and incorporated into the General Plan, per Senate Bill 1000, review of these policies would not be required until the next revision of two (2) or more elements concurrently. This would likely occur during the next update to the Housing Element and Safety Element, which is anticipated to happen in 2029, or during the next General Plan Update should one be scheduled to occur prior to 2029.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and Environmental Justice policies were drafted concurrently and evaluated as a single project under one environmental review process. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15063 and Sections 15070 through 15075, an Initial Study and Negative Declaration (Exhibit E) have been prepared for the proposed project and its required General Plan Amendments, finding that it could not have a significant effect on the environment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review and adopt PC Resolution 21-04 (Exhibit C) and PC Resolution 21-05 (Exhibit D), recommending that the City Council approve General Plan Amendment 2021-02 and General Plan Amendment 2021-03, adopting the Safety Element Update to the City of Duarte General Plan and adopting the Environmental Justice policies of the City of Duarte General Plan, respectively, and adopting a Negative Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maia McCurley
Associate Planner

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A1 – Draft Safety Element Update
Exhibit A2 – Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
Exhibit B – Environmental Justice Policy Memo
Exhibit C – PC Resolution 21-04
Exhibit D – PC Resolution 21-05
Exhibit E – Initial Study – Negative Declaration Duarte Housing and Safety Element

Exhibit A1

CHAPTER 2
SAFETY ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, exposure to the impacts of climate change, and other hazards. Other locally relevant safety issues, such as emergency response, hazardous materials spills, and crime reduction, may also be included. Ensuring public safety in Duarte also requires understanding and addressing public health risks and environmental concerns of those living in disadvantaged communities in the City. The Safety Element overlaps topics also mandated in the Land Use, Conservation, and Open Space Elements. Safety Element Definitions are provided at the end of this document.

Safety Element Statutory Requirements

State law requires that every city and county within California adopt *"a safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence, liquefaction and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wild land and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards…"* The Related Agencies, Laws, and Plans section lists existing laws, plans, and programs related to the Duarte Safety Element.

Relationship to other General Plan Elements and Program EIR

California law requires that all elements of the General Plan be consistent. While all of the General Plan Elements are independent, they are also interrelated, some more so than others. As an example certain goals and policies of one element may also address items that are primary issues of other elements. This integration of issues throughout the General Plan creates a strong basis for the implementation of plans, programs, and achievement of community goals. The Safety Element is most directly related to Land Use, Circulation, Conservation, and Open Space Elements as well as Environmental Justice policies that are provided throughout the General Plan Elements.

CHAPTER 2
SAFETY ELEMENT

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

This section provides draft Goals, Objectives, and Policies for the Safety Element of the Duarte General Plan. Implementation measures for these policies are at the end of this chapter. The most likely natural or man-made disasters likely to strike Duarte are associated with wildfire, seismic, and geologic hazards. To minimize the risk from these hazards, the following goals and policies will be implemented over the life of the plan.

Emergency Preparedness Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Safety Goal 1: To protect the citizens, their property, and public facilities from natural, man-made, and climate change related hazards.

Objective 1.1 Prepare the community for any expected or unexpected disasters resulting from natural or man-made causes.

Policies

Safe 1.1.1 Implement the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan which would enable the city to operate in a self-sufficient manner following a natural or man-made disaster.

Safe 1.1.2 Promote the development of community programs or neighborhood disaster relief groups that train volunteers to assist police, fire, and civil defense personnel to perform effectively after the occurrence of a natural or man-made disaster.

Safe 1.1.3 Expand and intensify precautionary measures in high-risk areas, including in disadvantaged communities, to reduce loss from natural or man-made disasters and investigate ways of reducing the likelihood of their occurrence.

Safe 1.1.4 Consider climate change vulnerability and safety implications during the review process for all development proposals, including those involving City-owned facilities and infrastructure.

Safe 1.1.5 Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and neighboring cities to ensure that adequate services are ready and available to serve the community in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

Safe 1.1.6 Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies responsible for the enforcement of all health, safety, and environmental laws.

Safe 1.1.7 Maintain hazard mitigation plans, disaster preparedness and emergency response plans, and update plans at regular intervals and when new information is available.

Safe 1.1.8 Establish designated emergency response and evacuation routes throughout the City, for each climate hazard (e.g. wildfire, storm flooding, etc.), prioritizing the most high-risk and disadvantaged populations.

Safe 1.1.9 Update emergency and disaster response measures to account for increased heat days with a focus on reducing health risks for the highest-risk individuals and disadvantaged communities.

Safe 1.1.10 Ensure that adequate provisions are made to supply drinking water for an extended period in the event of a major disaster.

Safety Goal 2: To establish, maintain, and develop an awareness on the part of all citizens of Duarte on how to react, protect themselves and each other, as well as how to survive in the event of a natural or man-made disaster or danger.

Objective 2.1 Prepare the citizens of Duarte to be prepared for danger or disaster and, if need be, to be self-reliant for a length of time in the event of a catastrophic natural or man-made event.

Policies:

Safe 2.1.1 Establish and support all appropriate media for reaching all segments of the community (English-speaking and non-English speaking) to educate residents concerning emergency preparedness and safety, focusing on the most vulnerable communities such as those in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Safe 2.1.2 Present or support an on-going series of community meetings or seminars, and a community handbook on disaster preparedness and procedures. The program should be about minimizing hazards in the home, wildfire mitigation and disaster planning, and developing disaster preparedness and evacuation plans.

Safe 2.1.3 Encourage private businesses to develop disaster preparedness plans for their employees.

Safe 2.1.4 Coordinate emergency planning efforts with building managers of high-occupancy facilities, dependent care centers (nursing homes, day care centers, etc.) and critical facilities located in the City to facilitate effective emergency response.

Safe 2.1.5 Increase public awareness of City emergency response plans, evacuation routes, and emergency shelters, with a focus on populations at greatest risk and disadvantaged communities.

Safe 2.1.6 Maintain a citizens notification system regarding natural, man-made, or climate change hazards that reaches all populations in the community with a focus on reaching disadvantaged communities.

Safe 2.1.7 Incorporate information for potential health threats due to climate change hazards, such as heat-illness, illnesses complicated by low air quality, and risks during heavy precipitation events, into early warning systems.

Safe 2.1.8 The City will work closely with adjacent cities, Department of Fish and Wildlife, County Animal Control, and Sheriff's Department, and monitor, inform, and communicate to residents and schools the presence of wild animals in human habitat areas (including bear, coyote, and mountain lion).

Safety Goal 3: To achieve a greater sense of citizen satisfaction with the safety services within the community, through constantly monitoring the effective and efficient staffing of safety service personnel, while alternately considering the desirability of consolidating all safety services into a single entity.

Objective 3.1 Communicate with Duarte citizens, including those in disadvantaged communities, through all available media, that their safety personnel are current on all aspects of community safety and prepared to effectively assist when needed.

Policies:

Safe 3.1.1 Maintain high levels of emergency services, and monitor safety services annually and evaluate safety services alternatives. Review, on an annual basis, the effectiveness of safety services relying on citizen input.

CHAPTER 2
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Hazard-specific safety and mitigation Goals, Objectives, and Policies The following goals (4-6) and supporting policies express the City's concern regarding risks to citizens involving seismic, fire, and hazardous materials disasters.

Safety Goal 4: To minimize the risks to lives and property due to seismic activity and geologic hazards.

Objective 4.1 Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to seismic and geologic hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

Policies:

Safe 4.1.1 Implement the Earthquake and Liquefaction actions, and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 4.1.2 Restrict development in areas prone to seismic hazards and other geologic hazards.

Safe 4.1.3 Enforce seismic design provisions of the current California Building Standards Code related to geologic, seismic, and slope hazards for all new construction.

Safe 4.1.4 Require that geotechnical reports include projected changes to slope stability related to climate change impacts on wildfires and erosion, and the development of mitigation strategies for new development projects in areas with the potential for liquefaction or landslide.

Safety Goal 5: To minimize the risk to lives and property due to fire hazards.

Objective 5.1 Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

Policies:

Safe 5.1.1 Implement the Wildfire actions and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 5.1.2 Continue to support "mutual assistance" agreements between the fire departments of the local cities, Los Angeles

County, and the U.S. Government.

Safe 5.1.3 Continue to support programs to reduce fire hazards of vegetation in areas of extreme to high fire risk. Such programs may take a variety of forms, but may include weed and brush removal and control and use of fire-resistant plantings.

Safe 5.1.4 Provide an adequate level of fire equipment, peakload water supply, and personnel to protect the community.

Safe 5.1.5 Require all new development and re-development in the VHFSZ to comply with the following standards, codes, and regulations:

- Title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structured Regulations) for SRAs and VHFSZ, and with the California Government Codes 51175-57789 (Very High Fire Severity Zones),
- The latest fire-safe standards,
- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations; and,
- The most current version of the California Building Codes and California Fire Code.

Safe 5.1.6 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to develop site-specific fire management plans addressing fuel modification or incorporating open space and other defensible space areas, as well as multiple points of ingress and egress for evacuation and emergency vehicle access before approval.

Safe 5.1.7 Identify areas with inadequate access/evacuation routes and develop mitigation measures or improvement plans for these areas.

Safe 5.1.8 Minimize new development in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and, when feasible, locate all new essential public facilities outside of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Safe 5.1.9 Minimize risks to existing development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by identifying existing non-conforming development to contemporary fire safe standards, in terms of road standards and vegetative hazard, and requiring all development to meet or exceed the City of Duarte Title 15 – Fire under the Duarte Municipal Code and applicable updates.

Safe 5.1.10 Work with California American Water Company (water provider) to identify, maintain, and ensure the long-term

integrity of future water supply for fire suppression needs, and ensure that water supply infrastructure adequately supports existing and future development and redevelopment, and provides adequate water flow to combat structural and wildland fires, including during peak domestic demand periods.

Safe 5.1.11 Establish and Maintain community fire breaks and fuel modification/reduction zones, including public and private road clearance as described in the Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 5.1.12 Require that all homes and businesses have visible street addressing and signage.

Safe 5.1.13 Evaluate evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios to facilitate fire, police, and ambulance access and resident egress, as part of the next update to the City of Duarte Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safety Goal 6: To minimize the risks to lives and property due to the use and storage of hazardous materials.

Objective 6.1 Reduce risks to public health and safety due to the transportation, use, or storage of hazardous materials within the community.

Policies:

Safe 6.1.1 Implement the Hazardous Materials actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 6.1.2 Monitor to the greatest extent possible the location of hazardous materials that could adversely impact Duarte residents, and businesses, and include information on soil contamination and storage of hazardous materials in the City's Geographic Information System.

Safe 6.1.3 Regulate the delivery, use, and storage of hazardous materials within the city limits according to regulations and guidelines set forth by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Safe 6.1.4 Provide community members with information on the proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials and e-waste.

RELATED AGENCIES, LAWS, AND PLANS

The following existing laws, plans, and programs relate to the goals of the Duarte Safety Element. These laws, plans, and programs, enacted through state and local action, are administered by various agencies with responsibility for their enforcement.

California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was adopted by the state legislature in response to a public mandate for a thorough environmental analysis of projects that might adversely affect the environment. The provisions of the law, review procedure, and any subsequent analysis are described in the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines as amended in 1998. Safety hazards, as well as noise and air quality impacts are recognized as environmental impacts under CEQA.

Colbey-Alquist Floodplain Management Act

The Colbey-Alquist Floodplain Management Act encourages local governments to plan, adopt, and enforce land use regulations for floodplain management, in order to protect people and property from flooding hazards. This act also identifies requirements which jurisdictions must meet in order to receive state financial assistance for flood control.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act requires the state Geologist to identify earthquake fault zones along traces of both recently and potentially active major faults. Cities and counties that contain such zones must inform the public regarding zone location.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

Pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the state Geologist compiles maps identifying seismic hazard zones. Development in seismic hazard areas is subject to policies and criteria established by the State Mining and Geology Board. Additionally, approval of development on a site within a seismic hazard area mandates the preparation of a geotechnical report and local agency consideration of compliance with applicable state requirements.

Landslide Hazard Identification Program

The Landslide Hazard Identification Program requires the state Geologist to prepare maps of landslide hazards within urbanizing areas.

Federal Clean Air Act

The Federal Clean Air Act established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in 1970 for six pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone, particulates, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. The Act requires states with air pollution that exceeds the NAAQS to prepare air quality plans demonstrating how the standards would be met (State Implementation Plans-SIPs). In 1990, amendments to the Act established categories of severity for non-attainment areas ("marginal" to "extreme"). In 1994, the California Air Resources Board adopted a revised State Implementation Plan for ozone to meet the requirements of the 1990 amendments.

California Senate Bill 1000

Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) requires cities with identified disadvantaged communities (DACs) to include environmental justice goals and policies in the jurisdiction's General Plan. Per SB 1000, the California EPA uses CalEnviroScreen, a mapping tool**,** to identify disadvantaged communities throughout the state. CalEnviroScreen uses a variety of statewide indicators to characterize pollution burden (the average of exposures and environmental effects) and population characteristics (the average of sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors). The model scores each of the indicators using percentiles and combines the scores for individual indicators to determine an overall CalEnviroScreen score for a given census tract relative to others in the state. Figure Safe – 1 shows the CalEnviroScreen results for Duarte. One census tract in west Duarte has a combined DAC score of 75% or higher, thus exceeding the minimum criterion for DAC designation. As mandated under SB 1000, the Safety Element includes policies to address environmental justice through reducing health risks to DACs, promoting civil engagement, and prioritizing the needs of these communities.

California Senate Bill 379

As required under Senate Bill 379, the City of Duarte completed a local climate change vulnerability assessment, which concludes that Duarte will be most vulnerable to extreme heat events, droughts, storm flooding, wildfires, and resulting decreased air quality conditions in a changing climate. As discussed in the vulnerability assessment, communities most affected by the effects of climate change in Duarte are older adults, non-white communities, non-English

speakers, individuals with physical disabilities, isolated individuals, uninsured individuals, and renters. The Safety Element includes policies to increase the community's ability to cope with climate change impacts, also known as adaptive capacity.

California Senate Bill 1241

Senate Bill 1241 requires review and update of the safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, as necessary to address the risk of fire in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones. The specific requirements are codified in GC § 65302(g)(3) and 65302.5(b).

California Senate Bill 99

Wildfires and other hazards, such as flood events, can isolate areas of the City and create severe health and safety risks. Senate Bill 99, adopted August 2019, requires identification of neighborhoods that have fewer than two emergency evacuation routes. The Fire Hazards subsection of the Safety Element provides information regarding fire risk in the community and analysis of emergency evacuation routes.

California Assembly Bill 2140

Assembly Bill 2140 limits the amount of additional state funding for certain disaster recovery projects funded by the California Disaster Assistance Act unless the local agency has complied with the provisions set forth in the bill. Among other requirements, local agencies must provide a certified copy of the Resolution of Adoption to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) demonstrating that the approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) has been adopted and incorporated into the Safety Element of the General Plan. Compliance with Assembly Bill 2140 is optional; however, noncompliance limits the City's ability to obtain additional funding for certain disaster recovery projects. The Safety Element references the City's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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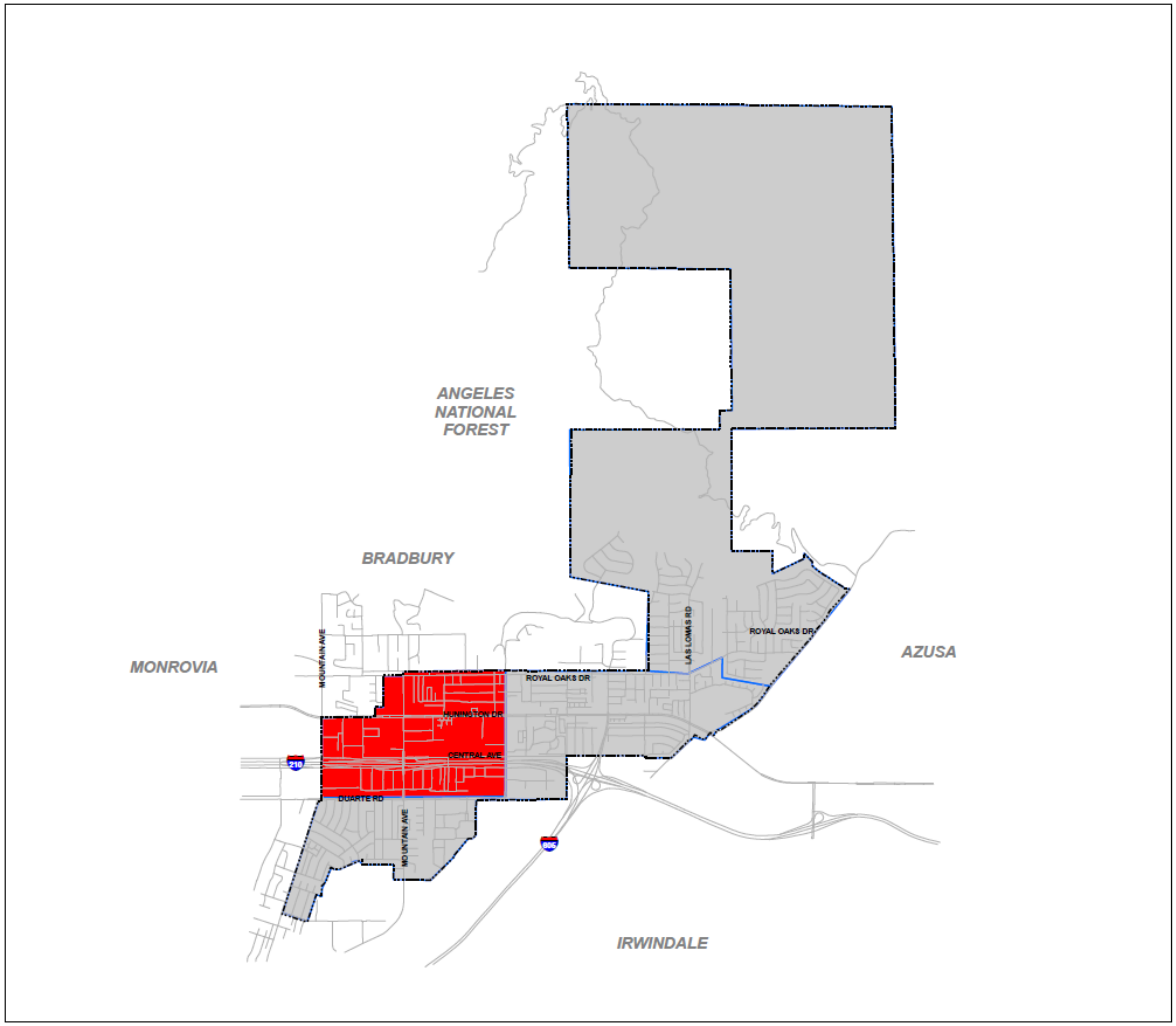
Figure Safe – 1 Disadvantaged Communities



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City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan

In May of 2020 the Duarte City Council approved Resolution No. 20-15 adopting the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This plan established goals and objectives to ensure health, safety, and welfare of Duarte citizens, even in the event of a disaster. The plan was a result of a process involving city departments, local agencies, business people, landowners, developers, and citizens, and reflects local values and concerns.

The City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted the following Goals:

Minimize Risk

- Avoid or reduce long-term vulnerabilities to hazards.

Protect Life and Property

- Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural, human-caused, and technological hazards.
- Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for avoiding new development in high hazard areas and encouraging preventative measures for existing development in areas vulnerable to natural, human-caused, and technological hazards.

Increase Public Awareness

- Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural, human-caused, and technological hazards.
- Provide information on tools, partnership opportunities, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

Preserve Natural Systems

- Support management and land use planning practices with hazard mitigation to protect life.
- Preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance natural systems to serve hazard mitigation functions.

Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Haz Mat Division administers the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program for the City of Duarte.

Senate Bill 1082 (1993) established the "Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program". The Unified Program consolidates, coordinates, and makes consistent the following hazardous materials and hazardous waste programs (Program Elements):

- Hazardous Waste Generation (including onsite treatment under Tiered Permitting),
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tanks (only the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan or "SPCC"),
- Underground Storage Tanks (USTs),
- Hazardous Material Release Response Plans and Inventories,
- California Accidental Release Prevention Program (Cal ARP), and,
- Uniform Fire Code Hazardous Material Management Plans and Inventories.

OVERVIEW OF DUARTE'S SAFETY ISSUES

Fire Hazards

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) ranks fire hazard of wildland areas of the state using four main criteria: fuels, weather, assets at risk, and level of service. According to Cal Fire's Fire Hazard Severity Zone map, Duarte is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Duarte's location at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains creates an urban/wildland interface that makes Duarte more susceptible to wildfires than cities that do not border the foothills. The most recent wildfire in the northeastern portion of Duarte was the San Gabriel Complex Fire in 2016, which required evacuation of 1,376 homes. As shown in Figure Safe – 2, residents living north of Royal Oaks Drive are at substantial risk of a wildland fire. This has resulted in low densities in the privately held hillside areas. The City's Development Code has established Hillside Development Standards that include minimizing risk to properties associated with wildfires and requires that all new construction on hillside areas comply with California Building Code and California Fire Code. In addition, Duarte has a Hazard Mitigation Plan to assist in identification and mitigation of hazards, including wildfire.

According to the Los Angeles Region Report of California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, wildfire is expected to increase due to climate change. Climate change has the potential to affect multiple elements of the wildfire

system, including fire behavior, ignitions, fire management, and vegetation fuels. Hot dry spells create the highest fire risk and increased temperatures may intensify wildfire danger by warming and drying vegetation. As identified in the Duarte Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, the City's sensitive people assets (e.g., older adults and non-white communities), infrastructure assets (e.g., access roads and energy delivery), buildings and facilities (residential buildings and government facilities), and natural and managed resources (e.g., open space) are vulnerable to wildfire impacts.

Senate Bill 99 requires identification of neighborhoods that have fewer than two emergency evacuation routes. The neighborhood located at the northernmost end of Mount Olive Drive and highlighted in Figure Safe – 3 is the only neighborhood in the City with fewer than two emergency evacuation routes. This Safety Element includes policies to improve emergency evacuation procedures throughout the City, including in the most vulnerable areas. Assembly Bill 747, which will go into effect January 1, 2022, requires cities to evaluate route capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. This requirement will be addressed in the next Safety Element update.

Historic Wildfires in the City of Duarte

1953 Duarte Fire

This fire originated between Spinks Canyon and Maddock Canyon in wildland area. A total of 561 acres burned in this fire. Of the 561 acres that burned, 256 acres were considered within the "Duarte area".

1958 Norum Fire

This fire burned in the foothills north of Monrovia, Duarte, Bradbury, and Azusa. A total of 6,440 acres burned in the Norum Fire. Of the 6,440 acres, 2,505 acres of land were within Duarte's boundaries. (Mostly wilderness areas).

1980 Stable Fire

On November 16, 1980 a fire storm that had been fanned by Santa Ana Wind conditions swept down from the foothills and destroyed 35 homes in the City of Duarte and 14 homes in the City of Bradbury. Reports indicated that the fire had moved from the City of Azusa, east of the San Gabriel River to the Duarte and Bradbury homes in 8 to 10 minutes, due to a strong shift in winds.

Immediately after the fire, city and county personnel began taking measures to deal with the devastation. A Disaster Assistance Center was established at City Hall and Federal and State agencies were contacted for help. The Los Angeles County Fire District set up a mobile command center and the City set up an emergency shelter. In the weeks that followed the fire, the City established

several programs to deal with possible floods and mudslides that could occur due to the bare slopes where all vegetation had been burned off. Mud diversion structures were constructed, 50,000 sandbags were distributed, and parking was restricted on streets with potential slides. Since the Stable Fire occurred during California's rainy season, "Storm Watch" flyers were also issued to residents in Duarte's hillside areas. The Disaster Center at City Hall monitored weather reports and storm situations and kept residents informed of these situations. City staff was also prepared to mobilize personnel and equipment if needed to clear mud flows from the public streets and parkways. As quickly as possible, several temporary debris basins were constructed, and existing debris basins were cleared and reinforced with sandbags.

2016 San Gabriel Complex Fire

On the morning of June 20, 2016, the San Gabriel Complex fire ignited. The San Gabriel Complex fire consisted of two fires: the Reservoir Fire and the Fish Fire. Both fires originated northeast of the City limits. The cause of the Reservoir Fire was a vehicle crash while the cause of the Fish Fire is unknown. At the height of the fire, 1,376 homes were evacuated. The American Red Cross established an Evacuation Center and 1,460 staff from multiple local, state, and federal agencies worked to protect property and suppress the fire. Road closures were in place and law enforcement patrolled for security while firefighters worked through the night to contain the fire. Although the San Gabriel Complex Fire threatened homes in the City, no property damage was reported.

Figure Safe – 2 Fire Hazard Zones

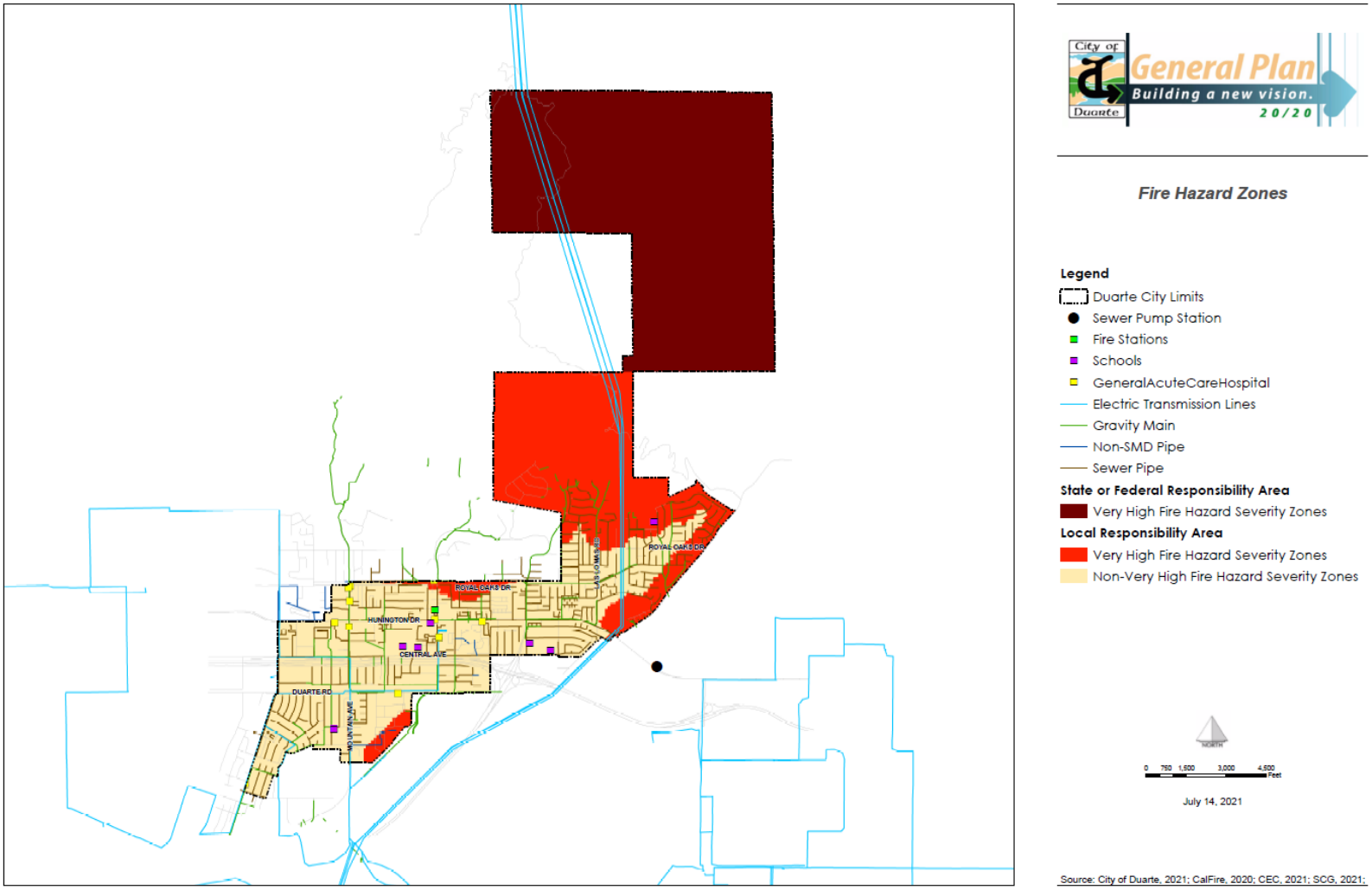
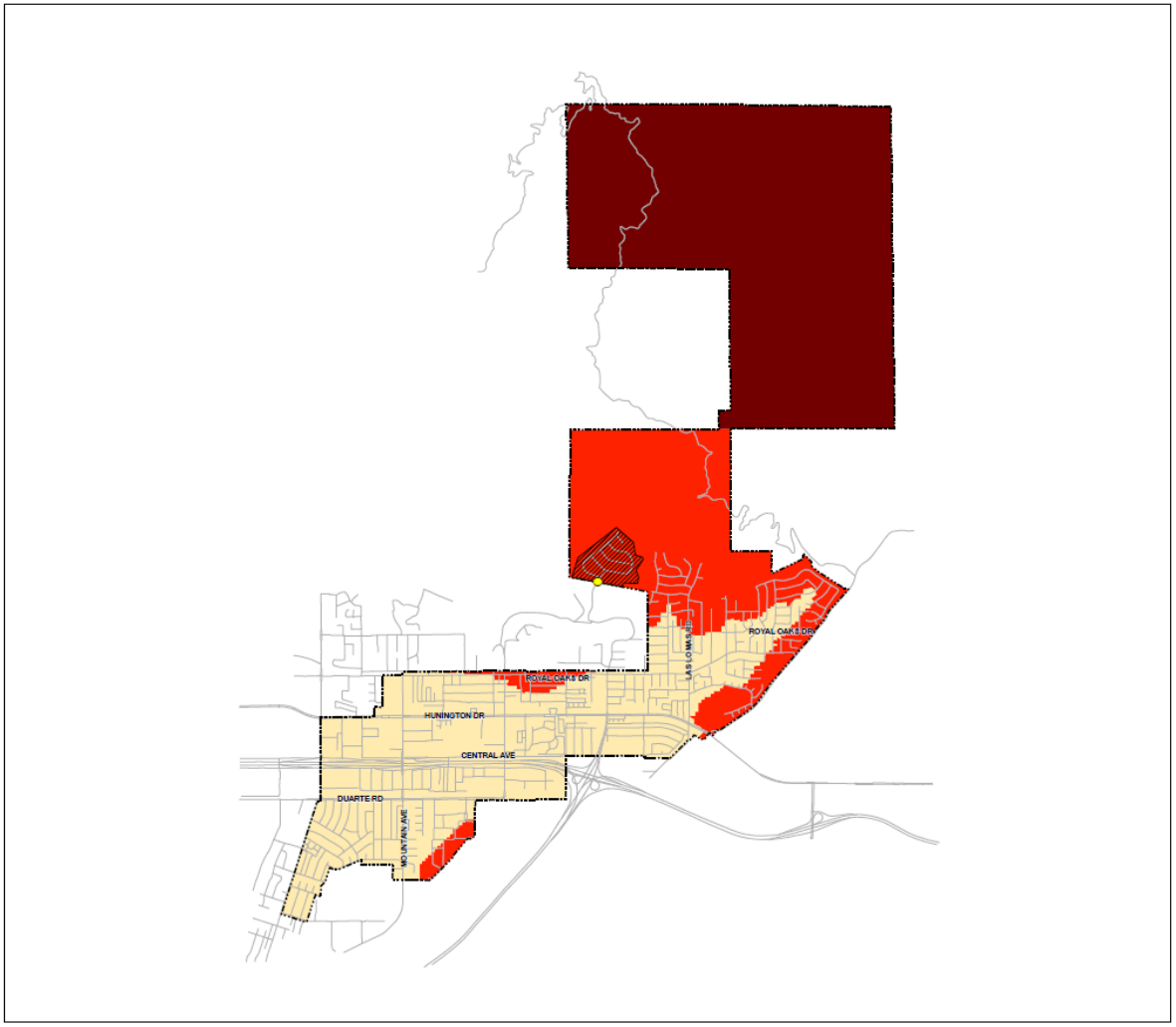


Figure Safe – 3 Emergency Evacuation Routes



Seismic and Geologic Hazards

The Sierra Madre Fault crosses through the City and the City is in close proximity to the Raymond Fault, Walnut Creek Fault, Sawpit Canyon Fault, and the San Andreas Fault. According to the City's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the probability of an earthquake affecting the City is likely and could impact all areas of the City. In 2007, the Southern California Earthquake Center concluded that there is a 99.9% probability that an earthquake of magnitude (M) 6.7 or greater will hit California within 30 years. Earthquakes that could affect the City would most likely originate along the San Andreas (M7.8), Sierra Madre (M7.2), or Puente Hills (M7.0) Faults. These faults are close enough to generate strong enough shaking that could substantially impact the City. Figure Safe – 4 shows the various major faults located in and around Duarte, and Figure Safe – 5, Figure Safe – 6, and Figure Safe – 7 show the specific risk to the City based on earthquake scenarios for Puente Hills (M 7.0), Sierra Madre (M 7.2), and San Andreas (M 7.8).

Geologic conditions in and around Duarte may cause problems if proper precautions are not taken. The northeast mountainous areas of the City are generally too steep and bedrock is too unstable for typical construction. Erosion, landslides, and shaking from earthquakes can be severe hazards within these areas. Factors contributing to landslide potential are steep slopes, unstable terrain, and proximity to earthquake faults.

Potential liquefaction hazard zones are in the southeastern portion of the City, which consists of alluvial valleys, floodplains, and canyons. In addition, areas with expansive soils can cause problems such as damage to building foundations if not properly mitigated prior to construction. Figure Safe – 8 identifies the portions of Duarte susceptible to landslide and liquefaction.

Although it is not possible to prevent earthquakes, their destructive effects can be minimized though comprehensive hazard-mitigation programs and efforts. For all buildings construction techniques are regulated according to the latest edition of the California Building Code (CBC) with City of Duarte amendments or increased requirements as necessary to reduce geologic and seismic risks to acceptable levels.

Flood Hazards

The City generally falls into an area of minimum flooding, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As shown in Figure Safe – 9, there are no 100-year or 500-year flood zones in Duarte according to FEMA. The City is located in Flood Zone "D" and "X", where flood hazards are possible, but no analysis has been conducted. Flooding does occur in the City. For example in

2017, streets in the foothills were flooded with water and debris from heavy rains in January and February. In addition, certain parts of the City are susceptible to urban flooding, including:

- Huntington Drive, north side, west of Buena Vista Street
- Encanto Parkway, north of Huntington Drive
- Encanto Parkway near Fish Canyon Road

Three major dams in the upper watershed of the San Gabriel River provide flood protection for the City of Duarte. Two of these dams, Cogswell Dam and San Gabriel Dam, were built in San Gabriel Canyon between 1934 and 1937 respectively. A third dam, known as Morris Dam was constructed in 1934 by the City of Pasadena. There is a fairly low possibility for a severe earthquake to cause flooding due to the failure of Morris, San Gabriel and/or Cogswell dams. Figure Safe – 10 shows areas subject to dam inundation in the City. According to the City's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan, all the City's critical facilities are located in dam failure inundation areas and the populated area affected by dam failure is a total of 1,643 acres. A total of 18,773 residents, approximately 88 percent of the City's population, could be affected in the event of a dam failure.

Figure Safe – 11 shows how long it would take for flood waters to reach different parts of Duarte in the unlikely possibility of a flood. Should this happen flood waters would last about one hour then recede.

To ensure against damage to existing development in these areas, the City participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Program. Development must follow the City's Municipal Code standards requiring permits to be reviewed by the Floodplain Administrator prior to construction and all new buildings in the flood hazard area to be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage. Equipment and other service facilities must also be designed to prevent water from entering or accumulating in their components during a flood.

Figure Safe – 4 Fault Lines

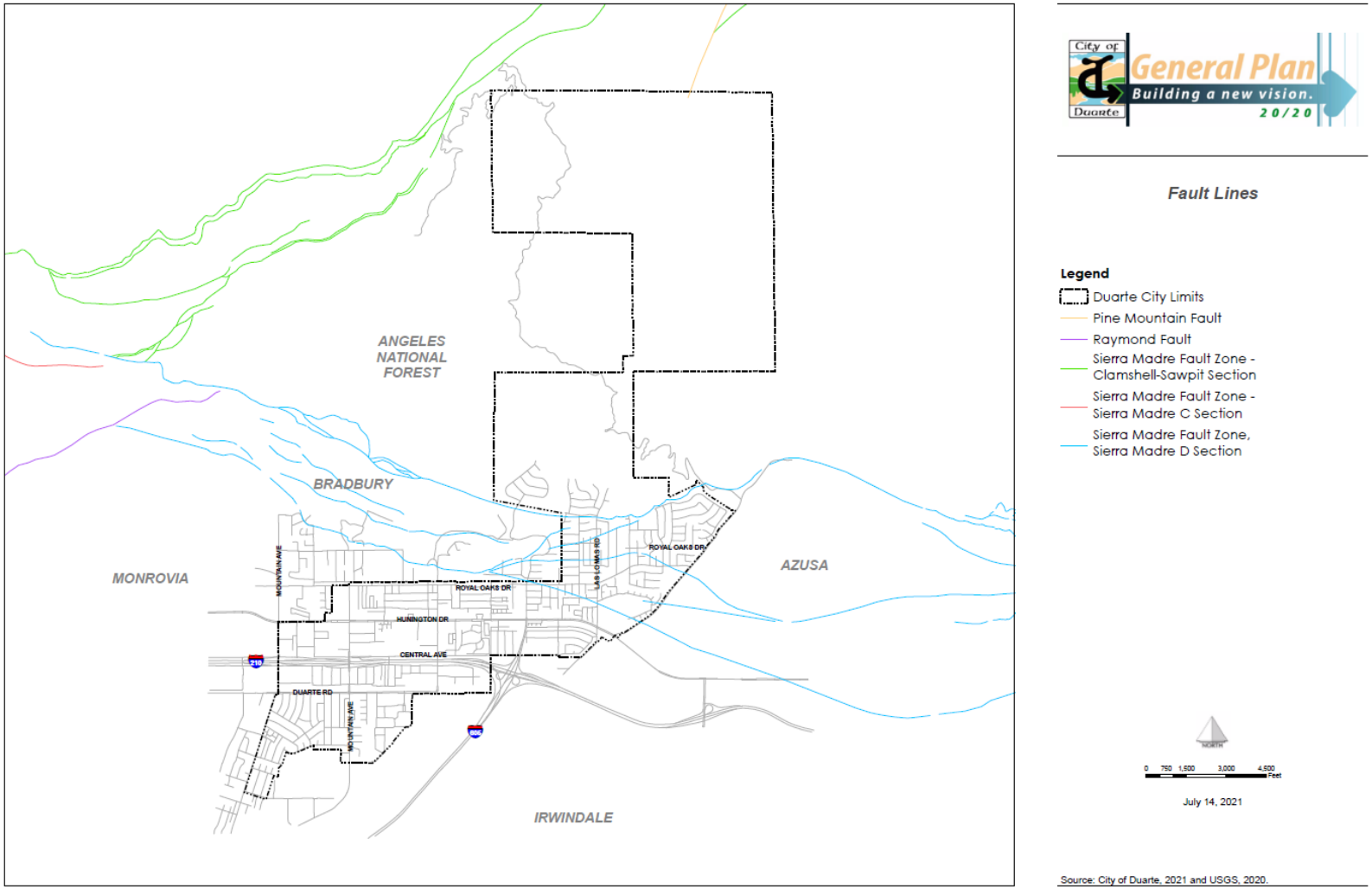
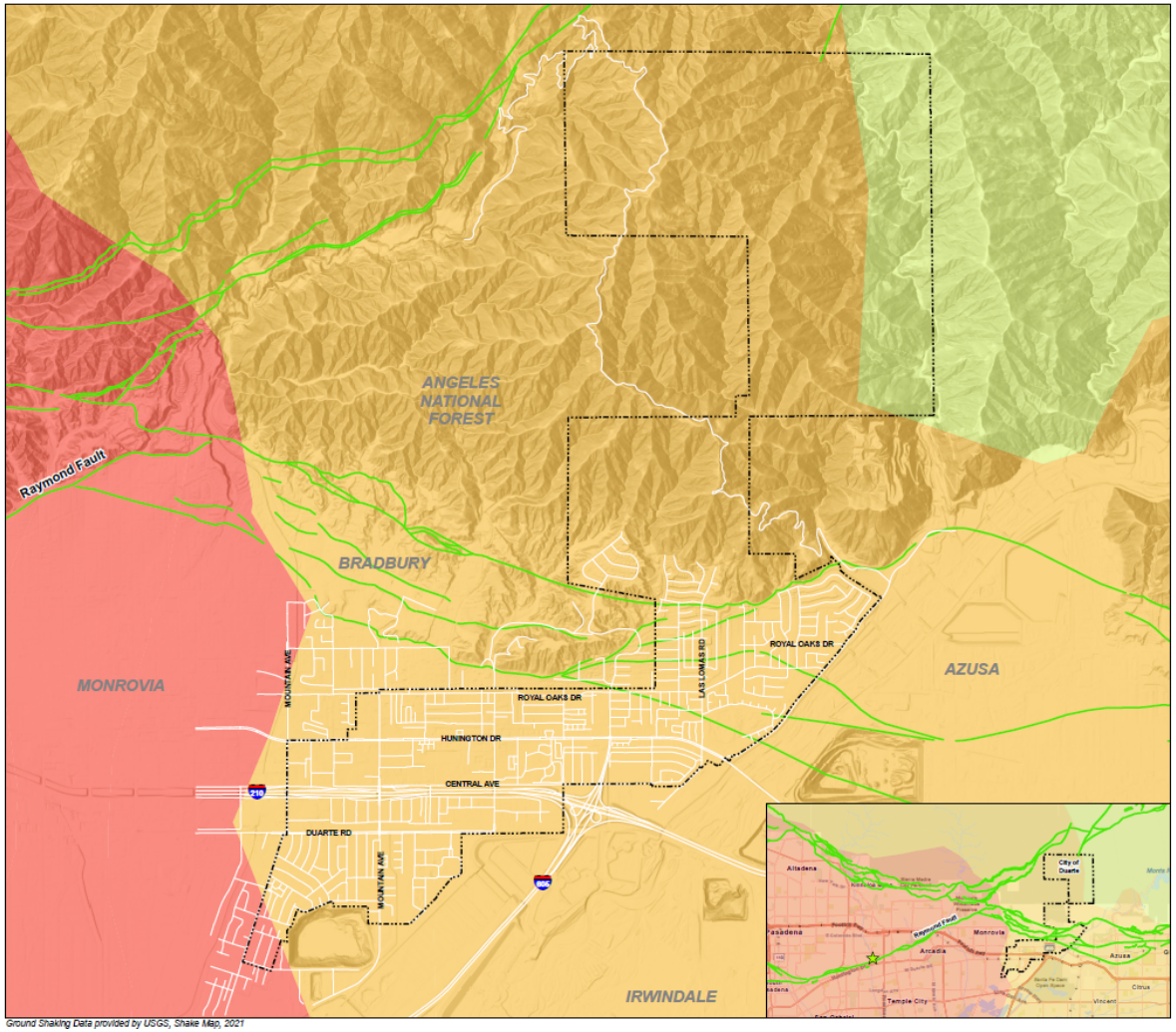


Figure Safe – 5 Earthquake Scenario Map – Puente Hills M 7.0



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Earthquake Scenario Map - Puente Hills M 7.0

Legend
- Duarte City Limits
- Epicenter
- Faults

Peak Ground Acceleration
- Weak
- Light
- Moderate
- Strong
- Very Strong
- Severe

NORTH

0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 Feet

July 26, 2021

Figure Safe – 6 Earthquake Scenario Map – Sierra Madre M 7.2

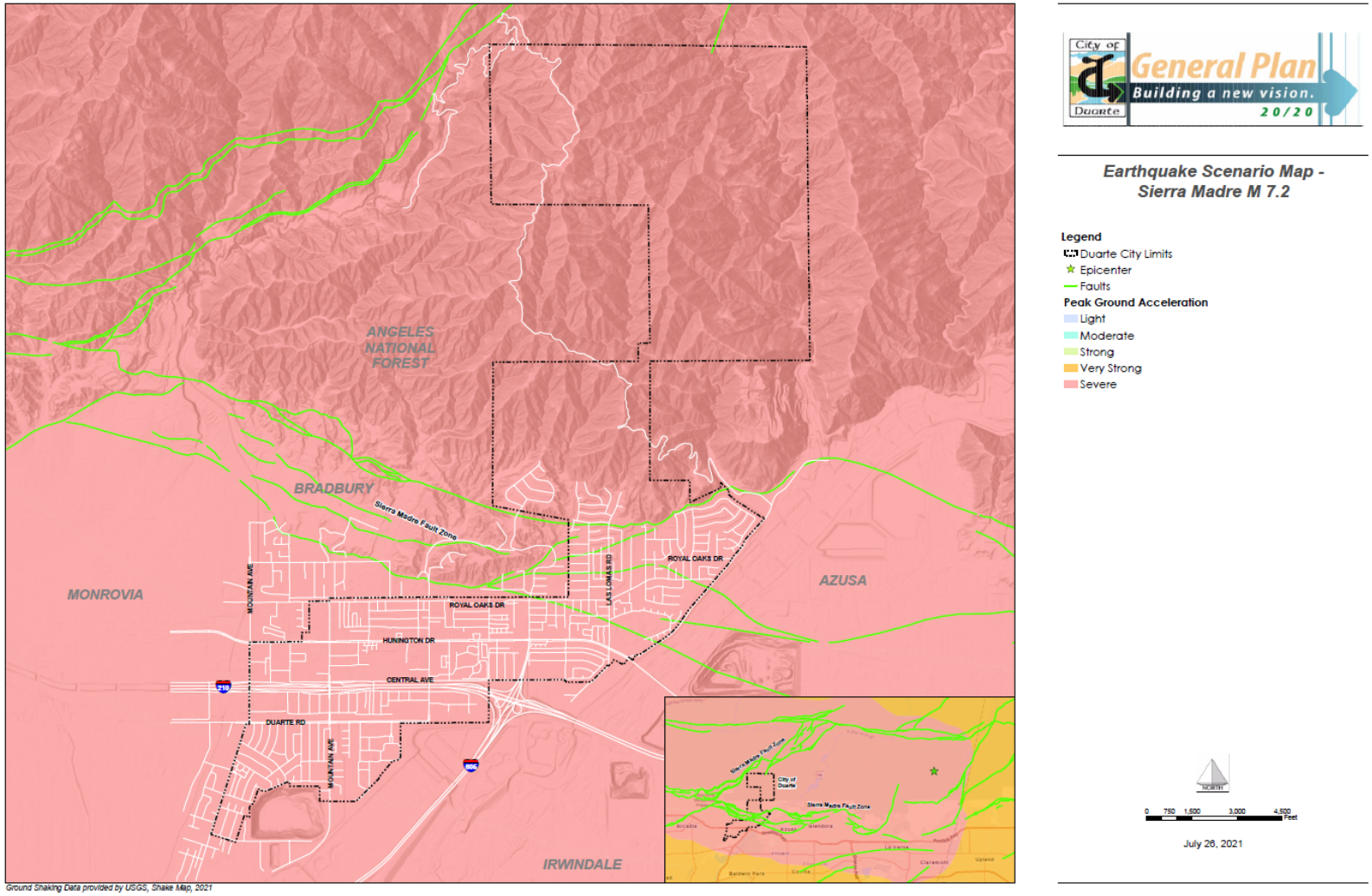


Figure Safe – 7 Earthquake Scenario Map – San Andreas M 7.8

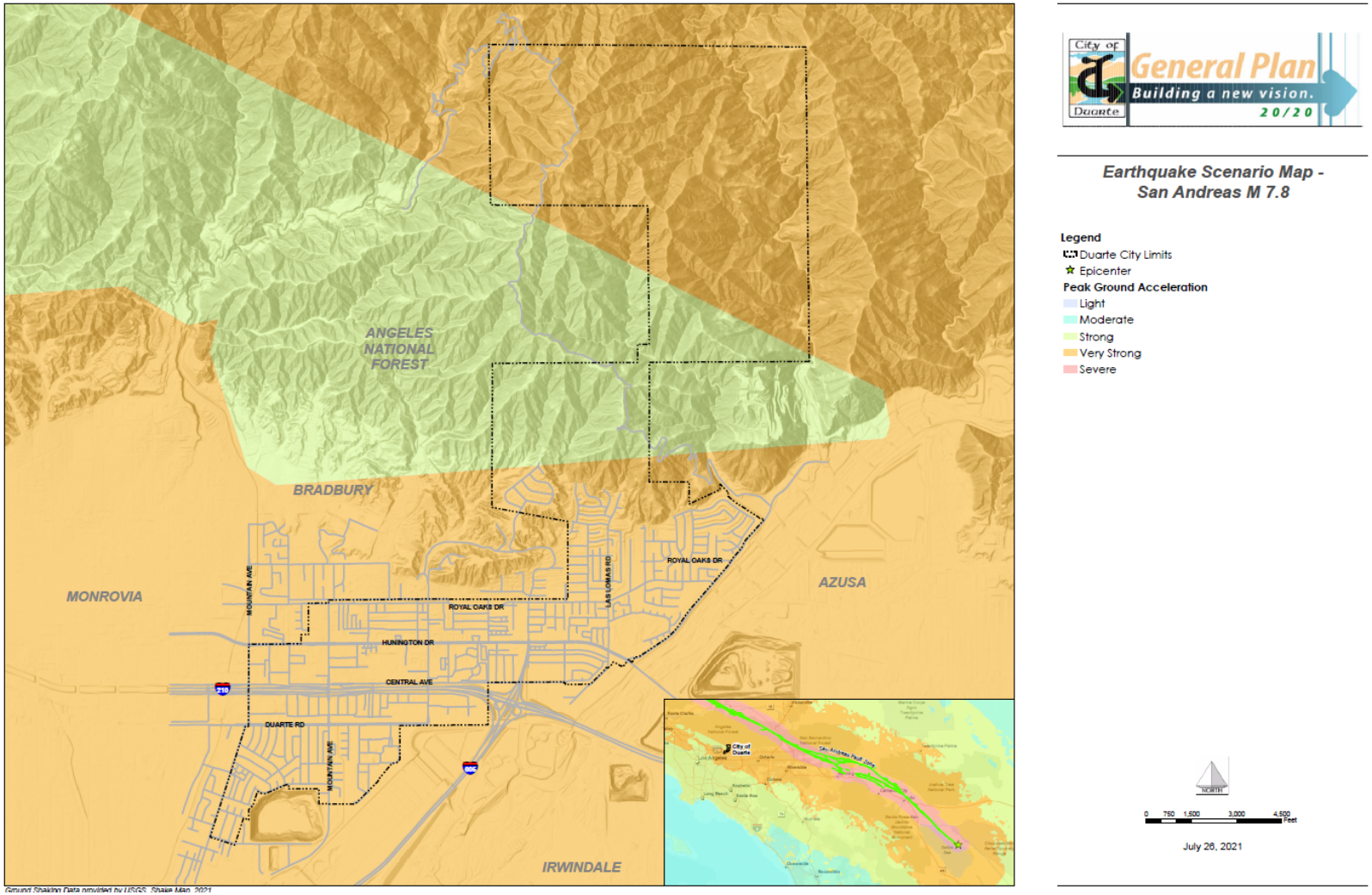


Figure Safe – 8 Landslide and Liquefaction

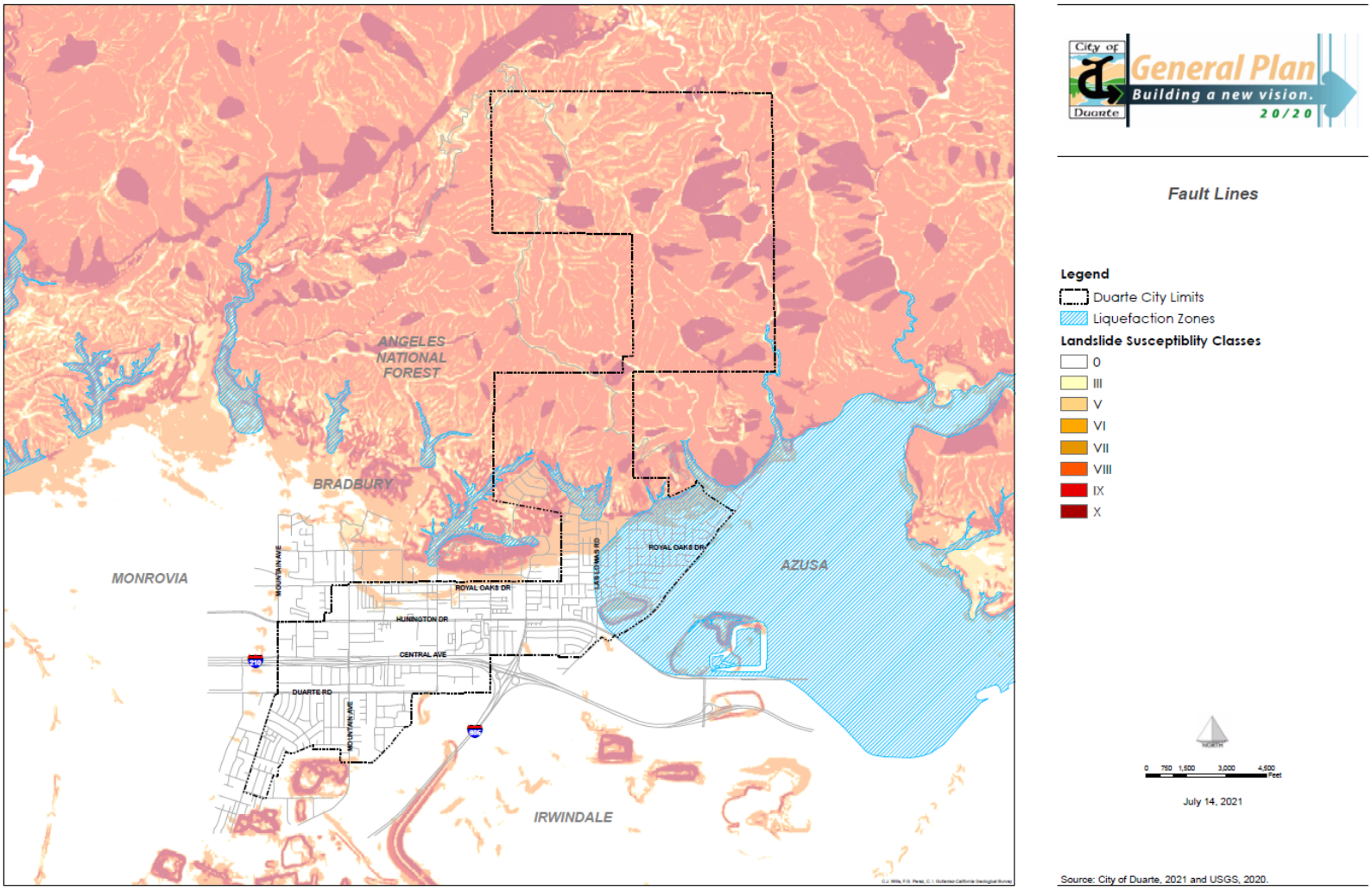
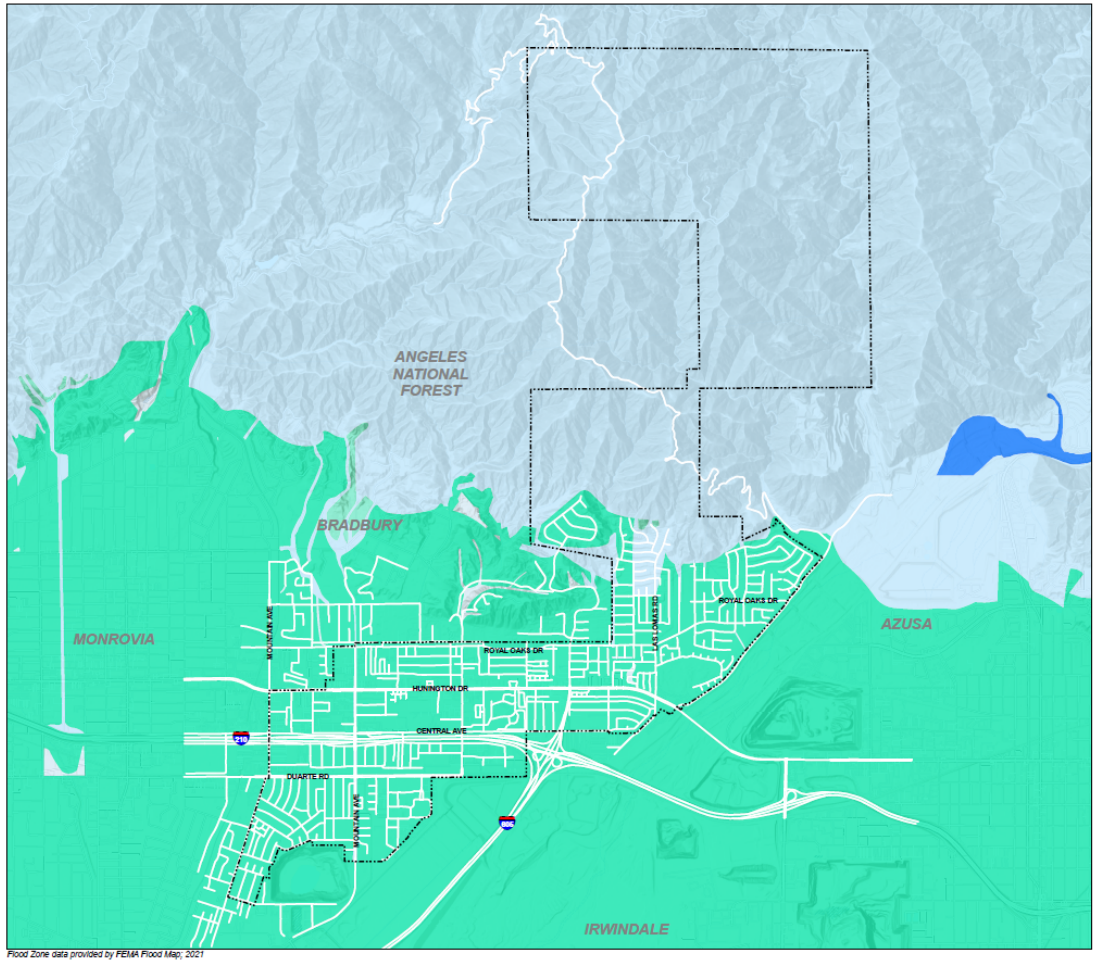


Figure Safe – 9 FEMA Flood Zones



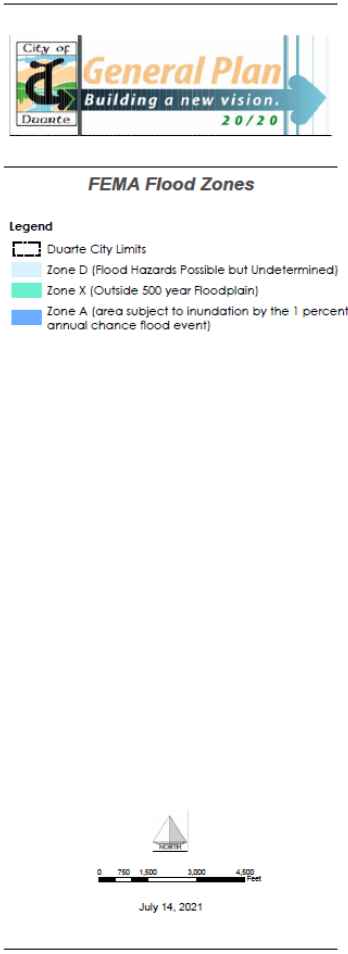
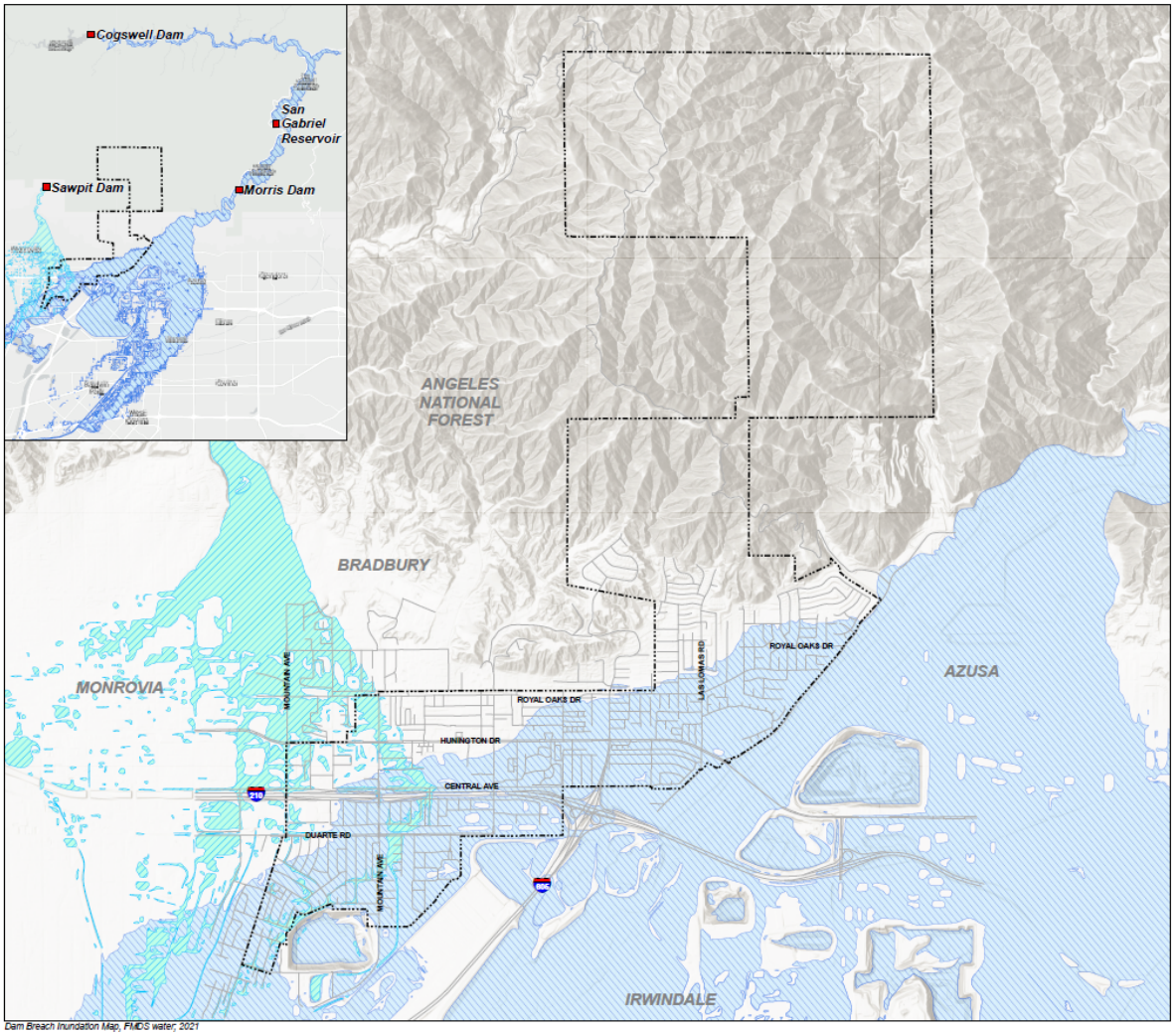


Figure Safe – 10 Dam Failure Inundation Areas



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Dam Failure Inundation Areas

Legend
- Duarte City Limits
- Sawpit Reservoir Dam Failure Inundation Area
- San Gabriel Dam Failure Inundation Area

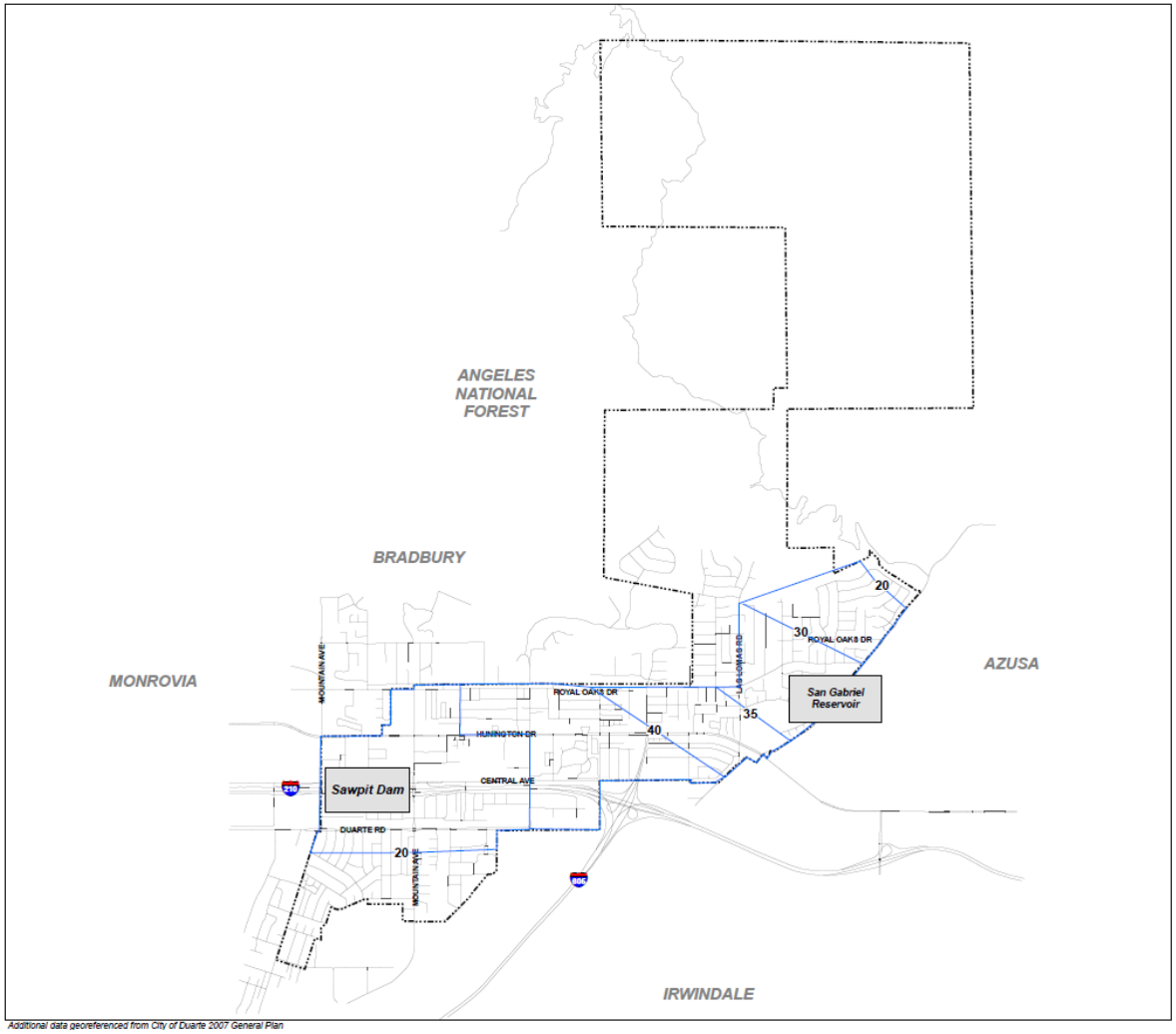
Downstream Hazard
- Extremely High

NORTH

0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 Feet

July 14, 2021

Figure Safe – 11 Dam Failure Timing Scenario



City of Duarte General Plan Building a new vision. 20/20

Dam Failure Timing Scenario

Legend

- Duarte City Limits
- Elapsed Time in Minutes from dam failutre to arrival of first water

NORTH

0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500 Feet

July 14, 2021

Hazardous Materials Management

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Haz Mat Division administers the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program for the City of Duarte. Refer to the Related Agencies, Laws, and Plans section of this element to find more about the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan which addresses hazardous materials in the City.

Emergency Preparedness

In May 2020, the Duarte City Council approved Resolution No. 20-15 adopting the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This plan established goals and objectives to ensure health, safety, and welfare of Duarte citizens, even in the event of a disaster. The plan was a result of a process involving city departments, local agencies, business people, landowners, developers, and citizens, and reflects local values and concerns. Refer to the Related Agencies, Laws, and Plans section of this element to find out more about the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan which addresses emergency preparedness.

There are no above or below ground petroleum storage facilities in Duarte other than those used by service stations and individual businesses. City staff did not have any information on pipelines within the City. Regarding other potential hazardous conditions, the Rancho Duarte Golf Course was formerly a landfill. The City of Duarte owned this 18.5 acre golf course until 2004. This golf course is designated Open Space in the Open Space and Land Use Elements.

Law Enforcement

Police protection is provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff out of the Duarte Satellite Station. The Duarte Satellite Station is the launching center for 30 male and female officers that begin and end their shift to provide Duarte, Bradbury, and the unincorporated area west of Duarte with law enforcement services 24 hours a day. The station does not have dispatch or booking ability. Non-emergency dispatch is routed through the Deputy Dispatch Desk at Temple Sheriff's Station. Special Assignment Deputies handle gang identification, operations pertaining to narcotic sales, probation sweeps, Sting Operations, Neighborhood Watch interactions, including speaking to and gathering intelligence, and overall trouble shooting of crimes that may be on the increase. A School Resource Officer works pro-actively with Duarte schools to provide prevention, intervention, and suppression services. In addition to working with the schools, this officer also assists in Duarte's gang enforcement and D.A.R.T.

(Duarte Area Resource Team) program. The law enforcement agencies of Duarte and Monrovia collaborate through D.A.M.A.G.E. (Duarte and Monrovia Active Gang Enforcement) program resulting in dramatic reductions in gang activity through shared information and resources. The program also helps to reduce graffiti and thefts. Detective services and a variety of other services are provided by the Sheriff's office as prescribed by the contract between the City and County Sheriff.

Fire Services

Fire protection in the City of Duarte is provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). LACFD fire station 44 is located at 1105 S. Highland Avenue. This station provides the following apparatus and personnel including engines # 44, # 244, and # 444, and patrol truck # 44. The station is typically staffed by an eight-member crew.

Los Angeles County Fire also provides Hazardous Material services. The U.S. Forest Service in San Dimas provides wildfire service in the Angeles National Forest.

Peakload Water Supply

Peakload water supply is defined as the supply of water available to meet both domestic water and firefighting needs during the particular season and time of day when domestic water demand on a water system is at its peak. California – American Water Company provides potable water to the Duarte service area which includes about 300 metered connections in Bradbury and all of the incorporated area of Duarte. Potable water is provided from eight wells in and around Duarte.

The San Gabriel groundwater basin has been found to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). A strategy for addressing the problem and ultimately removing the contamination is being successfully implemented. Section 28 of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster's Rules and Regulations details the region's long-term commitment to cleaning up contaminated areas of the basin. There are many key provisions laid out in the document. One notable restriction is that producers cannot drill replacement wells, either by location, depth or screening, to avoid contamination that exists in its current well. Instead, the Watermaster requires producers to pump and treat those contaminated supplies to ultimately rid the basin of those contaminants. These efforts will continue for decades.

Water storage in the Duarte Service Area is provided by 7 reservoirs including 4 steel tanks with a total storage capacity of 5.1 million gallons. All of the reservoirs are covered to reduce evaporation and control losses. Maximum Day Water demand was 12.9 million gallons a day in 2004 and in 2010 the maximum day demand was 9.16 million gallons a day. Peakload water demand is always highest during the hottest summer months and is important to know so that adequate water is available in case of an emergency.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Government Code 65400 requires the legislative body to consider and adopt reasonable and practical means for implementing the general plan. This is necessary so that the plan will serve as an effective guide for orderly growth and development, preservation and conservation of open-space land and natural resources, and the efficient expenditure of public funds relating to the subjects addressed in the general plan. The State also requires an annual report to the legislative body, State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and State Office of Planning and Research on the status of the plan and progress in implementing the plan. HCD checks to see if the city is making progress in meeting its fair share of regional housing needs.

This section provides an implementation matrix for policies found in the Safety Element. The matrix identifies the policy to be implemented, the implementation measure to be used for that policy, the responsible agency or department that will be implementing the measure, the funding source, and the estimated timeframe to complete the implementation.

Responsible Agency:

All = All Departments
CD = Community Development
CM = City Manager
AS = Administrative Services
PS = Public Safety
P&R = Parks and Recreation

Partnered County Department:

LACoFD = Los Angeles County Fire Department
LASD = Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
LACPH = Los Angeles County Public Health Department
LACDoA = Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture

Funding Source:

GF = General Fund
RA = Redevelopment Agency
G = Grants
DF = Development Fees
SF= State funds
FF = Federal Funds
OF = Other Funds

CHAPTER 2
SAFETY ELEMENT

Implementation Timeframe (or as resources provide):

ST = Short-term by 2025 LT = Long Term by 2030
MT = Mid-term by 2040 On = Ongoing

Table Safe - 1
Safety Element Implementation Measures

Measure #	Implementation Measure	Responsible Agency	Funding Source	Time frame
Safe 1.1.2.1	Update registry of volunteers who live and work in the city and will be able to perform medical assistance, security, and damage assistance in an emergency.	PS	GF, G	ST
Safe 1.1.2.2	Promote training programs on hazard mitigation and disaster planning through the City website.	CM	GF	On
Safe 1.1.2.3	Coordinate with citizen groups, organizations, and volunteers in the Public Safety Department registry to establish procedures for decision-making, and line of command for providing emergency assistance in the event of a natural disaster.	PS	GF	ST
Safe 1.1.3.1	Prepare and implement programs which will help mitigate risk and minimize losses to the most sensitive communities and assets identified in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.	PS	GF, G, FF, SF	ST, On
Safe 1.1.3.2	The City will update the Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years to reduce the risk from hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction, while helping to guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout the City.	CD, PS	GF	On
Safe 1.1.4.1	Continue to update and enforce the City's fire and building codes as appropriate.	CD, LACoFD	GF	On
Safe 1.1.4.2	Incorporate climate change vulnerability and climate hazard mitigation into the City's Capital Improvement Plan for new construction and updates to City-owned facilities and infrastructure.	CD	GF	ST
Safe 1.1.5.1	Incorporate fire and police department expansion needs in each year's	AS	GF, FF, SF, G	On

	operating budget as the yearly budget provides.			
Safe 1.1.6.1	Support federal, state, and county regulations pertaining to health and safety, and fire regulations and ordinances. Train City personnel to help identify hazardous materials and associated violations.	CM, PS	GF	On
Safe 1.1.7.1	Conduct periodic emergency exercises among City staff members and other key personnel and implement and update the City's emergency preparedness plan on an on-going basis.	CM, PS	GF	On
Safe 1.1.7.2	Update the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years. Periodically update the Emergency Operations Plan.	CD, PS	GF	On
Safe 1.1.8.1	Incorporate standards for emergency services training and emergency responses for climate hazards into Emergency Operations Plan during the next EOP update.	PS, CD	GF	ST
Safe 1.1.8.2	Produce evacuation route maps that incorporate potential road closures and highest-risk areas for each climate hazard (e.g. wildfire, storm flooding).	PS, CD	GF	ST
Safe 1.1.9.1	Develop heat hazard response in next EOP update, and heat hazard mitigation measures in next HMP update. Designate community cooling centers for extreme heat days that are accessible to those living in identified disadvantaged communities within the City.	CD, PS, P&R	GF	ST, MT
Safe 1.1.10.1	City staff will update inventory of water storage facilities and sources of potable water that could be used in the event of an emergency and the means to distribute that water to residents.	CD	GF	ST
Safe 2.1.1.1	Prepare communication materials and support education programs that familiarize the citizens of Duarte with emergency preparedness and procedures to follow in the event of a major disaster. These materials will be posted on the City website in multiple languages as needed to be accessible to both English-speaking and non-English speaking residents.	PS, CM	GF, G	ST
Safe 2.1.2.1	Update and disseminate a disaster preparedness plan to enable the community to be self-sufficient for a	PS	G, FF, SF	ST

	minimum of 7 days following a natural or man-made disaster.			
Safe 2.1.3.1	The City will prepare and distribute educational materials outlining recommendations for stockpiling supplies for employees.	PS	GF	MT
Safe 2.1.4.1	The City will provide communication materials outlining emergency and evacuation procedures to high-occupancy facilities, dependent care centers, and critical facilities managers.	PS	GF	MT
Safe 2.1.5.1	Partner with community groups and neighborhood organizations already engaged with populations at greatest risk to hazards, to increase awareness of evacuation routes, emergency shelters, and City emergency response plans as well as what resources are available to residents.	PS	GF	MT
Safe 2.1.6.1	Review the early warning system and determine its effectiveness to reach all populations within Duarte, such as non-English speaking individuals.	CM, PS	GF	MT
Safe 2.1.7.1	Partner with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop and enhance disaster and emergency early warning systems to incorporate objective data and information for potential health threats such as heat-illness, illnesses complicated by low air quality, and precipitation events.	PS, LACPH	GF	MT
Safe 2.1.8.1	Consider establishing a wild animal task force to study providing hard copy and web material on how to store and secure trash; relocation of bear and mountain lions; and installing bear and mountain lion warning signs.	PS	G, SF, FF, GF	ST
Safe 3.1.1.1	Establish a minimum level of emergency service. Ensure that these services are responsive to the community's needs by periodically evaluating these services through the use of surveys and questionnaires.	PS	GF, FF, SF	On
Safe 4.1.2.1	Comply with the provisions of the Alquist-Priolo Act requiring site-specific soils, geologic, or geotechnical engineering studies prior to development approval of sites potentially subject to seismic activities.	CD	GF	On
Safe 4.1.3.1	Require appropriate engineering and design mitigations for new structures	CD	GF	On

	proposed in geologic or seismic hazard areas.			
Safe 5.1.2.1	Continue to participate in the mutual assistance program.	PS	GF	On
Safe 5.1.3.1	Ensure that all buildings and areas are accessible to fire vehicles and firefighting equipment. Support fire department policy of controlled burns in high risk areas.	CD	GF	On
Safe 5.1.4.1	Develop a system of fire hazard mitigations based upon the probability of occurrence and number of people at risk. Replace out-of-date apparatus and equipment on a scheduled basis. Determine peakload water demand and supply.	PS, LACoFD, CD	FF, SF, GF	ST
Safe 6.1.4.1	Prepare and make available educational materials regarding the proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials and e-waste to community members.	PS	GT	LT

Safety Element Definitions

Active Fault: A fault which has exhibited surface displacement within Holocene time (approximately the past 11,000 years).

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone: A regulatory zone, delineated by the State Geologist, within which site-specific geologic studies are required to identify and avoid fault rupture hazards prior to subdivision of land and/or construction of most structures for human occupancy.

Critical Facility: Facilities that either (1) provide emergency services or (2) house or serve many people who would be injured or killed in case of disaster damage to the facility. Examples include hospitals, fire stations, police and emergency services facilities, utility facilities, and communications facilities.

Development: The physical extension and/or construction of urban land uses. Development activities include: subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetative cover (with the exception of agricultural activities). Routine repair and maintenance activities are exempted.

Disadvantaged Community: means an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and

Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

Environmental Justice: The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (Cal. Gov. Code, § 65040.12, subd. (e).)

Fault: A fracture or zone of closely associated fractures along which rocks on one side have been displaced with respect to those on the other side. A fault zone is a zone of related faults which commonly are braided, but which may be branching. A fault trace is the line formed by the intersection of a fault and the earth's surface.

Flooding: A rise in the level of a water body or the rapid accumulation of runoff, including related mudslides and land subsidence, that results in the temporary inundation of land that is usually dry. Riverine flooding, coastal flooding, mud flows, lake flooding, alluvial fan flooding, flash flooding, levee failures, tsunamis, and fluvial stream flooding are among the many forms that flooding takes.

Ground Failure: Mudslide, landslide, liquefaction, or soil compaction.

Hazardous Building: A building that may be hazardous to life in the event of an earthquake because of partial or complete collapse. Hazardous buildings may include:

1. Those constructed prior to the adoption and enforcement of local codes requiring earthquake resistant building design.
2. Those constructed of unreinforced masonry.
3. Those which exhibit any of the following characteristics:
    - exterior parapets or ornamentation which may fall on passersby
    - exterior walls that are not anchored to the floors, roof, or foundation
    - sheeting on roofs or floors incapable of withstanding lateral loads
    - large openings in walls that may cause damage from torsional forces
    - lack of an effective system to resist lateral forces
    - non-ductile concrete frame construction

Hazardous Material: An injurious substance, including pesticides, herbicides, toxic metals and chemicals, liquefied natural gas, explosives, volatile chemicals, and nuclear fuels.

Landslide: A general term for a falling, sliding, or flowing mass of soil, rocks,

water, and debris. Includes mudslides, debris flows, and debris torrents.

Liquefaction: A process by which water-saturated granular soils transform from a solid to a liquid state during strong ground shaking.

Peakload Water Supply: The supply of water available to meet both domestic water and firefighting needs during the particular season and time of day when domestic water demand on a water system is at its peak.

Potentially Active Fault: A fault which shows evidence of surface displacement during Quaternary time (the last 2 million years).

Seiche: An earthquake-induced wave in a lake, reservoir, or harbor.

Seismic Hazard Zone: A regulatory zone, delineated by the State Geologist, within which site-specific geologic, soils, and foundation engineering studies are required to identify and avoid earthquake-caused ground-failure hazards, or selected other earthquake hazards, prior to subdivision of land and for construction of most structures for human occupancy.

Seismically Induced Surface Rupture: A break in the ground's surface and associated deformation resulting from the movement of a fault.

Subsidence: The gradual, local settling or sinking of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion (subsidence is usually the result of gas, oil, or water extraction, hydrocompaction, or peat oxidation, and not the result of a landslide or slope failure).

Tsunami: A wave, commonly called a tidal wave, caused by an underwater seismic disturbance, such as sudden faulting, landslide, or volcanic activity.

Wildland Fire: A fire occurring in a suburban or rural area which contains uncultivated lands, timber, range, watershed, brush, or grasslands. This includes areas where there is a mingling of developed and undeveloped lands.

Exhibit A2

Duarte Safety Element Update

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

prepared by

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Duarte, California 91010
Contact: Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

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July 2021

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers
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Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

As required by Senate Bill (SB) 379, this report provides a climate change vulnerability assessment for the City of Duarte. The assessment evaluates the potential impacts of climate change on community assets and populations. Understanding the vulnerabilities that the community may face due to climate change provides a foundation to define future adaptation strategies for the Safety Element Update and other planning efforts in Duarte and the region.

Duarte is expected to experience the following climate hazards:[1]

- Increased temperatures and extreme heat
- Extended drought conditions
- More extreme storms
- Increased wildfire risk

This vulnerability assessment is composed of four parts:

1. **Community Sensitivities.** Duarte populations and assets most vulnerable to climate change
2. **Anticipated Impacts.** Exposure to projected changes in temperature, precipitation, and wildfire, and impacts on the community
3. **Adaptive Capacity.** Duarte's ability to moderate the potential damages or take advantage of the opportunities from climate change
4. **Vulnerability Score.** The degree to which Duarte is susceptible to harm

Community Sensitivities

Climate Change

Communities will be affected by climate change to varying degrees depending on how sensitive the communities are to climate impacts and the severity of the impacts. Virtually all people and assets in a community will be affected by climate change in some way. However, it is not usually feasible to assess the vulnerability of every population group or every asset in the community. The sensitivity of a community depends on the aspects of the community (i.e., specific populations and assets) most affected by anticipated climate impacts and how prevalent they are in the community.

The most likely impacts of climate change that Duarte may experience include increases in average maximum and minimum temperatures, increases in extreme heat events, changes in precipitation patterns, extended drought conditions, more severe storms, and increased wildfire risk. This section of the vulnerability assessment identifies sensitive areas of the Duarte community. Community sensitivities are grouped under the following community asset categories:

[1] California Energy Commission, University of California, Berkeley, "Cal-Adapt". 2020. Available: <https://cal-adapt.org/>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

Community Asset Categories

People

Infrastructure

Buildings and Facilities

Natural and Managed Resources

People

The following population groups may be disproportionately harmed by the impacts of climate change in Duarte. Population demographics are determined using the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) and United States Census Bureau, unless otherwise noted.[2,3]

OLDER ADULTS

Persons 65 years or older, especially those living alone, are more at risk for climate change impacts because aging impairs muscle strength, coordination, cognitive ability, and immune system, and the regulation of body temperature. Approximately 17% of Duarte residents are over 65 years, which is higher than the percentage of residents over 65 in 67% of California cities.

NON-WHITE COMMUNITIES

Race and ethnicity are important determinants of health impacts related to climate change. Racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to live in high-risk areas, including areas with higher wildfire and flooding risk and areas with fewer public transit routes. In addition, non-white communities experience disproportionally high levels of vulnerability to climate change, including co-morbidities, lower income, poorer physical health, language barriers, less access to vehicle ownership, less access to air conditioning, among others.[4] About 73% of Duarte residents are non-white, which is higher than the percentage of non-white residents in more than 50% of other California cities, with non-white populations accounting for 64% of the state's population.

NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Non-English speakers may experience linguistic isolation, which could hinder protective behaviors during extreme weather and disasters by limiting access to or understanding of health warnings.[5] In

[2] Public Health Alliance of Southern California, Virginia Commonwealth University's Center on Society and Health. "The California Healthy Places Index (HPI)." n.d. Available: <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

[3] United States Census Bureau (US Census). "QuickFacts Duarte City, California." 2019. Available: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/duarteCitycalifornia,CA/PST045219>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

[4] California Department of Public Health (CDPH). 2019. California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) Project, Race/Ethnicity. Available: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CHVIs/Race_Ethnicity_794_Narrative.pdf>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

[5] California Department of Public Health (CDPH). 2019. California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) Project, Linguistic Isolation. Available: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CHVIs/BRACE_LinguisticIsolation_Narrative.pdf>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

Duarte, 10% of households do not have at least one person 14 years or older who speaks English well. This is higher than the percentage of households lacking an English speaker in approximately 73% of other California cities.

Individuals with Physical Disabilities

These are people living with ambulatory disabilities who have "serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs." About 7% of people in Duarte live with a physical disability, which is higher than the percentage of people with a disability in approximately 58% of other California cities. For individuals with physical disabilities, climate change is expected to increase hardship during emergencies and subsequent temporary displacements.

Isolated Individuals

People who are isolated, defined as those without a car or access to public transit, are at greater risk of harm from climate change impacts. For example, they may not be able to evacuate in the event of a wildfire. Although a majority of the City residents are located within ½ mile of a public transit stop,[6] approximately 9% of Duarte residents do not have access to a car, which is higher than the percentage without a car in about 86% of California cities.

Uninsured Individuals

People without health insurance have difficulty accessing quality health care and are more likely to have unmet health needs. Climate impacts such as excessive heat, elevated levels of air pollution, and extreme weather conditions are expected to cause direct and indirect health impacts, particularly for vulnerable populations with limited or no access to health services. Approximately 22% of Duarte residents aged 18 to 64 are uninsured, which is higher than the percentage uninsured in about 63% of other California cities.

Renters

These are people who live in homes that they (or the head of their household) do not own. Renters have less control over home improvements than homeowners and may not be able to adequately protect themselves from climate hazards by retrofitting their homes. Approximately 38% of housing units in Duarte are renter-occupied, which is higher than the percentage of renter-occupied units in about 55% of California cities.

Infrastructure

Access Roads

Access roads provide entry to and exit from communities and neighborhoods. A limited number of entry and exit points does not make a road itself more vulnerable than other roads, but disruption to access roads can effectively cut off large numbers of people from other areas. Royal Oaks Drive, Buena Vista Street, Mountain Avenue, Duarte Road, Highland Avenue, Mount Olive Drive, and Las

[6] The City's ADU ordinance exempts parking requirements for properties within ½ mile walking distance of public transit and based on this threshold, the City has determined that there is only one neighborhood in the City that would not meet this requirement (The Mesa neighborhood at the northern terminus of Mount Olive Drive).

Lomas Road are minor arterials in Duarte and Huntington Drive is a principal arterial.[7] Important access roads include Mount Olive Drive and Las Lomas Road.

ENERGY DELIVERY

Electrical utility lines transmit and deliver electricity from Southern California Edison to the City. The City has both underground and overhead electric utility lines. Electricity, specifically overhead utility lines, is vulnerable to climate induced hazards such as storms and wildfire.

Natural gas pipelines operated by Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) carry natural gas between communities. There are no transmission lines[8] in the City. One high pressure distribution line[9] is located along East Duarte Road.[10]

Buildings and Facilities

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Residential areas in Duarte consist of very low density residential, low density residential, medium density residential, and high density residential.[11]

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Community and government facilities are public properties and are important to the residents as well as the operation of the City. The County of Los Angeles Duarte Library is located on Buena Vista Street. The City owns the City Hall complex, including a community/senior center, fitness center, and swimming pool located on Huntington Drive. Other City-owned facilities include a teen center located on Buena Vista Street and two City corporate yards located north and south of Huntington Drive. In addition, the world-renowned City of Hope Medical Center, which has more than 300 physicians and scientists and more than 2,500 employees, is located on Duarte Road.[12]

COMMUNITY PARKS

Duarte has a variety of parks and other open spaces. These include City parks, school parks, privately held open space, City owned wilderness areas, and undeveloped public utility acreage. There are approximately 40 acres of City parks and 27 acres of school parks.[13]

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[7] City of Duarte. 2007. General Plan Circulation Element. Available <https://www.accessduarte.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22823>. Accessed August 18, 2021.

[8] Large diameter pipelines that operate at pressures above 200 psi and transport gas from supply points to the gas distribution system.

[9] Pipelines that operate at pressures above 60 psi and deliver gas in smaller volumes to the lower pressure distribution system.

[10] Southern California Gas Company. N.d. Gas Transmission Pipeline Interactive Map – Los Angeles. Available: <https://socalgas.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c85ced1227af4c8aae9b19d677969335>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

[11] City of Duarte. 2018. General Plan Land Use Element. Available: <https://www.accessduarte.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22819>. Accessed July 5, 2021

[12] Bionity. N.d. City of Hope National Medical Center. Available: <https://www.bionity.com/en/encyclopedia/City_of_Hope_National_Medical_Center.html >. Accessed July 5, 2021.

[13] City of Duarte. 2007. General Plan Open Space and Conservation. Available: <https://www.accessduarte.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22816 >. Accessed July 5, 2021.

SCHOOLS

The Duarte Unified School District operates five elementary schools, one intermediate school, one high school, and one alternative education campus in the City.[14]

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES

Public safety facilities include the Sheriff substation on Huntington Drive and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 44 located on Highland Avenue. The County of Los Angeles owns the public safety facilities in the City.[15]

Natural and Managed Resources

OPEN SPACE

There are over 530 acres of wilderness and private open space in Duarte, mostly located in the northern part of the City. Much of this land is in the Angeles National Forest on the west slope of the San Gabriel Mountains.[16]

WATER SUPPLY

California American Water delivers water to the community of Duarte. Duarte is served entirely by groundwater sources from the Main San Gabriel Basin.[17]

Anticipated Impacts

Climate change is projected to continue affecting the Los Angeles region in the form of increasing average temperatures and extreme heat days, rising sea levels, and altered precipitation patterns. These impacts are expected to influence health and prosperity through decreased water availability, increased frequency and intensity of storms and wildfires, and decreased air quality. Climate risks and impacts vary depending on location. Understanding local climate risks and impacts allows communities to prepare for the future and increase their resilience. Projected climate change impacts and climate resilience for Duarte are described below based on information from Cal-Adapt and the Los Angeles Summary Report of California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) established several GHG emissions scenarios used to describe possible future GHG emissions and associated warming. Two of these are commonly used to compare possible futures and have been selected for this assessment. The Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 represents a "medium emissions" scenario in which emissions peak around 2040 and then decline at the end of the century. This scenario assumes global agreement and implementation of GHG reduction strategies. RCP 8.5 represents a "high emissions" scenario in which emissions continue to rise throughout the 21st century.

Potential impacts to the vulnerable people, infrastructure, buildings and facilities, and natural and managed resources described in the Community Sensitivities section above are assessed and a

[14] City of Duarte. 2018. General Plan Land Use Element. Available: <https://www.accessduarte.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22819 >. Accessed July 5, 2021.

[15] City of Duarte. N.d. Public Safety. Available: < https://www.accessduarte.com/dept/public_safety/default.htm >. Accessed July 5, 2021.

[16] City of Duarte. 2007. General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element. Available: <https://www.accessduarte.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22816>. Accessed July 5, 2021.

[17] California American Water. 2020. 2020 Annual Water Quality Report. Available: <https://www.amwater.com/ccr/duarte.pdf>. Accessed July 5, 2021.

summary of this assessment can be found in the Vulnerability Score subsection below. Each anticipated impact and each of the vulnerable areas in the City were given a low, medium, or high potential impact, based on the descriptions below provided by the California Government Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) California Adaptation Planning Guide, which are described in more detail in the Vulnerability Score subsection.

- **Low Potential Impact.** Impact is unlikely based on projected exposure; would result in minor consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **Medium Potential Impact.** Impact is somewhat likely based on projected exposure; would result in some consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **High Potential Impact.** Impact is highly likely based on projected exposure; would result in substantial consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern

Temperature

Average Minimum and Maximum Temperature

Compared to the modeled historical 30-year average (1961-1990), average maximum temperatures in Duarte are expected to rise between 5.7° Fahrenheit (F) and 9.0°F by the end of the century, depending on the emissions scenario. In addition, average minimum temperatures in the City are expected to rise between 5.4°F and 8.7°F by the end of the century. The projected warming of average minimum and maximum temperatures, as well as more frequent temperature extremes, may have a variety of effects on the Duarte community. Water and energy prices are likely to increase due to greater demand for both. The increased demand will also put additional stress on water and energy supplies. Local public health may also be negatively impacted, due to increases in heat-related illnesses. Endangered species and ecosystem functions in the region may be impaired due to the change in average temperatures. Figure 1 shows average maximum temperatures in Duarte based on the RCP 4.5 (medium emissions) and RCP 8.5 (high emissions) emissions scenario.

Extreme Heat Events

Duarte is projected to experience more extreme heat conditions. Compared to the modeled historical 30-year average (1961-1990), the annual number of extreme heat days, defined as days with temperatures over the extreme heat threshold of 98.5°F, is projected to increase by 24 to 47 days by the end of the century depending on the emissions scenario. From 1961 to 1990, the observed average number of days in the longest heat wave was 3-5 days. By 2070 to 2099, the high emissions scenario projects the average number of days in the longest heat wave to be 47. This would result in increased public health risks, particularly to vulnerable populations like older adults and individuals with physical disabilities, through heat-related diseases, air quality degradation, and increased vector-borne illnesses. Figure 2 shows the number of extreme heat days in Duarte for the medium and high emissions scenarios.

Figure 1 Historical and Projected Maximum Temperatures in Duarte

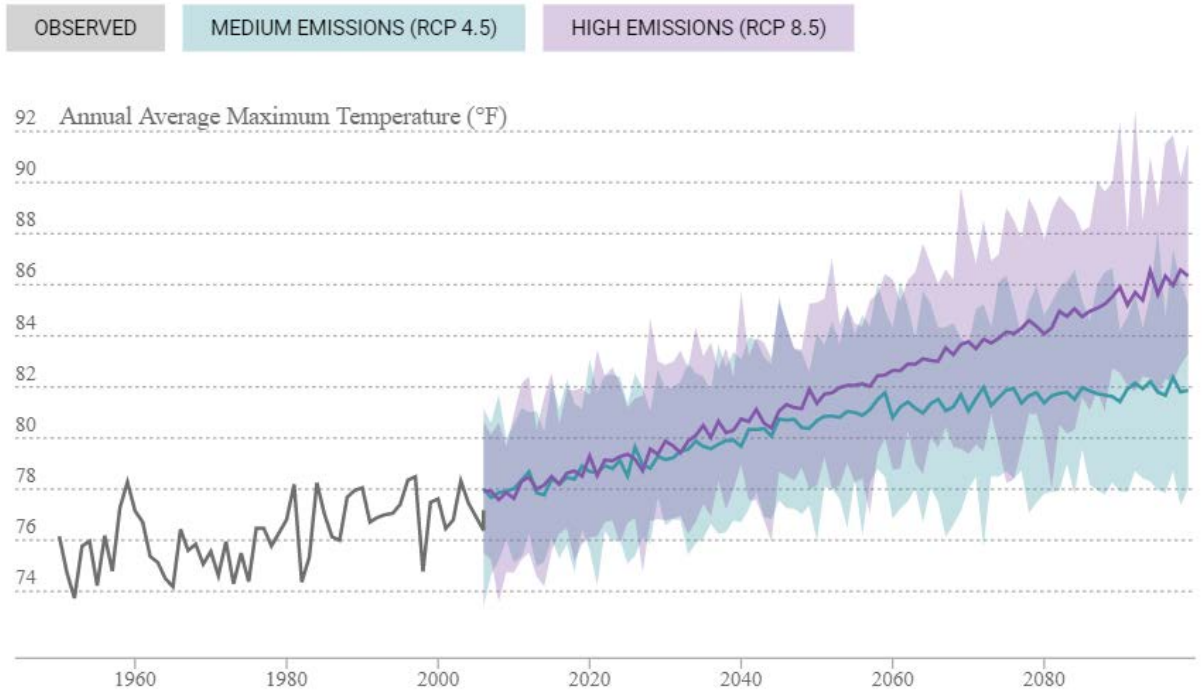


Figure 2 Number of Extreme Heat Days in Duarte

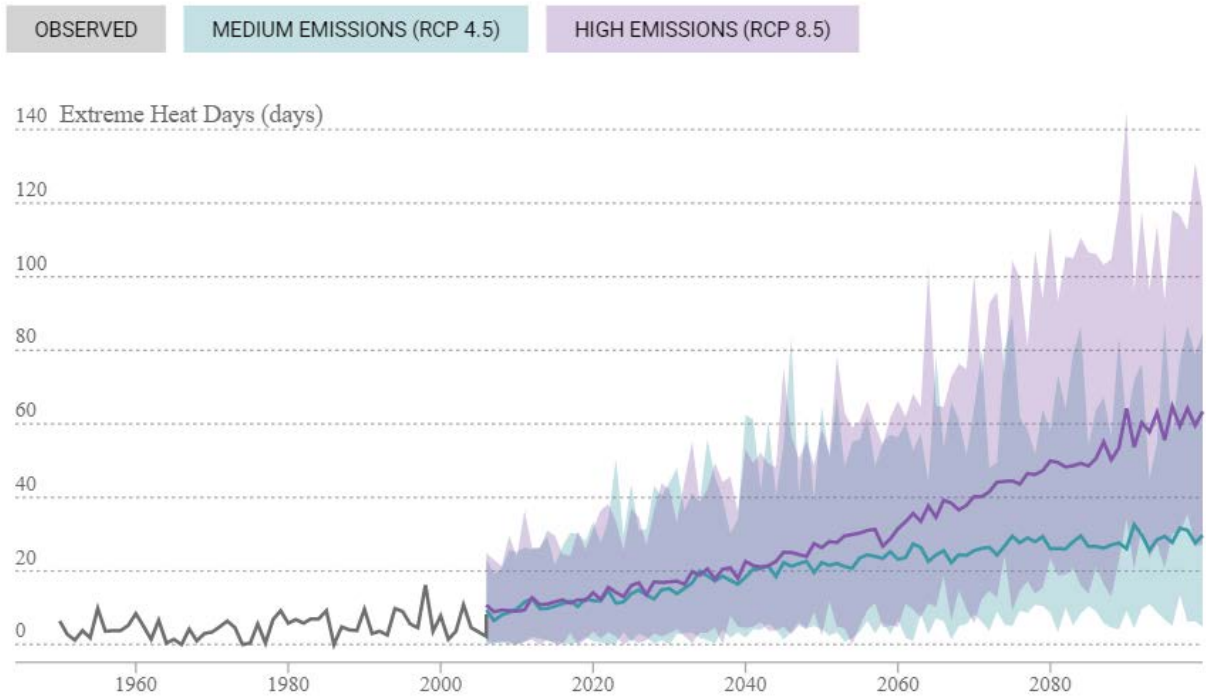


Table 1 below summarizes the potential impacts of increased temperature on Duarte's identified community sensitivities.

Table 1 Summary of Potential Impacts from Increased Temperature

Sensitivity Type	Sensitivity	Impact Summary	Impact Score
	Older Adults	Older adults do not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature and are more likely to have medical conditions that can worsen with extreme heat.[18] Older adults living alone are even more at risk as the actions necessary to mitigate extreme heat are more difficult alone. Getting water, changing clothes, showering, or turning on the air conditioner may be more difficult for older adults with physical disabilities who do not have a living partner to assist them.	High
	Non-white Communities	Non-white minority groups in the United States have reportedly higher morbidity and mortality rates associated with hot weather, which could be due to non-white communities being more likely to work in higher risk occupations and live in hazardous areas with no air conditioning.[13] Health inequities in minority groups can be exacerbated by race and class discrimination, as well as social problems.[19]	High
	Non-English Speakers	Members of ethnic minority language groups can be especially vulnerable through poor living conditions and exclusion from access to English-based media and health messages.[13] This can affect individuals' ability to follow weather reports and instructions from government organizations and service providers, including information aimed at increasing awareness and reducing the impact of extreme heat.[13]	High
	Individuals with Physical Disabilities	Individuals living with physical disabilities may be less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. They may also have difficulty getting water, changing clothes, showering, or turning on the air conditioner.	High
	Isolated Individuals	Isolated individuals with no car or transit access may be at risk to extreme heat as they would have more difficulty leaving an area of extreme heat for cooler areas, such as the coast.	High
	Uninsured Individuals	Uninsured individuals are at risk as they have greater difficulty accessing quality healthcare and may suffer financially if emergency healthcare is provided.	High
	Renters	Renters have less control over home improvements than homeowners and may not be able to adequately protect themselves by installing air conditioning.	Medium
	Access Roads	Increased temperature is likely to result in minimal impact to access roads.	Low
	Energy Delivery	Indirect impacts to electrical utility lines could occur from increased use of the system from running air conditioners, leading to power outages in the City. Long periods of intense heat may result in increased use of electricity for home cooling	Medium

[18] Centers for Disease Control (CDC). 2017. Heat and Older Adults. Available <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/older-adults-heat.html>. Accessed July 6, 2021.

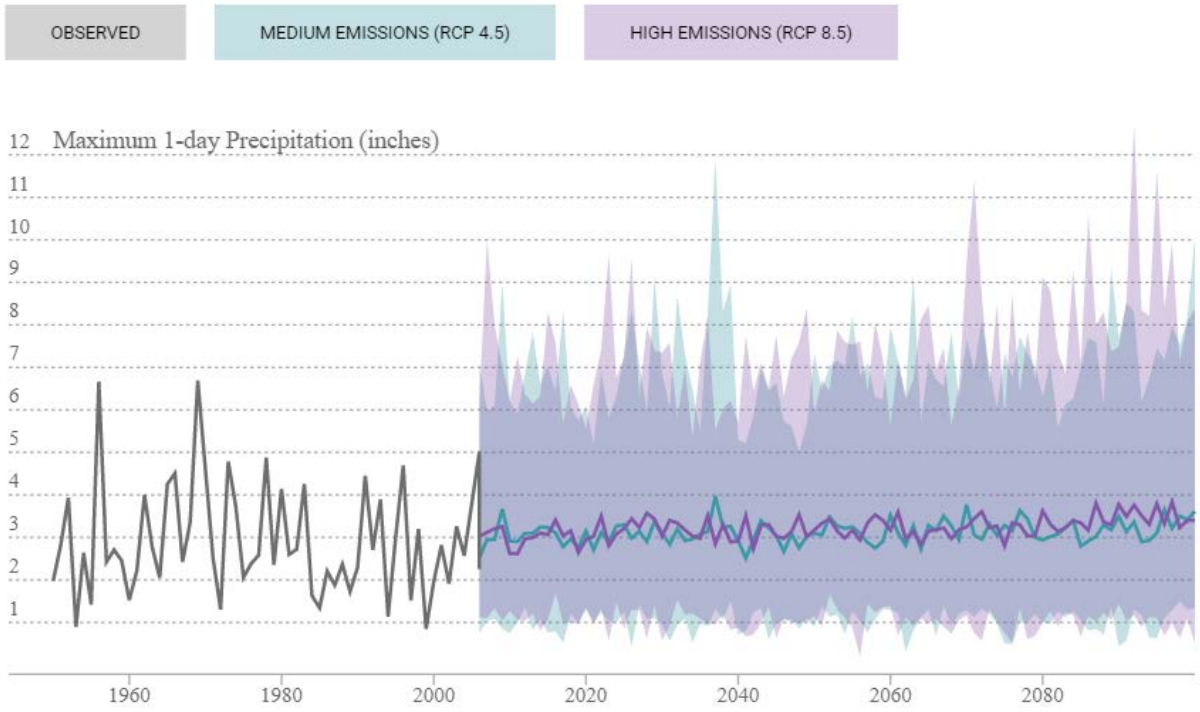
[19] Global Health Action. 2013. Vulnerability to extreme heat and climate change: is ethnicity a factor? Available <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3728476/>. Accessed July 6, 2021.

Sensitivity Type	Sensitivity	Impact Summary	Impact Score
		purposes that could tax the overall electrical system and result in electricity restrictions or blackouts. Increased temperature is likely to result in minimal impact to natural gas transmission pipelines.	
	Residential Buildings	Extreme heat and temperature increases due to climate change would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Duarte. Extreme heat and temperature increases could adversely affect health by restricting outdoor exercise and may also limit the use of community facilities that do not have air conditioning. Overall, there is a low potential impact to buildings and facilities in Duarte from extreme heat.	Low
	Community Facilities and Government Buildings		
	Community Parks		
	Public Safety Facilities		
	Schools	Extreme heat and temperature increases could adversely affect health by restricting outdoor exercise and may also limit the use of schools that do not have air conditioning. Overall, there is a medium potential impact to schools from extreme heat.	Medium
	Open Space	Extreme heat and temperature increase could affect flora and fauna in open space areas such as Angeles National Forest and other open space in the City.	Medium
	Water Supply	High temperatures would contribute to a reduced water supply through increased water use. This could deplete groundwater resources in the area.	Medium

Precipitation

Projections show that Duarte may experience an increase of 0.28 to 0.46 inches of annual average precipitation between 2070 and 2099 compared to modeled historical precipitation from 1960-1990. Overall, the projections show no clear or consistent trends during the next century. However, even small changes in precipitation can lead to substantial effects on water supply. Projections for the Los Angeles region predict an intensification of precipitation, as well as an increase in the annual number of dry days and a decrease in the number of wet days. Fewer, but more severe rainfall events are projected, which may result in intense runoff during storm events. Figure 3 shows annual average precipitation in Duarte based on the medium and high emissions scenarios.

Figure 3 Annual Average Precipitation



Drought

Climate change is projected to increase the probability that low precipitation years will coincide with above-average temperature years. This increases the likelihood of drought due to decreased supply of moisture and increased atmospheric demand for moisture as evaporation from bare soils and evapotranspiration from plants increase. Global climate models project a 25% to 100% increase in extreme dry-to-wet precipitation events throughout the state by the end of this century.[20] However, the specifics of projected drought conditions, such as their magnitude and duration, are not currently available for Duarte or California.

In addition to evidence of increased drought severity, there is evidence for occasional wet years. Because precipitation is projected to be variable, some years will be less drought prone than others due to more frequent and possibly stronger storms. Even if there is greater precipitation, the projected increase in evaporative demand from higher temperatures means that more water could be lost to the atmosphere and increase the possibility of drought. Water shortages and price hikes resulting from droughts could affect access to safe, affordable water, with substantial impacts on low-income families and communities burdened with environmental pollution.

Heavy Precipitation Events

Both increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns can lead to altered seasons and intense rainstorms in Duarte. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment projects more extreme

[20] Swain, Daniel L. 2018. "Increasing Precipitation Volatility in Twenty-First-Century California." Nature Climate Change. Accessible: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinFoodPolicyCouncil/files/311178.pdf>. Accessed July 22, 2021.

precipitation events throughout the Los Angeles region.[21] Intense rainstorms could result in increased flooding, which could affect infrastructure and human health and safety in Duarte.

Table 2 below summarizes the potential impacts of changing precipitation patterns on Duarte's identified sensitivities.

Table 2 Summary of Potential Impacts from Precipitation

Sensitivity Type	Sensitivity	Impact Summary	Impact Score
	Older Adults	Older adults are at risk of injury and or death resulting from floods or fallen trees during climate-induced storms. Indirect impacts include impacts to the transportation system that could reduce access to emergency response and health centers for those who need consistent medical care.	Medium
	Non-white Communities	Non-white communities are more likely to experience disproportionate impacts from flooding as a result of past discriminatory practices and a lack of resources needed to cope with these impacts.[22]	Medium
	Non-English Speakers	Individuals with limited English proficiency may not have access to emergency public health warnings in their native language during a heavy precipitation event.	Medium
	Individuals with Physical Disabilities	Indirect impacts from heavy precipitation could include reduced access to transportation systems, emergency response, and health centers for those who need consistent medical care.	Medium
	Isolated Individuals	Indirect impacts could include reduced access to emergency response and health centers for those who are already isolated during a flood event.	Medium
	Uninsured Individuals	Increased storm frequency and drought are likely to result in minimal impact to uninsured individuals.	Low
	Renters	Renters have less control over home improvements than homeowners and may not be able to adequately protect themselves by retrofitting their units or preparing for flooding. Additionally, they cannot control the timing of repairs.	Medium
	Access Roads	Flooding and landslides caused by heavy precipitation events could damage or close roads, isolating portions of the City. Damage to or closure of access roads can effectively isolate areas and potentially create severe health and safety risks.	Medium
	Energy Delivery	Landslides triggered by heavy precipitation events could impact above-ground, and in some cases below-ground, electrical utility lines. More intense storms could adversely affect electricity delivery from power outages caused by downed electrical utility lines from wind or landslide events. Increased flooding may also impact natural gas transmission pipelines.	Medium
	Residential Buildings		Medium

[21] Hall, Alex, Neil Berg, Katharine Reich. (University of California, Los Angeles). 2018. Los Angeles Summary Report. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. Publication number: SUM-CCCA4-2018-007. Available: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/Reg%20Report-%20SUM-CCCA4-2018-007%20LosAngeles_ADA.pdf>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

[22] The Washington Post. 2020. Climate change is also a racial justice problem. Available: < https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2020/06/29/climate-change-racism/>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

Sensitivity Type	Sensitivity	Impact Summary	Impact Score
	Community Facilities and Government Buildings	More intense precipitation events could cause flood damage to residential buildings and community facilities, government buildings, and schools in Duarte. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall. Drought could impact flora in community parks.	
	Community Parks		
	Schools		
	Public Safety Facilities	Emergency response systems could be affected by flooding or landslides in the City, which could restrict the ability for emergency response to access the City and impact response times.	Medium
	Open Space	Drought and increased flooding could impact flora and fauna in open space areas such as Angeles National Forest and other open space in the City.	Medium
	Water Supply	Groundwater could be threatened by extended drought conditions.	High

Wildfire

Climate change has the potential to affect multiple elements of the wildfire system, including fire behavior, ignitions, fire management, and vegetation fuels. Hot dry spells create the highest fire risk and increased temperatures may intensify wildfire danger by warming and drying vegetation. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) has identified Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in Duarte. VHFHSZs include the northernmost end of the City and some smaller areas in the southern and central portions of the City. Figure 4 shows the fire hazard severity zones in the City. The high-risk fire areas are in both the Local Responsibility and the State or Federal Responsibility areas.

Though uncertainties exist in quantifying future changes of burned area in the region, projections indicate that the annual area burned in the Los Angeles Region may increase by over 2,000 hectares (approximately 5,000 acres) by mid-century. Slightly lower increases in hectares burned are projected by the end of the century, as continued warming (even with moderate precipitation increases) could lead to overall fuel declines necessary for wildfire.[23]

Natural and Management Resources – Wildfire Impacts

Table 3 below summarizes the potential impacts of increasing wildfire risk on Duarte's identified sensitive populations and assets.

[23] Hall, Alex, Neil Berg, Katharine Reich. (University of California, Los Angeles). 2018. Los Angeles Summary Report. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. Publication number: SUM-CCCA4-2018-007. Available: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/Reg%20Report-%20SUM-CCCA4-2018-007%20LosAngeles_ADA.pdf>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

Figure 4 Fire Hazard Zones

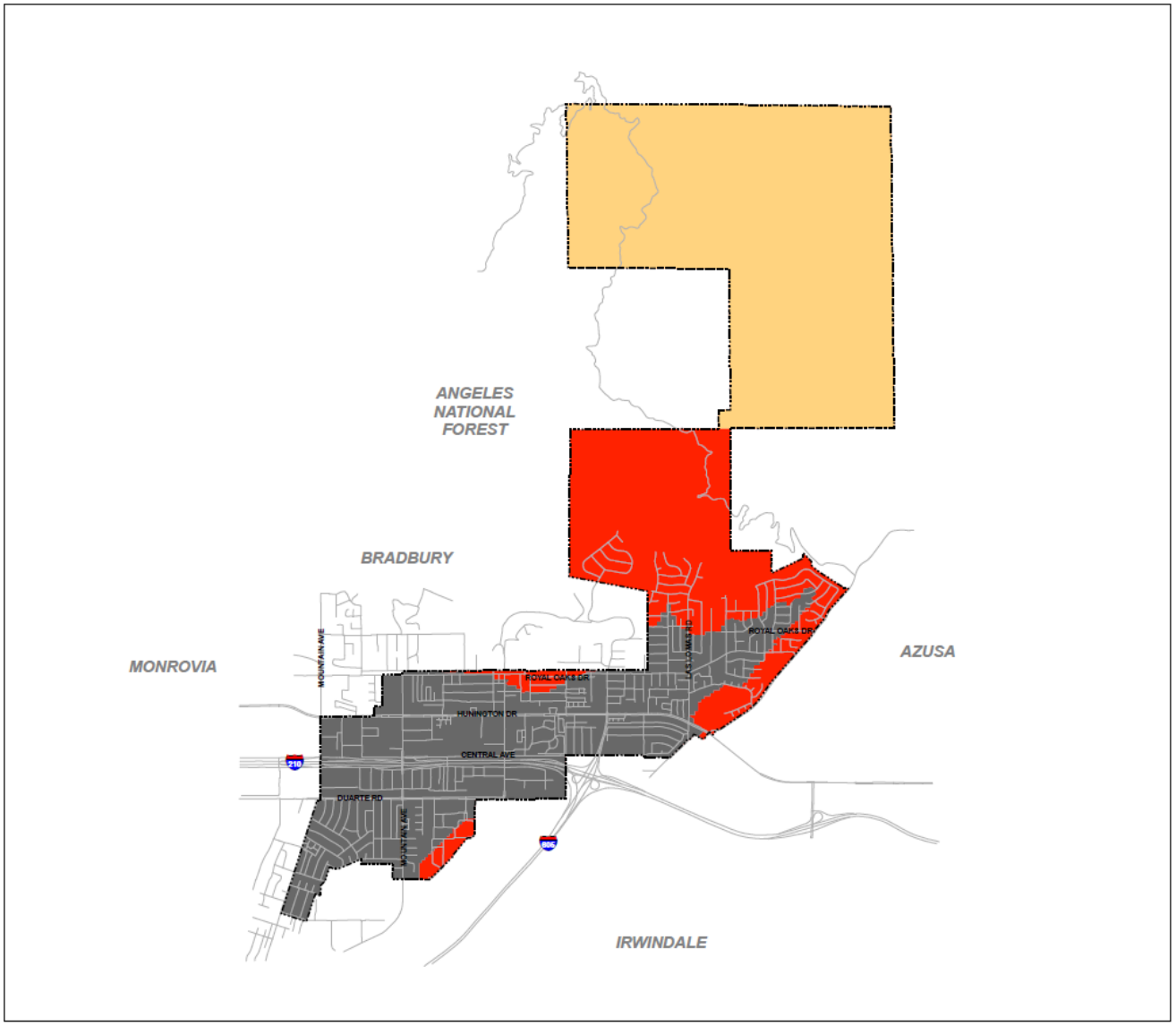


Table 3 Summary of Potential Impacts from Wildfire

Sensitivity Type	Sensitivity	Impact Summary	Impact Score
	Older Adults	Older adults are almost three times more likely to die in a fire than the overall population.[24] Because they typically have increased mobility issues or mental health issues, older adults, especially those in the City living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when needed. Decreased air quality from wildfire will also impact older adults.	High
	Non-white Communities	Racial and ethnic minorities face greater vulnerability to wildfires compared to primarily white communities.[25] Non-white communities have fewer resources necessary to cope with the impacts of wildfire, including retrofitting their homes or rebuilding. They also have less access to air conditioning, which helps mitigate poor air quality from wildfire.	High
	Non-English Speakers	Individuals with limited English proficiency may not have access to emergency public health warnings in their native language during a wildfire event.	High
	Individuals with Physical Disabilities	Those with reduced mobility, especially those in the City living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when needed.	High
	Isolated Individuals	Isolated individuals may have substantial difficulties evacuating in the event of a wildfire evacuation.	High
	Uninsured Individuals	Uninsured individuals have greater difficulty accessing quality healthcare and may suffer financially if emergency healthcare is needed as a result of the direct or indirect impacts of wildfire.	High
	Renters	Renters in Duarte are less likely to retrofit their homes to better resist climate-related hazards such as wildfires and may be displaced if buildings are lost.	High
	Access Roads	Wildfires would not substantially damage roads, but could result in closure of or the inability to travel on roads during wildfire events. This could isolate areas of the City and create severe health and safety risks.	High
	Energy Delivery	Above ground electrical lines are at risk from wildfires and could impact electricity services to residents in Duarte. Direct impacts to Southern California Edison electricity transmission infrastructure could affect power in the City. In addition, utility companies have begun shutting off power to areas to avoid wildfires during times when weather creates high wildfire risk. Natural gas infrastructure and services are relatively resilient to wildfires, given that most infrastructure is below ground.[26]	High

[24] United States Fire Administration (USFA). 2015. Fire Safety Outreach Materials for Older Adults. Available <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/older_adults.html#:~:text=Older%20adults%20face%20the%20greatest%20relative%20risk%20of%20dying%20in%20a%20fire.&text=Had%20a%202.7%20times%20greater,fire%20than%20the%20total%20population>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

[25] Davies, Ian P. et al. 2018. The unequal vulnerability of communities of color to wildfire. Available <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0205825>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

[26] Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). 2019. Case Studies of Natural Gas Sector Resilience. Available <https://www.socalgas.com/1443742022576/SoCalGas-Case-Studies.pdf>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

Sensitivity Type	Sensitivity	Impact Summary	Impact Score
	Residential Buildings	Residential buildings in the City, especially those in the VHFHSZ, are at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	High
	Community Facilities and Government Buildings	Community facilities and government buildings in the City may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	High
	Community Parks	Community parks in the City may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	High
	Schools	School buildings in the City may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	High
	Public Safety Facilities	Public Safety Facilities within the City may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change, however, none of these are located in the VHFHSZ. Public safety response could be strained during wildfire events.	High
	Open Space	Open Space in Duarte, especially in Angeles National Forest, is susceptible to wildfire since it contains highly flammable vegetation. Wildfire could impact areas near Angeles National Forest and biodiversity of habitats located in the forest. Angeles National Forest lies in the VHFHSZ.	High
	Water Supply	Loss of vegetation due to wildfire can affect groundwater recharge by increasing runoff and reducing infiltration.[27] Indirect impacts to water supply may occur from water use for firefighting activities.	Medium

[27] United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2011. Giant Sequoia National Monument Specialist Report Groundwater. Available: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5398909.pdf>. Accessed July 5, 2021.

Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is the ability to cope with climate change impacts to community populations and assets. Specifically, adaptative capacity is the ability to mitigate potential impacts and damage or take advantage of the opportunities from climate change. Many communities have adaptive capacity in the form of policies, plans, programs, or institutions. Duarte has actively taken steps to increase the City's adaptive capacity. These include the updated Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan, the adoption of the Los Angeles County Strategic Fire Plan, and a Safety Element. Table 4 lists various guiding documents that have an underlying emphasis on adaptive capacity in the City.

Table 4 Duarte Existing Adaptative Capacity

Plan	Year Established	Climate Change Impact
City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan	2020	Flooding, Seismic, Wildfires, Landslides, Windstorms, and other Emergencies
City of Duarte Safety Element	2007	Flooding, Wildfire, Landslides
Duarte Municipal Code	n/a	Flooding, Wildfire, Landslides
Duarte Zoning & Development Codes	n/a	Wildfire, Landslides, Fast moving water
Duarte Emergency Operations Plan[1]	1999	Flooding, Wildfire, Storms, and other Disasters
Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Program	2018	Flooding
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan	2015	Flooding, Drought, and Water Supply and Demand
Los Angeles County 2020 Strategic Fire Plan	2020	Wildfire
2019 County of Los Angeles All Hazards Mitigation Plan	2019	Flooding, Wildfire, and Drought

Notes:
[1] Emergency Operations Plan update in progress as of July 2021.

The City of Duarte 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) establishes hazard mitigation goals and objectives, prioritizes mitigation actions, and sets forth an implementation strategy. The planning process is designed to ensure a commitment to the tenets contained in the plan, incorporate input from the community, and identify existing capabilities. The plan focuses on reducing the risk from natural hazards through education, outreach, preventative activities, and the development of partnerships. The HMP supplements the City's Emergency Operations Plan which focuses on coordinating emergency organization and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters including earthquakes, hazardous material incidents, and urban flooding, among others.

The Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan and The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include information on water supply and demand, and flooding in Duarte and the surrounding area. The 2015 Urban Water Management Plan addresses climate change by estimating demands for single dry year, multiple dry years, and average years, and requires urban water suppliers to identify projected supplies to meet these demands. In addition, the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan includes a water shortage

contingency plan and demand reduction measures in the event water supply to the District is affected by drought due to climate change.[28]

The General Plan Safety Element from 2007 outlines specific policies, but these are outdated and consequently, the Safety Element is being updated. The assessment of hazards is outdated and climate impacts and environmental justice considerations for the Duarte community are not addressed. The Safety Element refers to the 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan and is being updated for consistency with the 2020 HMP. The Duarte Municipal Code includes building regulations related to fire zones and safety, floodplain management, planned drainage facilities, hillside erosion control, and hillside development in the zoning and development code. These regulations increase the community's adaptive capacity by requiring safe building practices. The Municipal Code also contains regulations adopted in 2018 related to tree protection and preservation, which can increase adaptive capacity by abating soil and slope erosion through maintenance of tree stock.

Duarte has plans and policies specific to wildfire, flooding, drought, and landslide hazards. However, many of the plans and policies are based on assessments of hazards that do not consider climate change. Some plans and codes need to be updated to include climate change considerations. The 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a robust implementation plan with many policies for fire mitigation that follow CAL FIRE recommendations. However, because the plans do not include analysis of emergency evacuation routes, adaptive capacity for wildfire is deemed medium. Similarly, adaptive capacity is deemed medium for precipitation changes, such as flooding, landslide hazards, and extended drought. Although some plans and programs address climate change impacts related to changes in precipitation, for example, the HMP, others are either outdated, such as the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan, or do not address climate change, such as the Watershed Management Plan. In addition, the HPI tool indicates that Duarte has a low score for impervious surfaces, reducing the City's resilience to heavy precipitation events. Because there is little mention of the impacts of extreme heat in the City's plans and programs and because the City has lower tree canopy than over 60% of other California cities based on the HPI tool, adaptive capacity is deemed low for increased temperature and extreme heat.[29]

Vulnerability Score

Vulnerability scores are based on the combination of potential impacts from climate hazards and adaptive capacity in order to identify the climate vulnerabilities in the City to address with additional adaptation strategies. A vulnerability score was determined for each sensitivity area based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity from climate change in the City. Vulnerability was assessed on a scale from 1 to 5:

- V-1: Minimal Vulnerability
- V-2: Low Vulnerability
- V-3: Moderate Vulnerability
- V-4: High Vulnerability
- V-5: Severe Vulnerability

Cal OES recommends the following scoring rubric to determine the vulnerability score for the potential impacts and adaptive capacity.

[28] The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. 2015. Urban Water Management Plan. Available: <http://www.mwdh2o.com/pdf%202016%20background%20materials%20part%202/Metropolitan%20Draft%202015%20UWMP%20to%20MAs%20-%20Full%20Report%2012-17-2015_HiRes.pdf>. Accessed July 27, 2021.

[29] Public Health Alliance of Southern California, Virginia Commonwealth University's Center on Society and Health. "The California Healthy Places Index (HPI)." n.d. Available: <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>. Accessed July 2, 2021.

- **Low Potential Impact.** Impact is unlikely based on projected exposure; would result in minor consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **Medium Potential Impact.** Impact is somewhat likely based on projected exposure; would result in some consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **High Potential Impact.** Impact is highly likely based on projected exposure; would result in substantial consequences to public health, safety, and/or other metrics of concern
- **Low Adaptive Capacity.** The population or asset lacks capacity to manage climate impact; major changes would be required
- **Medium Adaptive Capacity.** The population or asset has some capacity to manage climate impact; some changes would be required
- **High Adaptive Capacity.** The population or asset has high capacity to manage climate impact; minimal to no changes are required

Table 5 shows how the final vulnerability score was determined. To summarize, potential impacts from climate change that are highly likely to occur in the City based on projected exposure would create a high vulnerability score. However, if the City has a high adaptive capacity to manage the impact, then the overall vulnerability score would be reduced.

Table 5 Vulnerability Score Matrix

Potential Impacts	Adaptive Capacity		
	High	Medium	Low
High	V-3	V-4	V-5
Medium	V-2	V-3	V-4
Low	V-1	V-2	V-3

Source: Cal OES, 2020.

The vulnerability scoring for the identified community sensitivities for each potential climate impact are included in the tables below. For the purposes of this vulnerability assessment, scores of V-4 or V-5 are considered substantial vulnerabilities for which adaptation measures should be developed. As shown in the tables below, the City's sensitive people, infrastructure, and natural and managed resources are substantially vulnerable to increasing temperature. The City's sensitive people, infrastructure, buildings and facilities, and natural and managed resources are vulnerable to wildfire impacts. In addition, Duarte's natural and managed resources are vulnerable to changes in precipitation. Overall, increasing temperature and wildfire present the greatest potential impact to the City.

While the City has planning documents with a variety of policies related to wildfire impacts, the plans do not address emergency evacuation concerns. It will be important to revise and develop adaptation strategies for the most vulnerable populations and assets in the Safety Element Update and ensure that these are consistent with policies in other plans, such as the HMP.

This vulnerability assessment and the results in Table 6, Table 7, Table 8, and Table 9, will be used to identify specific policies and implementable strategies for adapting to climate change in the Safety Element of the General Plan, thus making the Duarte community more resilient.

Table 6 Vulnerability Assessment Results – People

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Older Adults					
Increased Temperature	High	Older adults do not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature and are more likely to have medical conditions that can worsen with extreme heat.[30] Older adults living alone are even more at risk as the actions necessary to mitigate extreme heat are more difficult alone. Getting water, changing clothes, showering, or turning on the air conditioner may be more difficult for older adults with physical disabilities who do not have a living partner to assist them.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-5
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Older adults are at higher risk of injury and or death resulting from floods or fallen trees during climate-induced storms. Indirect impacts include damage to the transportation system that could reduce access to emergency response and health centers for those who need consistent medical care.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3

[30] Centers for Disease Control (CDC). 2017. Heat and Older Adults. Available <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/older-adults-heat.html>. Accessed July 6, 2021.

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Wildfire Impacts	High	Older adults are almost three times more likely to die in a fire than the overall population.[31] Because they can have increased mobility issues or mental health issues, older adults, especially those living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when needed. Poor air quality from wildfire will also impact older adults.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Non-white Communities					
Increased Temperature	High	Non-white minority groups in the United States have reportedly higher morbidity and mortality rates associated with hot weather. Health inequities in minority groups can be exacerbated by race and class discrimination, as well as social problems.[32]	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-5
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Non-white communities are more likely to experience disproportionate impacts from flooding as a result of past discriminatory housing policies known as "redlining" and a lack of resources needed to cope with these impacts.[33]	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3

[31] United States Fire Administration (USFA). 2015. Fire Safety Outreach Materials for Older Adults. Available <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/older_adults.html#:~:text=Older%20adults%20face%20the%20greatest%20relative%20risk%20of%20dying%20in%20a%20fire.&text=Had%20a%202.7%20times%20greater,fire%20than%20the%20total%20population>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

[32] Global Health Action. 2013. Vulnerability to extreme heat and climate change: is ethnicity a factor? Available <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3728476/>. Accessed July 6, 2021.

[33] The Washington Post. 2020. Climate change is also a racial justice problem. Available: < https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2020/06/29/climate-change-racism/>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Wildfire Impacts	High	Racial and ethnic minorities face greater vulnerability to wildfires compared to primarily white communities.[34] Non-white communities may have fewer resources necessary to cope with the impacts of wildfire, including retrofitting their homes or rebuilding. They are also less likely to have air conditioning, which helps mitigate poor air quality from wildfire.[13]	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Non-English Speakers					
Increased Temperature	High	Members of ethnic minority language groups can be especially vulnerable through poor living conditions and exclusion from access to English-based media and health messages.[13] This can affect individuals' ability to follow weather reports and instructions from government organizations and service providers, including information aimed at increasing awareness and reducing the impact of extreme heat.[13]	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-5
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Individuals with limited English proficiency may not have access to emergency public health warnings in their native language during a heavy precipitation event.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3

[34] Davies, Ian P. et al. 2018. The unequal vulnerability of communities of color to wildfire. Available <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0205825>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Wildfire Impacts	High	Individuals with limited English proficiency may not have access to emergency public health warnings in their native language during a wildfire event.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Individuals with Physical Disabilities					
Increased Temperature	High	Individuals living with physical disabilities may be less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. They may also have difficulty getting water, changing clothes, showering, or turning on the air conditioner.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-5
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Indirect impacts from heavy precipitation could include reduced access to transportation systems, emergency response, and health centers for those who need consistent medical care.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Those with reduced mobility, especially those living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when needed.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Isolated Individuals					
Increased Temperature	High	Isolated individuals with no car or transit access may be at risk to extreme heat as they would have more difficulty leaving an area of extreme heat for cooler areas, such as the coast.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-5
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Indirect impacts could include reduced access to emergency response and health centers for those who are already isolated during a flood event.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Isolated individuals may have substantial difficulties in the event of a wildfire evacuation.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Uninsured Individuals					
Increased Temperature	High	Uninsured individuals are at risk as they have greater difficulty accessing quality healthcare and may suffer financially if emergency healthcare is needed.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-5

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Precipitation Impacts	Low	Increased storm frequency and drought are likely to result in minimal impact to uninsured individuals.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-2
Wildfire Impacts	High	Uninsured individuals have greater difficulty accessing quality healthcare and may suffer financially if emergency healthcare is needed as a result of the direct or indirect impacts of wildfire.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Renters					
Increased Temperature	Medium	Renters have less control over home improvements than homeowners and may not be able to adequately protect themselves by installing air conditioning.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of vulnerable populations from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Renters have less control over home improvements than homeowners and may not be able to adequately protect themselves by retrofitting their units or preparing for flooding. Additionally, they cannot control the timing of repairs.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Renters are less likely to retrofit their homes to better resist climate-related hazards such as wildfires.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Table 7 Vulnerability Assessment Results – Infrastructure

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Access Roads					
Increased Temperature	Low	Increased temperature is likely to result in minimal impact to access roads.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of infrastructure from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-3
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Flooding and landslides caused by heavy precipitation events could damage or close roads, isolating portions of the City. Damage to or closure of access roads can effectively isolate areas and potentially create severe health and safety risks.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Wildfires would not substantially damage roads, but could result in closure of or the inability to travel on roads during wildfire events, which can isolate areas of the City and create severe health and safety risks.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Energy Delivery					
Increased Temperature	Medium	Indirect impacts to electrical utility lines could occur from increased use of the system for running air conditioners, leading to power outages in the City. Long periods of intense heat may result in increased use of electricity for home cooling purposes that could tax the overall electrical system and result in electricity restrictions or blackouts. Increased temperature is likely to result in minimal impact to natural gas transmission pipelines.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of infrastructure from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Landslides triggered by heavy precipitation events could impact above-ground electrical utility lines. More intense storms could adversely affect electricity delivery from power outages caused by downed electrical utility lines from wind or landslide events. Increased flooding may also impact natural gas transmission pipelines.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Above ground electrical lines are at risk from wildfires and could impact electricity services to residents. Direct impacts to Southern California Edison electricity transmission infrastructure could affect power in the City. In addition, utility companies have begun shutting off power to areas to avoid wildfires during times when weather creates high wildfire risk. Natural gas infrastructure and services are relatively resilient to wildfires, given that most infrastructure is below ground.[35]	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

[35] Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). 2019. Case Studies of Natural Gas Sector Resilience. Available <https://www.socalgas.com/1443742022576/SoCalGas-Case-Studies.pdf>. Accessed July 7, 2021.

Table 8 Vulnerability Assessment Results – Buildings and Facilities

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Residential Buildings					
Increased Temperature	Low	Extreme heat and temperature increases due to climate change would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Duarte. Extreme heat and temperature increases could adversely affect health by restricting outdoor exercise and may also limit the use of community facilities that do not have air conditioning. Overall, there is a low potential impact from extreme heat to buildings and facilities.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of buildings and facilities from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-3
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	More intense precipitation events could cause flood damage to residential buildings. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Residential buildings in the City, especially those in the VHFHSZ, are at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Community Facilities and Government Buildings					
Increased Temperature	Low	Extreme heat and temperature increases due to climate change would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Duarte. Overall, there is a low potential impact from extreme heat to buildings and facilities.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of buildings and facilities from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-3
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	More intense precipitation events could cause flood damage to community facilities and government buildings. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall. Drought could impact flora in community parks.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Community facilities and government buildings may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Community Parks					
Increased Temperature	Low	Extreme heat and temperature increase due to climate change would not directly affect community parks in Duarte. Extreme heat and temperature increases could limit the use of community parks. Overall, there is a low potential impact from extreme heat to community parks in Duarte.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of community parks from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-3
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	More intense precipitation events could cause flood damage to community parks in Duarte. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall. Drought could impact flora in community parks.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts in community parks.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Community parks may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Schools					
Increased Temperature	Medium	Extreme heat and temperature increases due to climate change would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Duarte. Extreme heat and temperature increases could adversely affect health by restricting outdoor exercise and may also limit the use of schools that do not have air conditioning. Overall, there is a low potential impact to schools from extreme heat.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of buildings and facilities from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-4
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	More intense precipitation events could cause flood damage to schools. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Schools in the City may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Public Safety Facilities					
Increased Temperature	Low	Extreme heat and temperature increases due to climate change would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Duarte. Overall, there is a low potential impact to buildings and facilities from extreme heat.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of buildings and facilities from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-3
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Emergency response systems could be affected by flooding or landslides, which could restrict the ability for emergency response to access the City and impact response times.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Public safety facilities in the City may be at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4

Table 9 Vulnerability Assessment Results – Natural and Managed Resources

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Open Space					
Increased Temperature	Medium	Extreme heat and temperature increases could affect flora and fauna in open space areas such as Angeles National Forest and City parks.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of natural and managed resources from increased average temperature or temperature extremes.	V-4
Precipitation Impacts	Medium	Drought and increased flooding could impact flora and fauna in open space areas such as Angeles National Forest and other open space in the City.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some policies also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-3
Wildfire Impacts	High	Open Space in Duarte, especially in Angeles National Forest, is susceptible to wildfire since it contains highly flammable vegetation. Wildfire could impact areas near Angeles National Forest and biodiversity of habitats located in the forest. Angeles National Forest lies in the VHFHSZ.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-4
Water Supply					
Increased Temperature	Medium	High temperatures would contribute to a reduced water supply through increased water use. This could deplete groundwater resources in the area.	Low	The City's plans and policies do not specifically address the protection of natural and managed resources from increased average temperatures or temperature extremes.	V-4

Climate Hazard	Impact Score	Impact Summary	Adaptive Capacity Score	Adaptive Capacity Summary	Vulnerability Score
Precipitation Impacts	High	Groundwater could be threatened by extended drought conditions.	Medium	The HMP, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Revised Watershed Management Plan, Duarte Municipal Code, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Urban Water Management Plan include policies specific to increased precipitation impacts such as flooding and landslide hazards and some also include drought considerations (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated and do not provide clear implementation strategies to address future climate change impacts.	V-4
Wildfire Impacts	Medium	Wildfire can affect groundwater recharge by increasing runoff and reducing infiltration.[36] Indirect impacts to water supply may occur from water use for firefighting activities.	Medium	The City's EOP and HMP include policies specific to wildfire hazards (see description of these plans in the Adaptive Capacity subsection of this assessment). These plans provide a basis for adaptative capacity; however, some policies are outdated, and the plans do not evaluate emergency evacuation routes.	V-3

[36] United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2011. Giant Sequoia National Monument Specialist Report Groundwater. Available: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5398909.pdf>. Accessed July 5, 2021.

Adaptation Framework, Strategies, and Implementation

The results of the vulnerability assessment above provide a basis for developing policies and implementable strategies for climate adaption in Duarte and increasing the community's climate change resilience. Based on the Cal OES Adaptation Planning Guide, this section summarizes key steps needed to develop an effective adaptation framework, strategies, and implementation programs.

Adaptation Vision, Goals, and Policies

Goals provide direction for achieving a vision and act as guideposts throughout the planning process and implementation. Example goals and policies are provided in the Cal OES Adaptation Planning Guide and the Southern California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide. The policies developed for Duarte should focus on the community populations groups and assets, such as older adults and energy systems, that were determined to have a score of V-4 or V-5 in Table 7 above.

Prioritize Adaptation Strategies

After a list of adaptation strategies has been developed, they should be prioritized based on local criteria. The following criteria, described in the Cal OES Adaptation Planning Guide, should be considered:

- Vulnerability score (from Table 7) – which strategies will be effective at addressing assets or systems with the highest vulnerability?
- Cost – How much will the strategy cost to implement?
- Admirative operability– Who will implement the strategy and what is their organizational capacity?
- Funding – What resources are available to pay for implementation?
- Effectiveness/benefit – How effective is the strategy at addressing the problem and/or what is the benefit? What future losses might be avoided?
- Efficiency – How do the costs compare to the effectiveness/benefit? What are the additional indirect benefits of the strategy?
- Environmental impact – What are the potential environmental impacts or considerations of implementing the strategy?
- Co-benefits – Does the strategy offer benefits beyond climate change adaptation such as economic development or habitat improvements?
- Equity – Who pays the cost and who receives the benefit?
- Consistency with goals and objectives – Is the strategy aligned with the goals and objectives established as a result of the engagement process?
- Legality – Is the strategy consistent with applicable laws? Is there any risk in implementing the strategy?
- Permitability – How complex is the permit process? Is it likely that permits can be obtained?

- Timing – When will implementation begin and how long will it take?
- Monitoring – How will the strategy be tracked and monitored for effectiveness?

Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Adjust

Following adaptation framework and strategy development, the City should prepare an implementation program that identifies the actions to be taken to facilitate implementation of adaptation strategies. Next, the City should monitor changing climate and community conditions and track effectiveness of adaptation strategies over time. To evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation strategies, the City should prepare a monitoring report that collects data being tracked and evaluates progress in achieving intended adaptation outcomes. Finally, the City must determine whether adjustments are needed to improve the effectiveness of adaptation strategies.

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Exhibit B

Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Environmental Scientists *Planners* *Engineers*

M E M O R A N D U M

■ **Los Angeles**

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Suite 1400
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Carlsbad:	(760) 918 9444	**Sacramento:**	(916) 706 1374
Fresno:	(559) 228 9925	**San Diego:**	(760) 918 9444
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Monterey:	(831) 333 0310	**Santa Barbara:**	(805) 319 4092
Oakland:	(510) 834 4455	**Santa Cruz:**	(831) 440 3899
Redlands:	(909) 253 0705	**Ventura:**	(805) 644 4455
Riverside:	(951) 782-0061		

Date:	August 12, 2021
To:	Craig Hensley, Community Development Director, City of Duarte
Project:	20-09415 Duarte Housing Element Update
From:	Camila Bobroff, Lexi Journey, and Joe Power
E-mail:	cbobroff@rinconconsultants.com; ljourney@rinconconsultants.com; jpower@rinconconsultants.com
Re:	Suggested Policy Revisions for the Environmental Justice Component

The purpose of this memo is to identify proposed revisions to incorporate Environmental Justice goals, policies and objectives into the General Plan pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1000.

Overview of Applicable Regulation and Guidance

Senate Bill 1000. Environmental Justice

SB 1000 states that revisions to, or adoption of, two or more elements of a general plan on or after January 1, 2018 triggers a requirement to "adopt or review the environmental justice element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements." Per Government Code §65040.12(e), environmental justice is "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives must aim to reduce health risks to disadvantaged communities (DACs), promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of these communities.

Per SB 1000, the California EPA uses CalEnviroScreen, a mapping tool to identify disadvantaged communities throughout the State. CalEnviroScreen uses a variety of statewide indicators to characterize pollution burden (the average of exposures and environmental effects) and population

characteristics (the average of sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors). The model scores each of the indicators using percentiles and combines the scores to determine an overall CalEnviroScreen score for a given census tract relative to others in the state. One census tract in west Duarte has a combined DAC score of 75% or higher, thus exceeding the minimum criterion for DAC designation. Figure 1, below, highlights the census tract in Duarte meeting or exceeding the requirements for designation as a DAC. Table 1, provided below, displays CalEnviroScreen results for all census tracts in Duarte.

Figure 1 City of Duarte Disadvantaged Communities

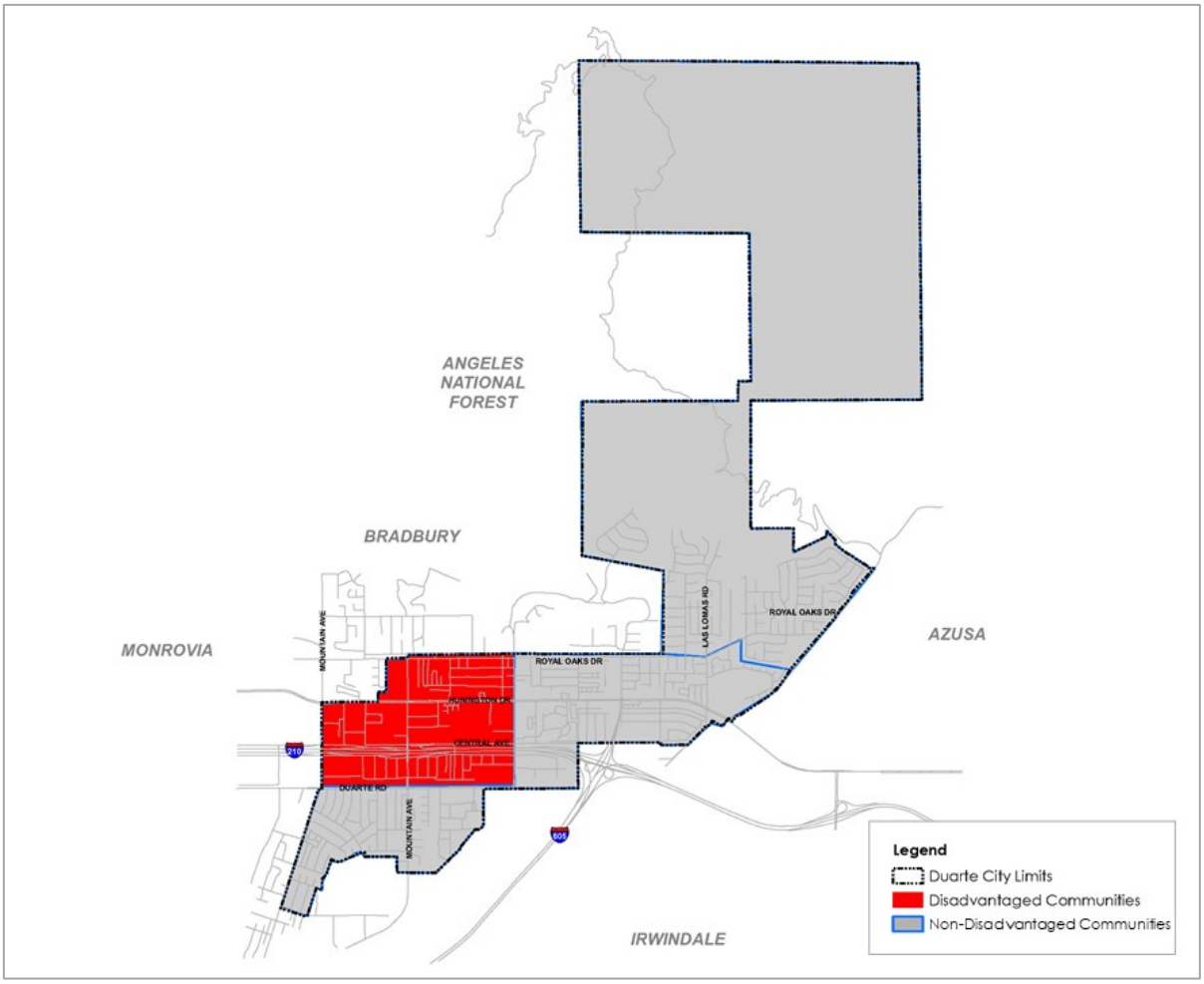

Table 1 City of Duarte CalEnviroScreen Overall Scores

Census Tract	Overall Score Percentile Range	Pollution Burden	Population Characteristics
6037430002	70	71	63
6037430003	17	26	16
6037430101	80	96	53
6037430102	69	74	59

Light orange shading corresponds to CalEnviroScreen scores spanning 71% through 80%.
Source: OEHHA 2021. https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/draft-calenviroscreen-40

Policy Review and Proposed Revisions

Table 2 and **Table 3** identify the City's current environmental justice policies, recommended policy changes to address environmental justice, and new policies to be included throughout the General Plan Elements. These tables serve as both a reference of the environmental justice policies that are already in place, as well as a list of suggested revisions the City may consider for adoption to satisfy the requirements of SB 1000. **Environmental Justice implementation actions are proposed for policies in the Safety Element.** All new text is underlined.

To comply with SB 1000, Duarte should seek to reduce pollution exposure, promote public facilities, promote food access, promote safe and sanitary homes, promote physical activity, reduce unique or compounded health risks, promote civic engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities. A number of the existing policies below have been revised to focus on the needs of disadvantaged communities in Duarte (Census Tract 6037430101).

Implementation of policies that aim to increase civic engagement of vulnerable populations should include partnering with local community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and trusted leaders that work in the identified DAC. Additionally, it will be critical for the City to continue removing barriers to participation in local decision making, such as timing, transportation, childcare, use of jargon, meeting format, power dynamics, and level of prior knowledge regarding the planning process. Increasing accessibility of information could include providing bilingual documentation since the DAC (Census Tract 6037430101) in the City is just over 50% Hispanic.

Table 2 Environmental Justice Policies and Implementation for the Safety Element

New Policy or Revisions *(new text underlined)*	***Implementation***
Safe 1.1.3 *Expand and intensify precautionary measures in high-risk areas, including disadvantaged communities, to reduce loss from natural or man-made disasters and investigate ways of reducing the likelihood of their occurrence.*	**Safe 1.1.3.1** Prepare and implement programs which will help mitigate risk and minimize losses to the most sensitive communities and assets identified in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.
Safe 1.1.8 *Establish designated emergency response and evacuation routes throughout the City, for each climate hazard (e.g., wildfire, storm flooding, etc.), prioritizing the most high-risk and disadvantaged populations.*	**Safe 1.1.8.2** Produce evacuation route maps that incorporate potential road closures and highest-risk areas for each climate hazard (e.g. wildfire, storm flooding)
Safe 1.1.9 *Update emergency and disaster response measures to account for increased heat days, with a focus on reducing health risks for the highest-risk individuals and disadvantaged communities.*	**Safe 1.1.9.1** Develop heat hazard response in next EOP update and heat hazard mitigation measures in next LHMP update. Designate community cooling centers for extreme heat days that are accessible to those living in identified disadvantaged communities within the City.
	Safe 2.1.1.1 Prepare communication materials and support education programs that familiarize the citizens of Duarte with emergency preparedness and procedures to follow in the event of a major disaster. Post these materials on the City website in multiple languages as needed to be accessible to both English-speaking and non-English speaking residents.

Safe 2.1.4 *Coordinate emergency planning efforts with building managers of high-occupancy facilities, dependent care centers (nursing homes, day care centers, etc.) and critical facilities located in the City to facilitate effective emergency response.*	**Safe 2.1.4.1** The City will provide communication materials outlining emergency and evacuation procedures to high-occupancy facilities, dependent care centers, and critical facilities managers.
Safe 2.1.5 *Increase public awareness of City emergency response plans, evacuation routes and emergency shelters, with a focus on populations at greatest risk and disadvantaged communities.*	**Safe 2.1.5.1** Partner with community groups and neighborhood organizations already engaged with populations at greatest risk to hazards to increase awareness of evacuation routes, emergency shelters, and City emergency response plans as well as what resources are available to residents.
Safe 2.1.6 *Maintain a citizens notification system regarding natural, man-made, or climate change hazards that reaches all populations in the community, with a focus on reaching disadvantaged communities.*	**Safe 2.1.6.1** Review the early warning system and determine its effectiveness to reach all populations within Duarte, such as non-English speaking individuals.
Safe 2.1.7 *Incorporate information for potential health threats due to climate change hazards, such as heat-illness, illnesses complicated by low air quality, and risks during heavy precipitation events, into early warning systems.*	**Safe 2.1.7.1** Partner with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop and enhance disaster and emergency early warning systems to incorporate objective data and information for potential health threats, such as heat-illness, illnesses complicated by poor air quality and precipitation events.
	Safe 3.1.1.1 Establish a minimum level of emergency service. Ensure that these services are responsive to the community's needs by periodically evaluating these services through the use of surveys and questionnaires.

Table 3 displays revised existing environmental justice policies in the Open Space and Conservation, Noise, Land Use, Housing, Historic Preservation, Economic Development, and Circulation Elements. These policies are related to prioritizing decision making and therefore implementation actions are not needed.

Table 3 Environmental Justice Policies in the Open Space and Conservation, Noise, Land Use, Housing, Historic Preservation, Economic Development, and Circulation Elements

Chapter & Section	***Existing and Proposed Policies*** *(new text underlined)*
Open Space and Conservation (2007) - Conservation	**Con 2.1.5** Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces through the use of porous ground cover materials. As appropriate, focus efforts in disadvantaged communities.
	Con 3.1.2 Analyze all projects as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for potential impacts on the community and utilize the proper mitigation measures to mitigate any potential adverse impacts on the community, focusing on discouraging generators of pollution, including toxic air contaminants, that would further harm disadvantaged communities.
	Con 5.1.1 Encourage the planned unit development or specific plan approach to land use, which will minimize streets and provide more community needs-driven open space, green belts, green alleys, pocket parks, or community gardens, especially in disadvantaged communities.
	Con 5.1.3 Maintain open space areas around noise generators to buffer the noise impacts on noise sensitive uses including schools and residential areas, especially in disadvantaged communities.
Open Space and	**OS 1.1.1** Work with conservation groups to identify and conserve open space and protect lands accessible to public use, with special attention to preserving open spaces used by disadvantaged communities.

Conservation (2007) - Open Space	**OS 2.1.1** Continue to cooperate with the Duarte Unified School District in providing open space amenities for Duarte residents and students, especially in disadvantaged communities.
	OS 2.1.2 Require new development to mitigate the burden it creates on existing parks through equitable parkland dedication, recreational space development and/or mitigation fees. As appropriate, focus park development and expansions in under-resourced and disadvantaged communities.
	OS 2.1.3 Provide for the future expansion of existing parks in a way that does not adversely affect adjacent areas, including disadvantaged communities.
	OS 2.1.5 Provide recreation programs for all age groups, utilizing first those facilities now existing and developing new facilities as the need arises, with consideration of the needs of non-English speakers, community members with disabilities, and those without cars. Ensure that programming is aimed at all areas of the City, including disadvantaged communities.
	OS 2.1.6 Establish neighborhood parks and multi-purpose green spaces such as community gardens, designed and located to conveniently serve the needs of various segments of the community, with an emphasis on underserved segments of the community and disadvantaged communities.
	OS 3.1.1 Multiple recreation uses for open space areas should be encouraged. For example, horseback trails entwined with pedestrian paths can be enjoyable for both parties. Trail markers can be used to point out interesting views and directions (e.g., the direction to the waterfall in Fish Canyon). Updates of trail markers and signage will include designs that meet the needs of both English and non-English speakers.
	OS 3.1.2 Develop new city parks when and where this is possible to meet the future recreational needs of the community equitably. As appropriate, focus development in underserved and disadvantaged communities.
	OS 3.1.3 Expand and improve recreational facilities at existing parks within the City equitably. As appropriate, focus improvements in disadvantaged communities.
	OS 3.1.4 Promote the development of new neighborhood and recreation facilities, as appropriate, including parks of 4 acres or more to be used as satellite parks. Such developments shall be pursued equitably throughout the City.
Open Space and Conservation (2007) - Air Quality	**AQ 1.1.1** Facilitate communication among residents, businesses and the Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to quickly resolve air pollution nuisance complaints. Distribute information to advise residents on how to register a complaint with the AQMD (cut smog program). Ensure that communications are accessible to non-English speakers and disadvantaged communities most affected by air pollution burdens.
	AQ 1.1.2 Promote and support mixed-use land patterns that allow the integration of retail, office, institutional and mixed-income residential uses.
	AQ 1.2.1 Establish a Mixed-Use Zoning District that offers incentives for mixed-use developments that include affordable housing and are weatherized for increased average temperatures and extreme heat events. Avoid displacement of residents and local businesses, and provide support for relocation when displacement is unavoidable, especially in disadvantaged communities.
	AQ 2.1.1 Collaborate with local transit agencies to: • Develop programs and educate employers about employee rideshare and transit. • Establish mass transit mechanisms for the reduction of work-related and non-work-related vehicle trips. • Promote mass transit ridership by all segments of the community through careful planning of routes, headways, origins and destination, types of vehicles, and accessibility for community members of all ages, abilities, and incomes.
	AQ 2.1.2 Provide merchants with fliers/posters that publicize mass transit schedules in multiple languages, to encourage their customers to use mass transit.
	AQ 3.1.1 Where fugitive dust is causing a chronic public nuisance or the air quality is in exceedance of PM 10 standards, consider adopting a dust control policy that requires preparation and approval of a dust control plan, emphasizing disadvantaged communities and areas with highest-risk populations that are most affected by air pollution.

	AQ 3.1.2 Cooperate with local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions to better control fugitive dust from stationary, mobile and area sources. Pursue such efforts equitably throughout the City.
	AQ 3.1.4 Consider rerouting the Duarte fixed route bus system to help minimize vehicle trips, while continuing to adequately serve the needs of community members without cars.
Noise (2007)	**Noise 1.1.1** Ensure noise mitigation measures are included in the design of new developments, including those in, and adjacent to, disadvantaged communities.
	Noise 1.1.3 Continue the City's beautification program along arterials to help reduce noise levels. Such improvements shall be pursued equitably throughout the City.
	Noise 1.1.4 Encourage acoustical materials in all new residential and commercial developments, including those in disadvantaged communities, where noise levels exceed the compatibility standards outlined in the Noise Element.
	Noise 1.1.5 Limit construction, delivery, and through truck traffic to designated routes that avoid residential neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities.
	Noise 1.1.6 Ensure that Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL) for noise sensitive land uses, and residential neighborhoods in disadvantaged communities, meet or exceed normally acceptable levels, as defined by State of California standards.
	Noise 1.1.7 The City should encourage, support, and enforce all State and Federal legislation designed to abate and control noise pollution equitably across the City.
	Noise 2.1.2 Strive to resolve existing and potential conflicts between noise generating uses and human activities and disadvantaged communities.
	Noise 2.1.4 Prohibit significant noise generating activities from locating adjacent to residential neighborhoods, including disadvantaged communities, and near schools.
	Noise 2.1.5 Evaluate the noise impacts from projects and existing uses in adjacent cities and work cooperatively with these cities to develop mitigation measures that will improve ambient noise conditions in Duarte. Focus implementation of coordinated noise-mitigation efforts in disadvantaged communities most burdened by high levels of ambient noise.
	Noise 3.1.3 Ensure that construction noise does not cause an adverse impact to the residents of the City, including those in disadvantaged communities.
	Noise 3.1.4 Minimize noise and light spillage onto other residential properties, including those in disadvantaged communities.
Land Use (2018 Update)	**LU 1.1.2** Encourage the development of a mix of housing types and densities to ensure a variety of housing to accommodate a range of tastes and incomes.
	LU 2.1.7 Make every effort to ensure that industry and residences, where located in close proximity, will be compatible neighbors with non-industrial uses located nearby, and with neighboring cities as well. This policy shall be pursued with special attention to residences located near industrial uses in disadvantaged communities and neighborhoods with populations most affected by pollution burdens.
	LU 3.1.6 Promote the use of mixed land use techniques and construction methods to provide more housing and minimize housing costs without compromising basic health, safety and aesthetic qualities.
Draft Housing Element (2021-2029)	**Policy 1.1.1 Neighborhood Character** Enhance the quality of existing residential neighborhoods, including those identified as low resource and/or disadvantaged, through responsible development and investment**.**
	Policy 1.1.2 Property and Housing Conditions Support the long-term maintenance and improvement of existing housing through code enforcement, inspections and housing rehabilitation and extreme-heat weatherization programs.

Policy 1.1.3 Improvements to Deteriorated Housing

Strengthen Duarte neighborhoods through partnerships with housing providers in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and extreme-heat weatherization of deteriorated multi-family properties and provision as long-term affordable housing.

Policy 1.1.4 Protection of Existing Affordable Housing

Work with property owners, tenants and non-profit purchasers to preserve assisted rental housing, and implement a strong affordable housing monitoring program.

Policy 1.1.5 Tenant Protections

Support the implementation of State laws to protect existing tenants from displacement through requirements for just cause evictions, limitations on rent increases, and replacement housing requirements if any existing residential units would be removed.

Policy 1.1.6 Conservation of Mobile Home Parks

Encourage retention of Duarte's mobile home parks as a relatively affordable form of housing, unless replaced by housing affordable to lower income households and with priority occupancy by existing mobile home park tenants.

Policy 1.1.7 Maintenance of Infrastructure and Improvements

Maintain and enhance the quality of life within neighborhoods, including those identified as low resource and/or disadvantaged, by providing adequate maintenance to streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks and other community facilities.

Policy 2.1.2 Regulatory Incentives for Affordable Housing

Support the use of regulatory incentives, such as density bonuses, fee deferrals and parking reductions, to offset or reduce the cost of developing affordable housing while ensuring potential impacts are addressed.

Policy 3.1.1 Fair Housing

Support the provision of fair housing services and tenant/landlord mediation to Duarte residents.

Policy 3.1.3 Housing for Persons with Disabilities

Address the special needs of persons with disabilities, including developmental disabilities, through provision of supportive and accessible housing that allows persons with disabilities to live independent lives.

Policy 3.1.4 Homeless Housing and Services

Implement the City's Homelessness Plan and work cooperatively with local agencies to provide a continuum of care for the homeless, including interim/emergency housing, permanent supportive affordable housing, and access to services.

Policy 4.1.1 Affordable Housing Incentives

Provide regulatory incentives and/or available financial assistance to facilitate the development of affordable housing throughout the City. Prioritize local funding resources for projects near high quality transit and which include a portion of units affordable to extremely low income households.

Policy 4.1.2 Public/Private Partnerships

Support collaborative partnerships among non-profit organizations, affordable housing builders, and for-profit developers to provide greater access to affordable housing funds.

Policy 4.1.3 Affordable Housing on Public/Quasi-Public Land

Encourage residential development on surplus public/quasi-public land, including properties owned by the City and County, Duarte Unified School District, and local congregations, and require a portion of any new development to be affordable to low and moderate income households.

Policy 4.1.4 Housing for Families

Seek to address household overcrowding by supporting the provision of affordable family units with three or more bedrooms, and encouraging bedroom additions in existing housing.

Policy 4.1.5 First-time Homebuyers

	Encourage the provision of financial assistance to low and moderate income first-time homebuyers through County and State programs.
	Policy 4.1.6 Rental Assistance Support and publicize available rental assistance programs provided through the L.A. County Housing Authority for very low income and special needs households.
	Policy 4.1.7 Green Building Encourage use of sustainable and green building design in new and existing housing, including in disadvantaged communities.
	Policy 5.1.1 Variety of Housing Choices Provide site opportunities for development of housing that responds to diverse community needs in terms of housing type, cost and location, emphasizing locations near services and transit that promote walkability.
	Policy 5.1.3 Affordable Housing Overlay Designate sites in geographically dispersed locations with an Affordable Housing Overlay to provide incentives for development with affordable units.
	Policy 5.1.4 Residential Mixed-Use Promote the efficient use of land by encouraging commercial and residential uses on the same property in both horizontal and vertical mixed-use configurations.
	Policy 5.1.5 Accessory Dwelling Units Encourage and facilitate the provision of accessory and junior accessory dwelling units in existing and new development as a form of multi-generational housing.
Historic Preservation (2007)	**HP 1.1.1** Establish and support all appropriate media for reaching all segments of the community to educate residents and decision-makers concerning the protection of historical resources.
	HP 1.1.2 Encourage public outreach and access to historical information.
	HP 2.1.1 Encourage on-going research regarding the City's history and built environment, including any history of discrimination and/or social justice concerns in the development of the built environment.
	HP 3.1.2 Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources by providing incentives and technical assistance. Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources equitably across the City.
Economic Development Element (2007)	**Econ. 4.1.4** Continue to partner with Duarte Unified School District to prepare (K-12) for college and/or local workforce, including students from disadvantaged communities.
	Econ. 4.1.5 Collaborate with Citrus and other colleges, California State University Los Angeles, California Polytechnic University, Chamber of Commerce and other higher education providers to encourage educational, and job reentry training opportunities for Duarte residents.
	Econ. 4.1.6 Perform a jobs/housing balance study and set goals to achieve and maintain a jobs/housing balance.
	Econ. 4.1.7 Collaborate with local employers on Succession Planning and Workforce Development Efforts.
Circulation (2007)	**Circ 1.1.2** Implement the roadway plan provided in the Circulation Element to meet the transportation needs of all citizens, including community members of all ages, abilities, incomes, and those from disadvantaged communities.
	Circ 1.1.3 Widen substandard streets and alleys to meet the city standards where feasible, including in disadvantaged communities.
	Circ 1.1.4 Evaluate the traffic impacts of new development and require developers to employ appropriate mitigation measures to reduce traffic or improve roadway and traffic conditions Enforce this policy equitably throughout the city.
	Circ 2.1.1 Discourage through traffic on local streets that are located in residential neighborhoods, including neighborhoods in disadvantaged communities.

	Circ 2.1.3 Continue the practice of responding to resident complaints and requests regarding residential street traffic problems. Respond to complaints in an equitable and timely manner.
	Circ 2.1.4 Discourage non-resident motorists from traveling through residential neighborhoods, including neighborhoods in disadvantaged communities.
	Circ 3.1.3 Promote the linking of local public transit routes with that of adjacent jurisdictions and other transit agencies. Ensure that transportation is available for, and connects to, disadvantaged communities.
	Circ 3.1.4 Ensure that new developments incorporate both local and regional transit measures into the project design that promote the use of alternate modes of transportation and, as appropriate, that improve transportation systems serving disadvantaged communities.
	Circ 3.1.5 Provide incentives for appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout Duarte, including in disadvantaged communities, particularly for bike lanes to the Gold Line Station.

Exhibit C

RESOLUTION NO. PC 21-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUARTE RECOMMENDING TO THE DUARTE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2021-02, ADOPTING THE SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE TO THE CITY OF DUARTE GENERAL PLAN, AND ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Section 65302 of the California Government Code requires the periodic review and update of the Safety Element of the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed update of the Safety Element would outline the City's policies, goals, and objectives aimed at reducing the potential risks and harms that may result from natural or man-made hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the City initiated an update to the Safety Element of the City of Duarte General Plan to be consistent with the update to the Housing Element and to comply with recent State legislation and guidelines; and

WHEREAS, a notice of a public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment was published in the local newspaper, posted at three (3) public locations, and provided on the City's website in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2021, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment, whereupon the Planning Commission received public testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte received and considered the staff report and all of the information, evidence, and public testimony presented in connection with the foregoing at the public hearing held on October 18, 2021 at 7 PM; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte, based on the preceding findings, hereby forwards the Safety Element Update to the City's General Plan and the Findings of Consistency with the General Plan to the City Council with recommendation for approval of General Plan Amendment 2021-02, and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The Safety Element Update to the City's General Plan is recommended for adoption as shown in attached Exhibit 1.

SECTION 2. The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a Negative Declaration determining that the Safety Element Update to the City's General Plan and related General Plan changes could not have a significant effect on the environment. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration is in attached Exhibit 2.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of October, 2021.

_____
Tina Heany, Chairperson
City of Duarte Planning Commission

ATTEST:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss.
CITY OF DUARTE

I, Craig Hensley, Community Development Director of the City of Duarte, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held on October 18, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

Exhibit D

RESOLUTION NO. PC 21-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUARTE RECOMMENDING TO THE DUARTE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2021-03, ADOPTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES OF THE CITY OF DUARTE GENERAL PLAN, AND ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Section 65302 of the California Government Code requires the adoption and review of either an Environmental Justice Element, or Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements of the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Environmental Justice policies of the City of Duarte General Plan would identify disadvantaged communities and aim to reduce health risks to disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the City initiated the development of Environmental Justice policies of the City of Duarte General Plan to comply with recent State legislation and guidelines, including Senate Bill 1000; and

WHEREAS, a notice of a public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment was published in the local newspaper, posted at three (3) public locations, and provided on the City's website in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2021, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment, whereupon the Planning Commission received public testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission received and considered the staff report and all of the information, evidence, and public testimony presented in connection with the foregoing at the public hearing held on October 18, 2021 at 7 PM; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte, based on the preceding findings, hereby forwards the Environmental Justice policies of the City's General Plan and the Findings of Consistency with the General Plan to the City Council with recommendation for approval of General Plan Amendment 2021-03, and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The Environmental Justice policies of the City's General Plan is recommended for adoption as shown in attached Exhibit 1.

SECTION 2. The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a Negative Declaration determining that the Environmental Justice policies of the City's General Plan and related General Plan changes could not have a significant effect

on the environment. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration is in attached Exhibit 2.

APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of October, 2021.

_____
Tina Heany, Chairperson
City of Duarte Planning Commission

ATTEST:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss.
CITY OF DUARTE

I, Craig Hensley, Community Development Director of the City of Duarte, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held on October 18, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

Exhibit E

Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update

Initial Study – Negative Declaration

prepared by

City of Duarte
Community Development Department
1600 Huntington Drive
Duarte, California 91010
Contact: Craig Hensley

prepared with the assistance of

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
250 East 1st Street, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90012

September 2021

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers
rinconconsultants.com

Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update

Initial Study – Negative Declaration

prepared by

City of Duarte
Community Development Department
1600 Huntington Drive
Duarte, California 91010
Contact: Craig Hensley

prepared with the assistance of

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
250 East 1st Street, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90012

September 2021

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Figures

Initial Study

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Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update

2. Lead Agency Name and Address

City of Duarte
Community Development Department
1600 Huntington Drive
Duarte, California 91010

3. Contact Person and Phone Number

Craig Hensley, Community Development Director
(626) 357-7931
chensley@accessduarte.com

4. Project Location

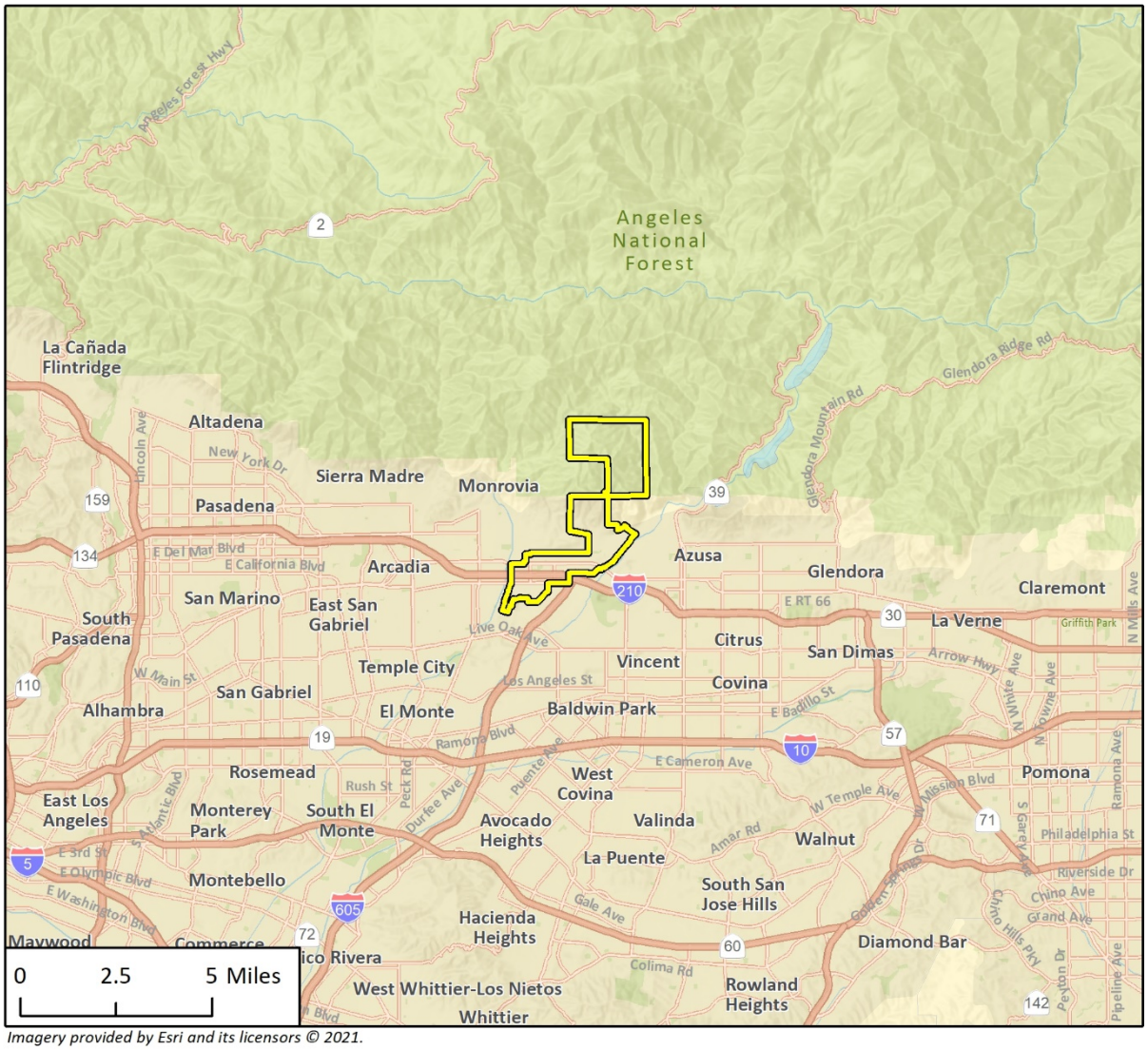
The Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update (hereafter referred to as "Housing Element Update" or "Safety Element Update" or collectively as "proposed project") would apply to the entire geographic area located within the boundaries of the City of Duarte (City), which encompasses 6.8 square miles (hereafter referred to as "project area").[1] Duarte is located in the San Gabriel Valley Region of Los Angeles County, approximately 21 miles northeast of Los Angeles, and is generally bounded by the San Gabriel Mountains and the City of Bradbury to the north, the City of Azusa to the east, the City of Irwindale to the south, and the City of Monrovia to the west. The San Gabriel River and Santa Fe Flood Control Basin abuts Duarte to the east and south. The city is bisected by Interstate 210 (I-210), and the northern portion of the city is located within the Angeles National Forest. Figure 1 and Figure 2, as follows, illustrate the location of the city in a regional and local context.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address

City of Duarte
Community Development Department
1600 Huntington Drive
Duarte, California 91010

[1] The proposed project will also include updates to the Safety Element and the various other elements of the General Plan to incorporate the goals, policies and objectives related to environmental justice. These updates are required for compliance with State law and to ensure consistency with the updated Housing Element. The title of the proposed project is "Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update."

Figure 1 Regional Location



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City of Duarte

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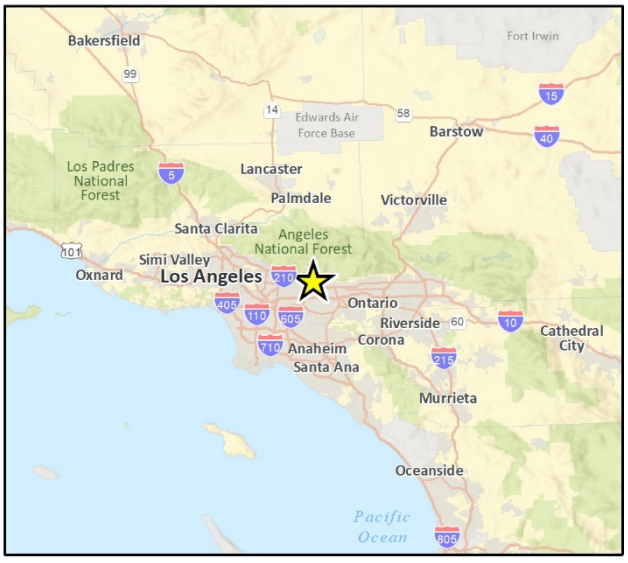
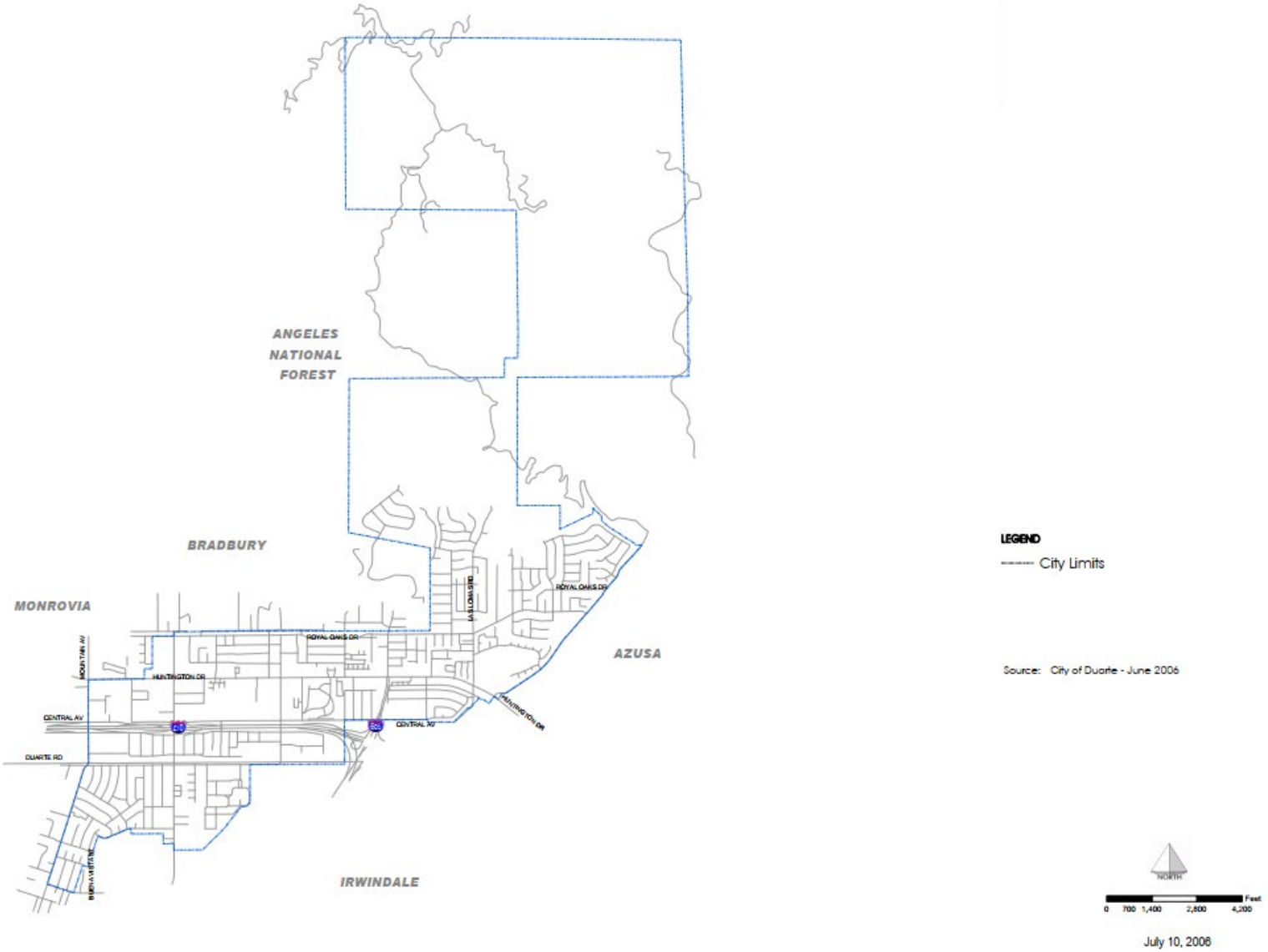


Figure 2 Project Location



6. General Plan Designation

The City's General Plan includes a variety of land use designations for the project area including: Very Low, Low, Medium, and High Density Residential; Administrative/Professional; Neighborhood Commercial; General Commercial; Industrial; Public Facility; Research and Development; Hospital; Open Space; and Specific Plan. Land uses throughout the city's various neighborhoods and commercial areas include single-family and multi-family residential housing, mixed-use development, public spaces like parks and playgrounds, and some industrial land uses.

7. Zoning

The Duarte Development Code (DDC) provides standards, regulations and guidelines on a series of land use related topics. Article 2 of the DDC includes various zones that correspond to the General Plan land uses, including residential, commercial, manufacturing/industrial, hospital, public facility, open space, and Specific Plan.

8. Description of Project

The proposed project would involve an update to the Housing Element of the City's General Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period, along with minor updates to the Safety Element, and incorporation of environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives into the City's General Plan. The proposed project establishes programs, policies and actions to further the goal of meeting the existing and projected housing needs of all household income levels of the community; provides evidence of the City's ability to accommodate the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation through the year 2029, as established by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); and identifies any rezoning program needed to reach the required housing capacity. The Safety Element Update is triggered by various new provisions of State legislation and guidelines, and the environmental justice policies would be added pursuant to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act.

Housing Element Update

The Housing Element is comprised of the following major components:

- An introduction to review the requirements of the Housing Element, recent State laws and public participation process
- A community profile evaluating the City's demographic, household, and housing characteristics and related housing needs
- An analysis of potential constraints on housing production and maintenance, including market, governmental, infrastructure and environmental limitations to meeting the City's identified housing needs
- An evaluation of available resources to facilitate the production and maintenance of housing, including land available for new construction, financial and administrative resources available for housing, and opportunities for energy conservation
- The Housing Plan for addressing the City's identified housing needs, constraints and resources; including housing goals, policies, and programs

The Housing Element Update provides a framework for accommodating new housing at all levels of affordability within access to transit, downtown jobs, services, and open spaces. New housing units may occur anywhere in the city where residential uses are permitted, as well as in areas that may be rezoned in the future to allow for multi-family residential uses and mixed uses of adequate density to meet affordability targets.

RHNA Allocation

Through the RHNA, SCAG has allocated a regional housing need of 1,341,827 housing units to each city and county within its jurisdiction. As shown in Table 1, Duarte's final RHNA for the 2021-2029 planning period (6th RHNA cycle) is 888 housing units, distributed among the four income categories (California Department of Housing and Community Development [HCD] 2020).

Table 1 RHNA Percentage of Income Distribution

Income Level	Percent of Area Median Income (AMI)	Units	Percent
Very Low	0-50%	269	30.3%
Low	51-80%	145	16.3%
Moderate	81-120%	137	15.4%
Above Moderate	>120%	337	38.0%
Total	--	**888**	**100%**

Source: SCAG 2021

The RHNA represents the minimum number of housing units that the City is required to plan for in its Housing Element by providing "adequate sites" through the City's General Plan and zoning.

Since Duarte is a built-out community with few remaining vacant residential sites, the City plans to accommodate the level of housing growth through residential projects in process, the Duarte Station Specific Plan, the Town Center Specific Plan, the Westminster Gardens Specific Plan, Affordable Housing Overlay, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Table 2 shows the estimated units for projects that are entitled and pending entitlement whereas Figure 3 shows their location.

Table 2 Estimated Net Housing Units for the City of Duarte

Areas/Projects	Total Net Units	Income Distribution			
		Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate
2021 – 2029 RHNA Targets	**888**	**269**	**145**	**137**	**337**
Projects in Progress	833	–	–	–	833
Duarte Station Specific Plan Sites	557	81	81	–	395
Town Center Specific Plan Sites	172	21	21	–	130
Westminster Gardens Specific Plan	300	75	–	75	150
Affordable Housing Overlay Sites[1]	183	91	92	–	–
Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)[2]	96	23	43	2	28
Total Site Capacity	**2,141**	**291**	**237**	**77**	**1,536**
RHNA Surplus/(Shortfall)	**+1,253**	**+22**	**+92**	**(60)**	**+1,199**

[1] Affordable Housing Overlay Sites include an overlay that layers on top of the base zoning regulations for the site, leaving the option to develop under the base zoning, or develop to a greater intensity without the requirement for a General Plan amendment or zone change. See the Housing Element for further discussion.

[2] ADUs are complete independent housing units that can be either detached or attached from an existing single-family or multi-family residence.

As shown in Table 2, the City would facilitate the development of up to 2,141 housing units under the Housing Element Update, which would exceed the RHNA allocation by 1,253 units. The State requires jurisdictions to create a sufficient buffer in the Housing Element sites inventory beyond that required by the RHNA to ensure that adequate site capacity exists throughout the eight-year planning period. Although the sites inventory displays a shortfall of sites to address the City's moderate income RHNA, the additional site capacity for lower income units can be applied towards the moderate income sites.

Several residential and mixed-use projects in various stages of entitlement would contribute towards addressing the City's housing needs. Projects under construction with occupancy projected to occur prior to June 30, 2021 are discussed under Section 5.A., *Evaluation of Accomplishments Under the Current Housing Element*, of the Housing Element. Only those projects with occupancy in the 2021-2029 planning cycle are credited towards the sites inventory, as presented in Table 3.

Table 3 City of Duarte Projects in Process

Project Name	Zoning	Project Units	Project Density	Anticipated Occupancy
Duarte Town Center Mixed Use (1405-37 Huntington Drive)	Town Center Specific Plan	161 apartment units	55 du/ac	Early 2022
The Residences at Duarte Station -Building A (1700 Business Center Drive)	Duarte Station Specific Plan	344 apartment units	79 du/ac	Early 2023
The Residences at Duarte Station -Building B (1750 Business Center Drive)	Duarte Station Specific Plan	292 apartment units	85 du/ac	2024
928 Huntington Drive	R-4	16 apartment units	26 du/ac	2022
1401 Santa Domingo Drive	Town Center Specific Plan	20 condominium units	20 du/ac	2022

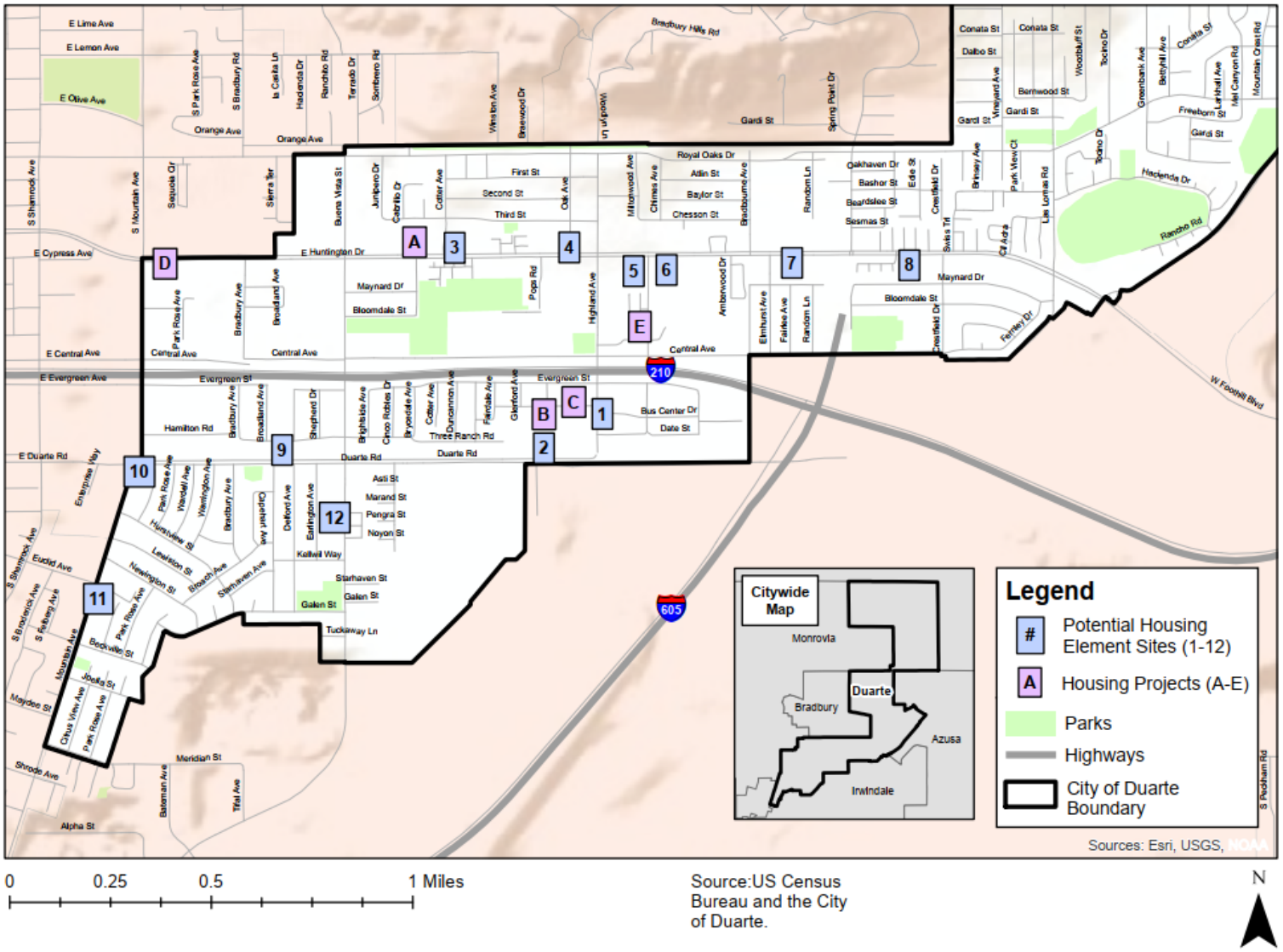
Housing Opportunity Sites

The City has identified a total of 12 opportunity sites that have the greatest potential to accommodate the City's RHNA allocation during the 2021-2029 planning period. The selection of these opportunity sites was based on a combination of factors, including physical underutilization of the site; economic obsolescence of the existing use (as measured by an improvement-to-land value ratio of < 1.0); developer and/or property owner interest in acquiring and assembling underdeveloped parcels into larger development sites; and site proximity to various resources (i.e., transit, shopping, medical facilities and open space). Table 4 summarizes the unit potential associated with each of these sites whereas their locations are shown in Figure 3. Of the 12 opportunity sites, two are within the Duarte Station Specific Plan, and three are within the Town Center Specific Plan. No rezoning or specific plan updates are required for these five sites. However, one site would require an update to the Westminster Gardens Specific Plan, and six sites would require the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay. Following the adoption of the Housing Element Update, jurisdictions have three years to adopt the proposed housing programs. As shown in Table H 5-3 of the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update, the City anticipates that the Westminster Gardens Specific Plan will be amended by 2024 and the Affordable Housing Overlay will be adopted by 2023.

Table 4 City of Duarte Housing Opportunity Sites

Site Number	Site Description	Acres	Current Zoning	Proposed Zoning Action	Net Unit Potential
1	Metro Gold Line Parking	1.4	Duarte Station Specific Plan	N/A	62
2	1801 Highland Avenue	6.6	Duarte Station Specific Plan	N/A	495
3	1501-1515 Huntington Drive	1.27	Town Center Specific Plan	N/A	50
4	1709-1735 Huntington Drive	1.05	Town Center Specific Plan	N/A	42
5	1838-1856 Huntington Drive	2.0	Town Center Specific Plan	N/A	80
6	Westminster Gardens	30.0	Westminster Garden Specific Plan	Update Specific Plan	300
7	2150-2200 Huntington Drive	1.8	Commercial (C-G)	Affordable Overlay	54
8	2400-2422 Huntington Drive	1.4	Residential (R-4)	Affordable Overlay	40
9	1159 3 Ranch Road	1.1	Industrial (M-1)	Affordable Overlay	30
10	1806-1812 Mountain Avenue	0.35	Residential (R-1)	Affordable Overlay	11
11	2012-2018 Mountain Avenue	0.61	Residential (R-1)	Affordable Overlay	18
12	1900 Buena Vista	4.34	Residential (R-4)	Affordable Overlay	30
Total Opportunity Sites		**51.92**			**1,212**

Figure 3 Housing Projects and Housing Opportunity Locations



Safety Element Update

The Safety Element Update would ensure consistency with the Housing Element Update and would comply with recent State legislation and guidelines (including Assembly Bill [AB] 162, Senate Bill [SB] 1241, SB 99, AB 747, SB 1035, and SB 379). Amendments incorporate updated data and maps regarding key areas of the element, address vulnerability to climate change, and incorporate goals from the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Key areas of the Duarte Safety Element include seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and fire hazards, as well as emergency response and preparedness especially as they relate to the City's projected climate change exposure, and vulnerability. The Safety Element amendments will be submitted to the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for review. As mandated under SB 1000, the Safety Element Update considers strategies to reduce pollution exposure, promote public facilities, promote food access, promote safe and sanitary homes, promote physical activity, reduce unique or compounded health risks, promote civic engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs).

Environmental Justice Update

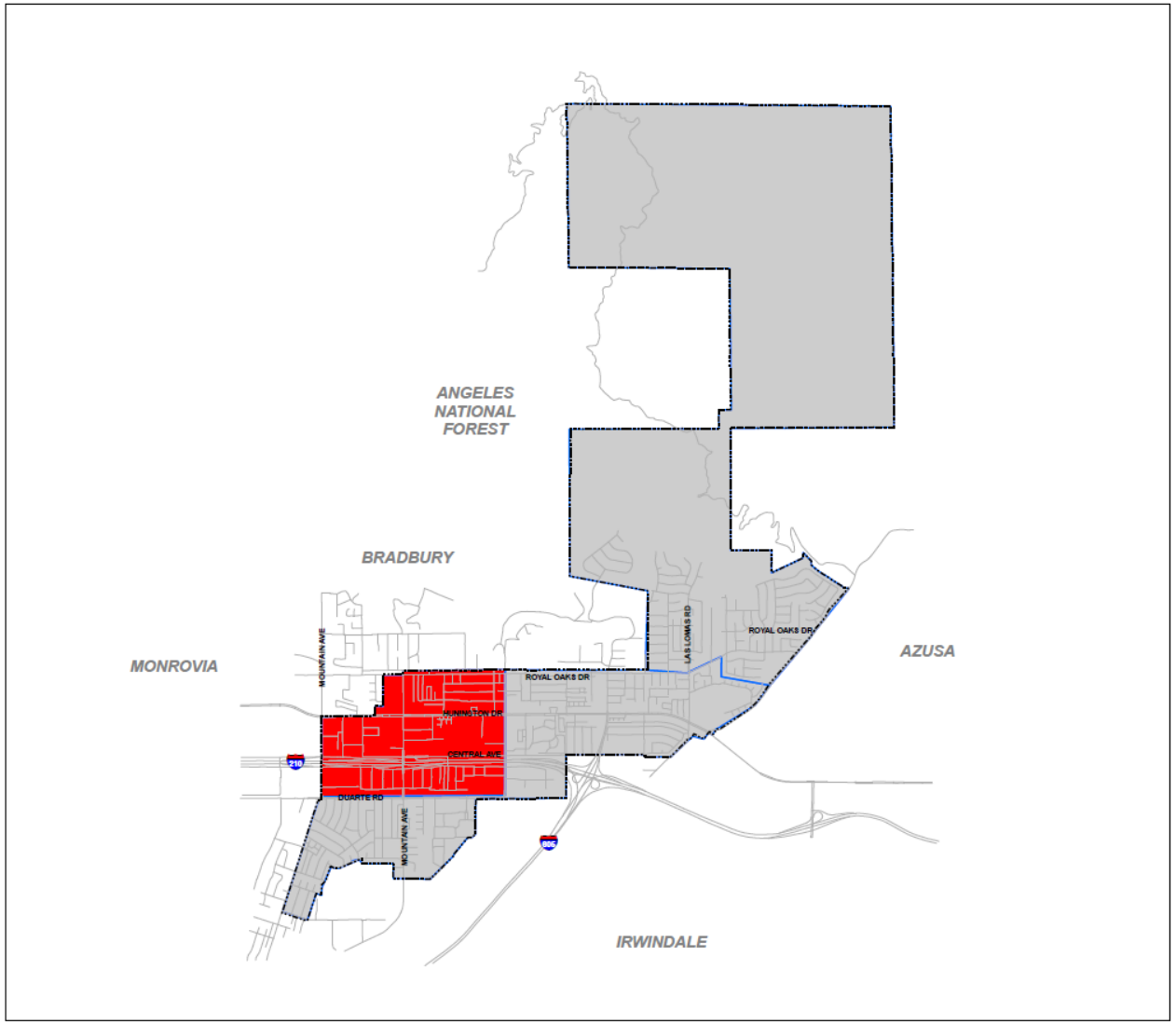
SB 1000 states that revisions or adoption of two or more elements of a general plan on or after January 1, 2018 trigger a requirement to "adopt or review the Environmental Justice Element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements." Environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives must aim to reduce health risks to DACs, promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of these communities. These updates focus on the inclusion of disadvantaged communities in decision making procedures as well as increasing protections for these communities. Figure 4 provided below, displays CalEnviroScreen results for Duarte. One census tract in west Duarte has a combined DAC score of 75 percent or higher which exceeds the minimum criterion for DAC designation based on pollution burden and population characteristics.

9. Required Approvals

The proposed project would require discretionary approval of a General Plan Amendment.

After adoption, by the City Council, the updated Housing Element would be submitted to the HCD for certification. The Safety Element updates would also be submitted to CAL FIRE for their review and approval.

Figure 4 CalEnviroScreen – Disadvantaged Communities



10. Have California Native American Tribes Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated with the Project Area Requested Consultation Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1?

For compliance with AB 52 and SB18, on July 1, 2021, the following Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)-identified local Native American tribal groups were formally notified by the City that the environmental review for the Housing and Safety Element Updates had commenced:

- Andrew Salas, Chairperson for the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
- Anthony Morales, Chairperson for the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Sandonne Goad, Chairperson for the Gabrielino / Tongva Nation
- Robert Dorame, Chairperson for the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Christina Conley, Tribal Consultant and Administrator for the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Charles Alvarez, Tribal Chairman of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
- Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair for the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson for the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

As of the date of this document, no formal consultation has been requested.

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Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact that is "Potentially Significant" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Energy
☐	Geology and Soils	☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐	Hydrology and Water Quality	☐	Land Use and Planning	☐	Mineral Resources
☐	Noise	☐	Population and Housing	☐	Public Services
☐	Recreation	☐	Transportation	☐	Tribal Cultural Resources
☐	Utilities and Service Systems	☐	Wildfire	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance

Determination

Based on this initial evaluation:

■ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "less than significant with mitigation incorporated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Maia McCurley
Signature

08/26/2021
Date

MAIA MCCURLEY
Printed Name

ASSOCIATE PLANNER
Title

Environmental Checklist

1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create aesthetic impacts and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Scenic views generally refer to visual access to, or the visibility of, a particular natural or man-made visual resource from a given vantage point or corridor. Focal views focus on a particular object, scene, setting, or feature of visual interest. Panoramic views, or vistas, provide visual access to a large geographic area for which the field of view can be wide and extend into the distance. Panoramic views are usually associated with vantage points looking out over urban or natural areas that provide a geographic orientation and view not commonly available. Examples of panoramic views might include an urban skyline, a valley, a mountain range, the ocean, or other water bodies.

The City's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element considers open space valuable for preserving scenic views and other aesthetic considerations (City of Duarte 2007a).

Scenic views in Duarte include the foothills and canyons of the San Gabriel Mountain Range and the alluvial slopes of the mountains where the city's urban development is concentrated (City of Duarte 2007a). In more urban areas, the character of neighborhoods, architecture, vegetation, and landscaping all provide visual character. Scenic resources in Duarte include public parks and open space, such as Duarte Park, Encanto Park, and Royal Oaks Park (City of Duarte 2007a). The architecture of historic structures throughout the city are also scenic resources that represent aspects of the city's character and past (City of Duarte 2021a).

Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would have the potential to affect scenic vistas if new or intensified development blocked the vistas noted above. Potential impacts could include obstructing views of scenic resources, such as views of the San Gabriel Mountain Range or views of the unique urban or historic structures found throughout the city's urbanized areas.

As shown in Figure 3, future development projects are concentrated within the urbanized area of the city. Nonetheless, any development would be required to comply with General Plan goals and policies intended to protect scenic vistas and visual resources. These include, but are not limited to, the following objectives and policies under the Land Use Element and Open Space and Conservation Element:

Conservation Objective 1.1: Preserve Duarte's natural hillsides which provide significant wildlife habitat, open space, aesthetic and a visual backdrop to the community.

Policy 1.1.3 To preserve the characteristics of the mountains, river beds, and canyons and to protect the valuable watershed, grading of lots should be kept to a minimum. Streets should be carefully designed to reduce or eliminate the possibility of erosion in the hillside and mountainous areas.

Conservation Objective 6.1: Assure that development maintains the character of open space natural resources.

Policy 6.1.1 Maintain very low densities in the northernmost portion of the city not included in the national forest. Further development must be sensitive to the terrain, natural environment and aesthetics.

Land Use Objective 2.1: Ensure that future development compliments surrounding areas.

Policy 2.1.1 New infill residential development should be compatible in design, bulk, and height with existing nearby residential development as referenced in Duarte's Architectural Design Guidelines and applicable Specific Plans.

Policy 2.1.6 Hillside development must be sensitive to the local views of the hills and to the natural environment.

In addition, development under the proposed project would primarily occur in already developed and urbanized areas of the city as infill, where scenic vistas are not present and would not be affected. Moreover, each new development or renovation project would be subject to its own process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), where the project-specific impacts associated with aesthetics would be analyzed and potentially significant impacts avoided or

mitigated if required. Therefore, potential development under the Housing Element Update would not result in substantial adverse effects on scenic vistas, and the proposed project would not result in development that would create aesthetic impacts. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

The California State Scenic Highway System Map indicates that no existing or proposed State scenic highways are located in the city (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2018). The nearest eligible scenic highway is State Route 39, located approximately 1.25 miles east of the city limits. Therefore, the updates associated with the proposed project would not result in substantial damage to scenic resources in a State scenic highway. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

In order to implement the Housing Element Update, including accommodation of the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation of 888 housing units and buffer of up to 1,253 housing units, the City is proposing an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. Development under the Housing Element Update would primarily occur in urban areas with access to transit, Downtown jobs, services, and open spaces and could alter the visual character of portions of the city due to a higher residential density, including changes to building heights and massing. However, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be subject to the City's development standards, such as floor area ratio (FAR), building heights and setbacks, and transitional height requirements for properties abutting residential zones. In addition, the following goals and policies under the Housing Element Update intend to minimize the effects of land use and zone changes on the existing character of neighborhoods in the City and enhance overall visual character and quality.

Housing Element Goal 1: Maintain and enhance the quality and affordability of existing housing in Duarte.

Policy 1.1.1 Enhance the quality of existing residential neighborhoods, including those identified as low resource areas, through responsible development and investment.

Policy 1.1.2 Support the long-term maintenance and improvement of existing housing through code enforcement, inspections and housing rehabilitation programs.

Policy 1.1.7 Maintain and enhance the quality of life within neighborhoods, including those identified as low resource, by providing adequate maintenance to streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks and other community facilities.

Housing Element Goal 2: Reduce governmental constraints to housing while maintaining community character.

Policy 2.1.2 Support the use of regulatory incentives, such as density bonuses, fee deferrals and parking reductions, to offset or reduce the cost of developing affordable housing while ensuring potential impacts are addressed.

Policy 2.1.3 Provide flexibility in development/design guidelines to accommodate new models and approaches to providing housing, such as mixed use, live/work housing and transit-oriented development.

Housing Element Goal 5: Provide adequate housing sites through appropriate land use, zoning and specific plan designations to accommodate Duarte's share of regional housing needs.

Policy 5.1.1 Provide site opportunities for development of housing that responds to diverse community needs in terms of housing type, cost and location, emphasizing locations near services and transit that promote walkability.

Policy 5.1.3 Designate key sites with an Affordable Housing Overlay to provide incentives for development with affordable units.

Policy 5.1.4 Promote the efficient use of land by encouraging commercial and residential uses on the same property in both horizontal and vertical mixed-use configurations.

Furthermore, the multiple specific plans throughout Duarte include objective design standards that enhance streetscapes, buildings, and public places. Compliance with existing standards and plans would be required for all future housing developments. Therefore, reasonably foreseeable developments would be consistent with applicable zoning and other regulations and the overall pattern of development in the city would be generally maintained. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

Lighting associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing and Safety Element Update (e.g., security lighting, parking lot lighting, ornamental lighting, pedestrian scale lights, lighting from ground floor storefronts and signs) would increase overall lighting levels.

However, the city is urbanized and areas where new housing is anticipated primarily already have high ambient levels of nighttime lighting; thus, additional lighting from new housing development would be incremental. Furthermore, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be required to comply with lighting provisions of the DDC to reduce potential impacts from light such as:

- **Chapter 19.50.070.C(2).** Lighting shall be shielded or recessed so that direct glare and reflections are confined to the maximum extent feasible within the boundaries of the site, and shall be directed downward and away from adjoining properties and public rights-of-way.
- **Chapter 19.50.070.C(4).** All lighting fixtures shall be appropriate in scale, intensity, and height to the use they are serving. Use the minimum amount of light necessary and only light areas that require it.

- **Chapter 19.50.070.D(1).** Lighting shall represent the minimum level of illumination necessary to meet the aesthetic and security needs of the property. Light sources, intensity of light, and color of light shall be designed and located to achieve security or decorative lighting goals without causing an adverse impact on neighboring properties. Light sources shall be designed and located to minimize spillover of light or glare onto neighboring properties.
- **Chapter 19.50.070.F.** Prohibited lighting. The following outdoor light fixtures shall be prohibited. Existing light fixtures legally permitted or authorized prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be maintained.
- Uplighted and back-lighted canopies or awnings.
- Searchlights, except as authorized for a special or temporary event authorized by a Temporary Use Permit.
- Flashing lights, except as used in conjunction with a security alarm system.
- Roof-mounted lights.
- Any light that imitates or causes visual interference with a traffic signal or other necessary safety or emergency light.

Glare is a common phenomenon throughout Duarte primarily due to the occurrence of a high number of days per year with direct sunlight and the urbanized nature of the city. Daytime glare can result from sunlight reflecting off glass, other structural fixtures of buildings, and windshields of parked and moving vehicles within the roadways. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be required to comply with DDC standards and regulations for lighting and glare affecting sensitive residential uses.

Light and glare associated with development would incrementally increase daytime and nighttime light and glare in portions of Duarte. In addition, each new development or renovation project would be subject to its own CEQA process where the project-specific impacts associated with aesthetics would be analyzed; and potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. However, due to the urbanized nature of the city where high levels of light and glare are already present and compliance with applicable regulations in the DDC, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	■
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)); timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526); or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	■
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	■
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	■

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts to agricultural and forestry resources, and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

The California Important Farmland Finder Map indicates that none of the land in the city is mapped as Important Farmland (California Department of Conservation [DOC] 2016a). Likewise, according to the DOC, there are no Williamson Act contracts in the City (DOC 2016b). Furthermore, the City's Zoning Map indicates that no areas are currently zoned for agricultural use (City of Duarte 2019a). The Housing Element Update would have no effect on the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)); timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526); or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

d. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Duarte is predominately urbanized and no land in the city is zoned forest land or timberland (City of Duarte 2019a). The northeastern portion of the city is located along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains which is designated open space and includes forest lands. The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. As shown in Figure 3, development under the proposed project would be located in the southern portion of the city and thus, would not include forest lands. Reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project would be concentrated in urbanized areas of the city. Therefore, no impact to forest lands would occur.

NO IMPACT

e. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

As discussed under impact *a.* through *d.* of this section, there would be no impacts associated with agricultural or forest lands. The Housing Element Update would not involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to air quality and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The city is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAB is a non-attainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter up to 2.5 microns in size ($PM_{2.5}$) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for ozone, particulate matter up to 10 microns in size (PM_{10}), and $PM_{2.5}$. The Los Angeles County portion of the SCAB is also designated non-attainment for lead (SCAQMD 2016). The SCAB is designated unclassifiable or in attainment for all other federal and state standards.

Under State law, the SCAQMD is required to prepare a plan for air quality improvement for pollutants for which the SCAB is in non-compliance. Each Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) is an update of the previous plan and has a 20-year horizon. The latest AQMP, the 2016 AQMP, was adopted on March 3, 2017. It incorporates new scientific data and notable regulatory actions that have occurred since adoption of the 2012 AQMP, including the approval of the new federal 8-hour ozone standard of 0.070 parts per million (ppm) that was finalized in 2015. The 2016 AQMP addresses several State and federal planning requirements and incorporates new scientific information, primarily in the form of updated emissions inventories, ambient measurements, and meteorological air quality models. SCAGs' projections for socio-economic data (e.g., population,

housing, employment by industry) and transportation activities from the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) are integrated into the 2016 AQMP.[2]

A project may be inconsistent with the AQMP if it would generate population, housing, or employment growth exceeding the forecasts used in the development of the AQMP. The 2016 AQMP relies on local general plans and the demographic forecasts contained in the SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS in its own projections for managing air quality in the SCAB. As such, projects that propose development that are consistent with the growth anticipated by SCAGs' growth projections and/or the General Plan would not conflict with the SCAQMD AQMP. In the event that a project would propose development that is less dense than anticipated by the growth projections, the project would likewise be consistent with the AQMP.

As discussed in *Description of Project*, the Housing Element Update would facilitate the development of up to 2,141 units. According to the California Department of Finance (DOF), the city currently has an estimated population of 21,457 and 7,389 housing units (DOF 2021). According to DOF, the average household size in the city is 2.98 persons per household (DOF 2021). Therefore, the Housing Element Update could result in the addition of approximately 6,380 new residents in the City.[3] Consistent with State housing element law, the purpose of the Housing Element Update is to accommodate the development of adequate housing to meet housing needs associated with most recent SCAG forecasts of regional growth. The Housing Element Update does not encourage or promote growth beyond the existing growth forecasts. Therefore, although the Housing Element Update plans for the development of additional housing units, the potential increase in housing is consistent with SCAG forecasts of regional growth and the Housing Element would not conflict with the growth assumptions used in the development of the AQMP.

In addition, given that the State is currently in an ongoing housing crisis due to an insufficient housing supply (SCAG 2020b), housing units under the Housing Element Update would assist in addressing the existing crisis and meeting the housing needs of the City by meeting the need component of the City's RHNA allocation, which would be in compliance with the goals and policies of SCAGs' RTP/SCS and therefore, would be in compliance with SCAQMD's 2016 AQMP. Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the underlying assumptions of the emissions forecasts contained in the AQMP and would not conflict with the AQMP. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

As discussed under impact *a.* of this section, the Los Angeles County portion of the SCAB is designated nonattainment for the NAAQS for ozone, $PM_{2.5}$, and lead, as well as the CAAQS for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Residential development facilitated by the Housing Element Update would generate short-term air pollutant emissions associated with use of heavy-duty construction

[2] On September 3, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council formally adopted the 2020-2045 RTP/SCS (2020 RTP/SCS), or Connect SoCal, which builds upon the progress made through implementation of the 2016 RTP/SCS and was developed through a four-year planning process to update population, housing and employment data as well as transportation strategies for the region through the horizon year of 2045. However, SCAQMD has not updated the 2016 AQMP to incorporate these new demographic projections (the next update to the AQMP is expected to occur in 2022).

[3] 2,141 residential units x 2.98 persons per household = 6,380 persons

equipment; truck trips hauling debris, soils, and construction materials; and fugitive dust from demolition and grading. In addition, long-term air pollutant emissions would result from mobile sources (motor vehicle exhaust), energy use (natural gas combustion), and area sources, such as hearths, landscaping equipment, consumer products, and architectural coatings.

Construction activities would occur at the 12 housing sites and five housing projects identified in *Description of Project*, which are located in urbanized portions of the city. Reasonably foreseeable development would be subject to compliance with applicable SCAQMD rules, including Rule 401 (Visible Emissions), Rule 402 (Nuisance), Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust), and Rule 1113 (Architectural Coatings). Specifically, Rule 403 requires the use of best available control measures for all construction activities to reduce fugitive dust emissions. The major construction elements addressed by Rule 403 include earth moving, disturbed surface areas, unpaved roads, open storage piles, demolition, and other various construction activities. Rule 403 compliance by individual property owners, developers, and/or contractors would reduce temporary construction-related air pollutant emissions of fugitive dust. In addition, Rule 1113 limits the VOC content of architectural coatings to minimize VOC emissions from the off-gassing of exterior and interior paints. Furthermore, Policies AQ 3.1.1 through AQ 3.1.4 of the City's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element aims to reduce air quality impacts associated with construction activities:

Policy AQ 3.1.1. Where fugitive dust is causing a chronic public nuisance or the air quality is in exceedance of PM 10 standards, consider adopting a dust control policy that requires preparation and approval of a dust control plan.

Policy AQ 3.1.2. Cooperate with local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions to better control fugitive dust from stationary, mobile and area sources.

Policy AQ 3.1.3. Ensure that vehicles do not transport aggregate or similar material upon a highway unless the material is stabilized or covered, in accordance with state law and AQMD regulations.

Policy AQ 3.1.4. Consider rerouting the Duarte fixed route bus system to help minimize vehicle trips.

Compliance with SCAQMD rules and General Plan Policies AQ 3.1.1 through AQ 3.1.4 would reduce the overall level of air quality impacts associated with construction activities under the Housing Element Update. Furthermore, reasonably foreseeable development facilitated by the Housing Element Update would be required to implement additional mitigation if project-specific analysis identifies the potential to exceed the SCAQMD's regional thresholds and Localized Significant Thresholds (LSTs) for construction activities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Carbon Monoxide Hotspots

A carbon monoxide hotspot is a localized concentration of carbon monoxide that is above the NAAQS and CAAQS for carbon monoxide. Localized carbon monoxide hotspots can occur at intersections with heavy peak hour traffic. Specifically, hotspots can be created at intersections where traffic levels are sufficiently high such that the local carbon monoxide concentration exceeds the federal one-hour standard of 35.0 ppm or the federal and State eight-hour standard of 9.0 ppm (California Air Resources Board [CARB] 2016).

The SCAQMD conducted a detailed carbon monoxide analysis for the SCAB during the preparation of the 2003 AQMP. The locations selected for microscale modeling in the 2003 AQMP included high average daily traffic (ADT) intersections in the SCAB that would be expected to experience the highest carbon monoxide concentrations. The highest carbon monoxide concentration observed was at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue on the west side of Los Angeles near Interstate 405 (I-405), which had an ADT of approximately 100,000 vehicles per day. The one-hour concentration of carbon monoxide at this intersection was 4.6 ppm, which is well below the one-hour NAAQS of 35 ppm and the one-hour CAAQS of 20 ppm. Moreover, the SCAB has been in attainment of the carbon monoxide NAAQS and CAAQS since 2007 (SCAQMD 2016). The maximum 8-hour average carbon monoxide value at the Azusa monitoring station (the nearest monitoring station with available data, located approximately three miles east of the city) in 2019 was 1.1 ppm, which is well below the State and federal 8-hour carbon monoxide standard of 9.0 ppm (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA] 2020). Based on the low background level of carbon monoxide in the project area, ever-improving vehicle emissions standards for new cars in accordance with State and federal regulations, and the low level of operational carbon monoxide emissions anticipated for reasonably foreseeable development facilitated by the proposed Housing Element Update, the proposed project would not create new hotspots or contribute substantially to existing hotspots. Therefore, the Housing Element Update would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of carbon monoxide, and impacts would be less than significant.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are defined by State law as air pollutants that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. The following subsections discuss the Housing Element Update's potential to result in impacts related to TAC emissions during construction and operation.

Construction

Construction-related activities would result in temporary project-generated emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM) exhaust emissions from off-road, heavy-duty diesel equipment for site preparation, grading, building construction, and other construction activities. DPM was identified as a TAC by CARB in 1998. The potential cancer risk from the inhalation of DPM (discussed in the following paragraphs) outweighs the potential non-cancer health impacts (CARB 2021). At this time, projects facilitated by the proposed Housing Element Update do not have sufficient detail (e.g., construction schedule, amount of soil export, specific buildout parameters) to allow for project-level analysis given the programmatic nature of the plan and thus it would be speculative to analyze project-level impacts.

Generation of DPM from construction projects typically occurs in a single area for a short period. Construction of housing units facilitated by the proposed project would occur over timeframes ranging generally from one to five years. The dose to which the receptors are exposed is the primary factor used to determine health risk. Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance or substances in the environment and the extent of exposure that person has with the substance. Dose is positively correlated with time, meaning that a longer exposure period would result in a higher exposure level for the Maximally Exposed Individual. The risks estimated for a Maximally Exposed Individual are higher if a fixed exposure occurs over a longer period of time. According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), health risk assessments, which determine the exposure of sensitive receptors to toxic emissions, should be based on a 30-year exposure period (assumed to be the approximate time that a person spends at a single

household location). OEHHA recommends this risk be bracketed with nine-year and 70-year exposure periods and that health risk assessments should be limited to the period/duration of activities associated with the project (OEHHA 2015). Thus, the duration of proposed construction activities (i.e., one to five years) is approximately 3 to 17 percent of the total exposure period used for 30-year health risk calculations. Current models and methodologies for conducting health-risk assessments are associated with longer-term exposure periods of nine, 30, and 70 years, which do not correlate well with the temporary and highly variable nature of construction activities, resulting in difficulties in producing accurate estimates of health risk (Bay Area Air Quality Management District 2017).

The maximum PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions would occur during demolition, site preparation and grading activities, which would only occur for a portion of the overall estimated timeframe of one to five years for construction of housing units facilitated by the proposed project. These activities would typically last for approximately two weeks to two years, depending on the extent of grading and excavation required (e.g., projects with subterranean parking structures or geological constraints require additional grading as compared to those without). Particulate matter emissions would decrease for the remaining construction period because construction activities such as building construction and architectural coating would require less intensive construction equipment. While the maximum DPM emissions associated with demolition, site preparation, and grading activities would only occur for a portion of the overall construction period, these activities represent the worst-case condition for the total construction period. This would represent between 0.1 to 7 percent of the total 30-year exposure period for health risk calculation. In addition, SCAQMD CEQA guidance does not require preparation of a health risk assessment for short-term construction emissions. Moreover, the proposed housing sites are spread throughout the city such that people affected by construction-related TAC emissions generated at one housing site would not be affected by construction-related TAC emissions generated at another housing site, should construction activities occur simultaneously.

Furthermore, reasonably foreseeable development facilitated by the proposed Housing Element Update would be required to implement additional mitigation if project-specific analysis identifies the potential for construction-related TAC emissions to exceed the SCAQMD's thresholds for TACs. Therefore, construction-related impacts associated with TAC emissions would be less than significant.

Operation

CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* (2005) provides recommendations regarding the siting of new sensitive land uses near potential sources of air toxic emissions (e.g., freeways, distribution centers, rail yards, ports, refineries, chrome plating facilities, dry cleaners, and gasoline dispensing facilities). SCAQMD adopted similar recommendations in its *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning* (2005). Together, CARB and SCAQMD guidelines recommend siting distances both for the development of sensitive land uses in proximity to TAC sources and for the addition of new TAC sources in proximity to existing sensitive land uses. Residential land uses are not considered land uses that generate substantial TAC emissions based on review of the air toxic sources listed in SCAQMD's and CARB's guidelines. It is expected that quantities of hazardous TACs generated on-site (e.g., cleaning solvents, paints, landscape pesticides, etc.) for the types of proposed residential land uses would be below thresholds warranting further study under the California Accidental Release Program. Because the project would not include substantial TAC sources and is consistent with CARB and

SCAQMD guidelines, it would not result in the exposure of off-site sensitive receptors to significant amounts of carcinogenic or toxic air contaminants. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

The occurrence and severity of potential odor impacts depends on a number of factors, including the nature, frequency, and intensity of the source; the wind speeds and direction; and the sensitivity of the receiving location, each contribute to the intensity of the impact. Although offensive odors seldom cause physical harm, they can be annoying and cause distress among the public and generate citizen complaints.

Construction activities associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update may produce temporary odors. Potential odors produced during construction would be attributable to concentrations of unburned hydrocarbons from tailpipes of construction equipment, and architectural coatings. Such odors would disperse rapidly from the individual construction sites, generally occur at magnitudes that would not affect substantial numbers of people and would be limited to the construction period. Furthermore, construction would be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 402, which regulates nuisance odors. Accordingly, the construction associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people and impacts would be less than significant.

SCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (1993) identifies land uses associated with odor complaints as agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, chemical and food processing plants, composting, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would include residential and mixed-use developments, which are not major sources of odors and would not create objectionable odors to surrounding sensitive land uses. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	■	☐
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	■

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines,

and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to biological resources and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Special Status Species

Special status species are those plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA); those considered "Species of Concern" by the USFWS; those listed or candidates for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); animals designated as "Fully Protected" by the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC); animals listed as "Species of Special Concern" (SSC) by the CDFW; CDFW Special Plants, specifically those with California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) of 1B, 2, 3, and 4 in the CNPS's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2021); and birds identified as sensitive or watch list species by the Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species Working Group (2009).

The city contains approximately 600 acres of parks and open space, not including landscape areas such as street medians, parkways, and other green areas that provide wildlife habitat. A majority of those acres, approximately 422, are areas of City-owned, wilderness-dedicated open space with no amenities other than natural open space (City of Duarte 2007b). Urbanization in the city has substantially reduced the abundance and diversity of biological resources within city limits. In addition, Duarte is surrounded by other developed areas in Bradbury, Azusa, Irwindale, and Monrovia.

The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. The Housing Element Update would prioritize development on infill sites in urbanized areas of the city and would not encroach upon the designated open space. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be primarily concentrated on underutilized sites that have been previously developed and disturbed. Given the lack of suitable habitat to support special status species in urbanized and disturbed areas where new housing is to be concentrated, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would not result in significant adverse impacts to special status species or the habitats that support them.

Nesting Birds

While common birds are not designated as special status species, destruction of their eggs, nests, and nestlings is prohibited by Federal and State law. Nesting birds are protected under the CFGC Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Violation of these provisions would be considered a potentially significant impact.

Development under the Housing Element Update could directly and indirectly affect nesting birds. Construction of reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project could occur

during the bird nesting season, which is generally from March 1 through August 31 and begins as early as February 1 for raptors. As such, potential construction impacts resulting in vegetation trimming or removal during the nesting season would have the potential to disturb active nests, either directly (e.g., injury, mortality, or disruption of normal nesting behaviors) or indirectly (e.g., construction noise, dust, and vibration from equipment). Therefore, although unlikely, construction activities have the potential to disturb nesting birds and raptors, and project-specific impacts would be analyzed during the CEQA process prior to any new development projects.

As previously stated, each new residential development or renovation project would be subject to its own CEQA process, where the project-specific impacts associated with biological resources (including sensitive habitats, plants and wildlife, and wildlife corridors) would be analyzed; with potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. As a result, no significant impacts would occur.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Plant communities are considered sensitive biological resources if they have limited distributions, high wildlife value, include sensitive species, or are particularly susceptible to disturbance. CDFW maintains a list of sensitive plant communities (CDFW 2020). In addition, according to the USFWS's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) there are no riparian habitats or federally protected wetlands located within the developed areas of the city. However, the San Gabriel Mountains contain a number of creeks and streams, classified as riverine wetlands, that flow into freshwater ponds in the foothills (NWI 2021).

Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would occur in urbanized areas of the city, and therefore, would not directly or indirectly impact sensitive natural communities or riparian habitat. As a result, impacts to sensitive natural communities or riparian habitats would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

In accordance with Section 1602 of the CFGC, the CDFW has jurisdiction over lakes and streambeds (including adjacent riparian resources). CDFW regulates wetland areas only to the extent that those wetlands are part of a river, stream, or lake. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has authority to regulate activities that discharge dredge or fill material into wetlands or other "waters of the United States" through issuance of a Section 404 Permit. Finally, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has jurisdiction over "waters of the State" pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and has the responsibility for review of water quality certification per Section 401 of the federal CWA for proposed development projects.

Various streams flow down the San Gabriel Mountains, toward the northern end of the city, and terminate into seasonal freshwater ponds where the water percolates and disperses. The NWI

classifies this system as an intermittent riverine system, with flowing water only part of the year. The system falls under the class of streambed, is seasonally or temporarily flooded (NWI 2021).

Construction and operation of reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would not result in the direct modifications or interruptions of State or federally protected wetlands. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Wildlife corridors are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated animal populations. Such linkages may serve a local purpose, such as between foraging and denning areas, or they may be regional in nature, allowing movement across the landscape. Some habitat linkages may serve as migration corridors, wherein animals periodically move away from an area and then subsequently return. Examples of barriers or impediments to movement include housing and other urban development, roads, fencing, unsuitable habitat, or open areas with little vegetative cover. Regional and local wildlife movements are expected to be concentrated near topographic features that allow convenient passage, including roads, drainages, and ridgelines.

Habitat fragmentation occurs when a proposed action results in a single, unified habitat area being divided into two or more areas in such a way that the division isolates the two new areas from each other. Isolation of habitat occurs when wildlife cannot move freely from one portion of the habitat to another or from one habitat type to another, as in the fragmentation of habitats within and around “checkerboard” residential development. Habitat fragmentation also can occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat, as when annual burning converts scrub habitats to grassland habitats.

Much of the land in Duarte has been converted from open space to various urban uses, resulting in habitat fragmentation. There are no regional wildlife habitat linkages or described wildlife movement in the city. While there are small fragments of open space and approximately 66 acres of parkland in Duarte, it is unlikely for wildlife movement to occur due to the patchwork of parks, their small size, and existence in a highly urbanized area. The 422 acres of designated open space on the north end of the city are part of the San Gabriel Mountains, and offer much better opportunity for wildlife movement; however, this land would not be included as potential sites for the Housing Element. Thereby, the urbanized area of Duarte is surrounded by residential and commercial development and is not situated to form a link between blocks of intact habitat.

Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be concentrated in urbanized areas and on sites that have been previously developed and disturbed and exclude areas within the designated open space and wilderness areas protected by the City. Development in urbanized areas would not result in substantial impacts to potential local wildlife movement. Therefore, potential impacts to wildlife corridors or nursery sites due to development under the proposed project would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Title 13, *Trees and Vegetation*, of the DMC provides guidelines for permitting, removal, and protection of trees within the city. Moreover, Chapter 13.12, *Tree Protection and Preservation*, also provides for the protection of prominent trees, trees of outstanding size and beauty, and dedicated trees. If future development resulting from the implementation of the proposed Housing Element Update includes the removal of trees (including street trees), the plans will be reviewed by the City and required to comply with the tree ordinances. Therefore, impacts related to potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No adopted local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans apply to any portion of Duarte (CDFW 2019). Therefore, no impact would occur under the proposed project.

NO IMPACT

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5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to cultural resources and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

There are a number of potentially significant cultural resources, including historical and/or archaeological resources, found throughout the city. They primarily consist of existing historic buildings and archaeological sites. Buildings of historic value within the city generally consist of existing or former residential and commercial structures. Archaeological sites generally consist of remnants of pre-contact Native American habitation. The proposed Housing Element does not include specific development projects; instead, it only provides a framework for the City's anticipated future housing demand. The provision of such a framework would not result in any direct physical changes to existing historic structures or known or unknown archaeological sites. Nevertheless, future residential development implemented under the proposed Housing Element could potentially impact these cultural resources. However, each new residential development or renovation project is subject to its own CEQA process, and project-specific impacts associated with cultural resources would be analyzed; with potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

There are no formal cemeteries with human interments within the city. Although there are no known cemeteries, there is a possibility of encountering unknown buried human remains. The proposed Housing Element does not include specific development projects; instead, it only provides a framework for the City's anticipated future housing demand. The provision of such a framework would not result in any direct physical changes to existing known or unknown human remains. Nevertheless, future residential development implemented under the proposed Housing Element could potentially impact unknown human remains. However, each new residential development or renovation project is subject to its own CEQA process, and project-specific impacts associated with human remains would be analyzed; with potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated as required. Furthermore, there are existing regulations in place that address the unanticipated discovery of human remains, including State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to energy and it is not discussed further in this section.

California Energy Consumption

California is one of the lowest per capita energy users in the United States, ranked 48th among states, due to its energy efficiency programs and mild climate. In 2018, California consumed 681 million barrels of petroleum, 2,137 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and one million short tons of coal in 2018 (U.S. Energy Information Administration [EIA] 2020). The single largest end-use sector for energy consumption in California is transportation (39.1 percent), followed by industrial (23.5 percent), commercial (19.2 percent), and residential (18.3 percent) (EIA 2020).

Most of California's electricity is generated in-state with approximately 30 percent imported from the northwest and southwest in 2018. In addition, approximately 32 percent of California's electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2021). Adopted on September 10, 2018, SB 100 accelerates the State's Renewables Portfolio Standards Program by requiring electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

To reduce Statewide vehicle emissions, California requires all motorists use California Reformulated Gasoline, which is sourced almost exclusively from in-state refineries. Gasoline is the most used transportation fuel in California with 15.3 billion gallons sold in 2019 and is used by light-duty cars, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles, and aviation (California Department of Tax and Fee Administration 2020). Diesel is the second most used fuel in California with 4.2 billion gallons sold in 2015 and is used primarily by heavy duty-trucks, delivery vehicles, buses, trains, ships, boats and barges, farm equipment, and heavy-duty construction and military vehicles (CEC 2016).

a. Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would consume energy during construction and operation through the use of petroleum fuel, natural gas, and electricity, as further addressed below.

Construction

Energy use during construction associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be in the form of fuel consumption (e.g., gasoline and diesel fuel) to operate heavy equipment, light-duty vehicles, machinery, and generators for lighting. In addition, temporary grid power may also be provided to construction trailers or electric construction equipment. Energy use during the construction of individual projects would be temporary in nature, and equipment used would be typical of construction projects in the region. In addition, construction contractors would be required to demonstrate compliance with applicable CARB regulations that restrict the idling of heavy-duty diesel motor vehicles and govern the accelerated retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of heavy-duty diesel on- and off-road equipment.

Construction activities associated with reasonably foreseeable development would be required to utilize fuel-efficient equipment consistent with State and federal regulations and would comply with State measures to reduce the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy. In addition, individual projects would be required to comply with construction waste management practices to divert at least 50 percent of construction and demolition debris.

These practices would result in efficient use of energy during construction of future development under the proposed project. Furthermore, in the interest of both environmental awareness and cost efficiency, construction contractors would not utilize fuel in a manner that is wasteful or unnecessary. Therefore, future construction activities associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would not result in potentially significant environmental effects due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, and impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

Long-term operation of new projects developed in accordance with the Housing Element Update would require permanent grid connections for electricity and natural gas service to power internal and exterior building lighting, and heating and cooling systems. As previously discussed, the Housing Element Update would prioritize development in previously developed areas of Duarte that are already served by energy providers. Electricity service in the city is provided by Southern California Edison (SCE). Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) provides natural gas services to residents and businesses in the city.

Reasonably foreseeable development would be subject to the energy conservation requirements of the California Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations [CCR], California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings) and the California Green Building Standards Code (CCR Title 24, Part 11). The California Energy Code provides energy

conservation standards for all new and renovated commercial and residential buildings constructed in California. This code applies to the building envelope, space-conditioning systems, and water-heating and lighting systems of buildings and appliances and provides guidance on construction techniques to maximize energy conservation. Minimum efficiency standards are given for a variety of building elements, including appliances; water and space heating and cooling equipment; and insulation for doors, pipes, walls, and ceilings. The code emphasizes saving energy at peak periods and seasons and improving the quality of installation of energy efficiency measures. The California Green Building Standards Code sets targets for energy efficiency; water consumption; dual plumbing systems for potable and recyclable water; diversion of construction waste from landfills; and use of environmentally sensitive materials in construction and design, including ecofriendly flooring, carpeting, paint, coatings, thermal insulation, and acoustical wall and ceiling panels.

In addition, the Housing Element Update would prioritize future development projects in close proximity to high quality transit areas and existing commercial/retail, recreational, and institutional land uses, which would reduce trip distances and encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation such as bicycling and walking. These factors would minimize the potential of the proposed project to result in the wasteful or unnecessary consumption of vehicle fuels. As a result, operation of reasonably foreseeable development projects would not result in potentially significant environmental effects due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

On November 13, 2012, the City Council adopted Duarte's Energy Action Plan (EAP) which was created in partnership with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and SCE. This plan is based on California's Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (CEESP) and identifies a clear path to successfully implementing actions, policies, and goals that will achieve the City's reduction targets. The CEESP includes a comprehensive set of electricity-related energy efficiency targets, goals, policies, and actions to help the community and the City become more energy efficient as well as policies and actions to assist with the implementation of the energy efficiency strategy (City of Duarte 2012). This includes maximizing the energy-efficient design and orientation of new buildings and encouraging the use of energy-efficient appliances and equipment in new buildings (City of Duarte 2012).

Construction activity associated with individual projects under the Housing Element Update would be required to comply with applicable City and State energy efficiency regulations and standards, which would ensure that the proposed project would not conflict with renewable energy and energy efficiency plans adopted by the City. As such, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would not conflict with or obstruct a plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	☐	☐	■	☐
2. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	■	☐
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	■	☐
4. Landslides?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	■
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to geology and soils. Therefore, potential impacts associated with implementation of the Safety Element is not discussed further in this section. However, the Safety Element Update includes the objective and policies listed below to minimize the risks to lives and property due to seismic activities and geologic hazards, which are discussed in the following analysis as they relate to potential impacts associated with geologic and soil conditions.

Objective 4.1: Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to seismic and geologic hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

- **Safe 4.1.1** Implement the Earthquake and Liquefaction actions, and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- **Safe 4.1.2** Restrict development in areas prone to seismic hazards and other geologic hazards.
- **Safe 4.1.3** Enforce seismic design provisions of the current California Building Standards Code related to geologic, seismic, and slope hazards for all new construction.
- **Safe 4.1.4** Require that geotechnical reports include projected changes to slope stability related to climate change impacts on wildfires and erosion, and the development of mitigation strategies for new development projects in areas with the potential for liquefaction or landslide.

a.1. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

The City is located in a seismically active region of southern California. Moderate to strong earthquakes can occur on numerous local faults. Southern California faults are classified as “active,” “potentially active,” or “inactive.” Faults from past geologic periods of mountain building that do not display any evidence of recent offset are considered “potentially active” or “inactive.” Faults that have historically produced earthquakes or show evidence of movement in the past 11,000 years are known as “active faults.”

The Sierra Madre Fault crosses through the city and the city is in close proximity to the Raymond Fault, Walnut Creek Fault, Sawpit Canyon Fault, and San Andreas Fault (City of Duarte 2021b). The city’s geology and close proximity to these faults could pose some concerns for development. The Sierra Madre Fault runs northwest to southeast through the city; Raymond Fault runs southwest to northeast near the western edge of city limits; Walnut Creek Fault runs southwest to northeast near the southeastern edge of city limits; Sawpit Canyon Fault runs southwest to northeast on the northwestern edge of city limits; and San Andrea Fault runs southeast to northwest near the northern edge of city limits (DOC 2015). The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units within the southern portion of the city. Therefore, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update could occur in areas with the potential for fault rupture and associated risk of loss, injury, or death. However, compliance with Policies 4.1.1 through 4.1.3 of the Safety Element Update would ensure that development under the Housing

Element Update would not directly or indirectly cause or exacerbate potential substantial adverse effects involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.2. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?

The city is traversed by the Sierra Madre Fault and is in close proximity to the Raymond Fault, Walnut Creek Fault, Sawpit Canyon Fault, and San Andreas Fault (City of Duarte 2021b). These faults would be capable of producing strong seismic ground shaking in the event of an earthquake. In addition, the city is located in the highly seismic Southern California region where several fault systems are considered to be active or potentially active. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing and Safety Element Update may be subject to ground shaking in the event of an earthquake originating along one of the faults designated as active or potentially active in the vicinity of Duarte. However, development in Duarte is required to adhere to the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and CBC. The UBC and CBC regulate the design and construction of excavations, foundations, building frames, retaining walls, and other building elements to mitigate the effects of seismic shaking. In addition, compliance with Policies 4.1.1 through 4.1.3 of the Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce geologic and seismic impacts. Adherence to applicable State and City standards would minimize the potential for property damage and loss of life, and reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would not increase the frequency or severity of ground shaking. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.3. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which loose, saturated, granular soils behave similarly to a fluid when subjected to high-intensity ground shaking. Liquefaction occurs when three general conditions exist: shallow groundwater; low density, fine, clean sandy soils; and strong ground motion. Liquefaction-related effects include loss of bearing strength, amplified ground oscillations, lateral spreading, and flow failures.

Potential liquefaction hazard zones are in the southeastern portion of the city, which consists of alluvial valleys, floodplains, and canyons (City of Duarte 2021b). As mentioned above, development in Duarte is required to adhere to the UBC and CBC. In addition, compliance with Policies 4.1.1 through 4.1.4 of the Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce liquefaction impacts. Compliance with applicable State and City standards would minimize the potential for property damage and loss of life. As such, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would not directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects from liquefaction risk. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.4. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

The geologic character of an area determines its potential for landslides. Steep slopes, the extent of erosion, and the rock composition of a hillside all contribute to the potential for slope failure and landslide events. In order to fail, unstable slopes need to be disturbed; common triggering mechanisms of slope failure include undercutting slopes by erosion or grading, saturation of marginally stable slopes by rainfall or irrigation; and, shaking of marginally stable slopes during earthquakes. The topography of the city is generally flat, although the northeastern portion of the city is situated along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. According to the DOC Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation Map, existing development in the northern and eastern portions of the city have been identified as potential areas for landslides, but the majority of the city is not located in a landslide zone (DOC 2019). The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units within the southern portion of the city and thus, would not be located in an identified potential landslide area. Compliance with Policies 4.1.1 through 4.1.4 of the Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce landslide impacts. Therefore, development under the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause impacts related to landslides. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Soil erosion or the loss of topsoil may occur when soils are disturbed but not secured or restored, such that wind or rain events may mobilize disturbed soils, resulting in their transport offsite. The Housing and Safety Element Update would emphasize the reasonably foreseeable development on previously disturbed, infill areas within urbanized areas of the city. Ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction of development would have the potential to result in the removal and erosion of topsoil during grading and excavation.

Because the Housing and Safety Element Update would prioritize development in areas that are already built out, the potential for erosion would primarily be limited to temporary effects of possible topsoil loss at future project construction sites. Standard construction best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented in order to avoid or minimize soil erosion associated with ground-disturbing activities. Implementation of erosion control measures required by DMC Chapter 6.15, *Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution Control,* would be designed to capture and treat runoff from construction sites such as through stabilization of construction entrance roadways and on-site retention of eroded sediments and pollutants. Construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land are subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit process, which would require development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that outlines project-specific BMPs to control erosion, sediment release, and otherwise reduce the potential for discharge of pollutants from construction into stormwater. Typical BMPs include, but are not limited to, installation of silt fences, erosion control blankets, and anti-tracking pads at site exits to prevent off-site transport of soil material. Construction activities would also be required to comply with CBC Chapter 70 standards, which are designed to ensure implementation of appropriate measures during grading and construction to control erosion and storm water pollution. Furthermore, compliance with Policy 4.1.4 of the Safety Element Update would reduce soil erosion impacts.

With implementation of these requirements, erosion from demolition and construction activities associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would be

controlled through implementation of the requirements and BMPs contained in existing regulations, including the NPDES Construction General Permit, DMC, and the City's Safety Element. Furthermore, BMPs for post-construction erosion and sediment control would remain in effect, which would improve future erosion conditions. Compliance with the previously discussed regulations would reduce the risk of soil erosion from construction activities associated with the Housing Element Update such that there would be minimal change in risk compared to current conditions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

Impacts related to landslides and liquefaction are addressed under impacts *a.3*. and *a.4*. of this section, therefore, this discussion focuses on impacts related to unstable soils as a result of lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse. Lateral spreading occurs as a result of liquefaction; accordingly, liquefaction-prone areas would also be susceptible to lateral spreading. Subsidence occurs at great depths below the surface when subsurface pressure is reduced by the withdrawal of fluids (e.g., groundwater, natural gas, or oil) resulting in sinking of the ground. The city may be susceptible to subsidence from groundwater withdrawal as a result of drought conditions and declining groundwater levels.

The Housing Element Update would prioritize development of housing on infill sites that may contain underlying unstable soils. Because reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would primarily involve infill development, development under the proposed project would not affect existing conditions related to unstable soils, unless improperly constructed. Future development would be required to comply with the CBC's minimum standards for structural design and site development. The CBC provides standards for excavation, grading, and earthwork construction; fills and embankments; expansive soils; foundation investigations; and liquefaction potential and soils strength loss. Therefore, CBC-required incorporation of soil treatment programs (replacement, grouting, compaction, drainage control, etc.) in the excavation and construction plans can achieve an acceptable degree of soil stability to address site-specific soil conditions. Adherence to these requirements would achieve accepted safety standards relative to unstable geologic units or soils. In addition, compliance with Policies 4.1.1 through 4.1.4 of the Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce potential impacts related to unstable soils as a result of lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Soils that volumetrically increase (swell) or expand when exposed to water and contract when dry (shrink) are considered expansive soils. A soil's potential to shrink and swell depends on the amount and types of clay in the soil. Highly expansive soils can cause structural damage to foundations and roads without proper structural engineering and are generally less suitable or desirable for development than non-expansive soils because of the necessity for detailed geologic investigations and costlier grading applications.

The Housing Element Update would prioritize development of housing on infill sites in the city that may contain underlying expansive soils. Because reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would primarily involve infill development, new development would not substantially increase the potential exposure to or extent of expansive soils within the city. Future projects under the Housing Element would be subject to DMC regulations that require the submission of a soils report and all appropriate recommendations by a registered civil engineer before the issuance of building permits within liquefaction susceptibility zones. The CBC, which is based on the UBC, has been modified for California conditions with numerous more detailed and/or more stringent regulations. If expansive soils are detected based on a preliminary soil report, the CBC requires the preparation of a soil investigation prior to construction and incorporation of appropriate corrective actions to prevent structural damage, to be determined on a project-by-project basis. Furthermore, compliance with Policies 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 of the Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce potential impacts related to expansive soils. Consequently, there would be minimal change in the exposure of people or structures to risks associated with expansive soils and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The Housing Element Update would emphasize reasonably foreseeable development in urban infill sites that are served by existing infrastructure and that are not anticipated to include the use of septic systems. Therefore, there would be no impact related to the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

NO IMPACT

f. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The Housing Element Update would prioritize reasonably foreseeable development on infill sites in the city that have previously been developed and disturbed; however, the proposed project does not include specific development projects. Nonetheless, there is the potential for as yet undiscovered paleontological resources to be present below the ground surface throughout the city. Such resources could be disturbed by grading and excavation activities associated with future development. Nevertheless, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update has the potential to adversely affect paleontological resources. However, each new development or renovation project would be subject to its own CEQA process where the project-specific impacts associated with paleontological resources would be analyzed; and potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to greenhouse gases and it is not discussed further in this section.

Overview of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

Gases that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). The gases that are widely seen as the principal contributors to human-induced climate change include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxides (N_2O), fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Water vapor is excluded from the list of GHGs because it is short-lived in the atmosphere and its atmospheric concentrations are largely determined by natural processes, such as oceanic evaporation.

GHGs are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. Of these gases, CO_2 and CH_4 are emitted in the greatest quantities from human activities. Emissions of CO_2 are largely by-products of fossil fuel combustion, and CH_4 results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. Different types of GHGs have varying global warming potentials (GWPs), which are the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere over a specified timescale (generally 100 years). Because GHGs absorb different amounts of heat, a common reference gas (CO_2) is used to relate the amount of heat absorbed to the amount of the GHG emissions, referred to as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), and is the amount of a GHG emitted multiplied by its GWP. CO_2 has a 100-year GWP of one. By contrast, CH_4 has a GWP of 28, meaning its global warming effect is 28 times greater than that of CO_2 on a molecule per molecule basis (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2014).[4]

[4] The IPCC's (2014) *Fifth Assessment Report* determined that methane has a GWP of 28. However, modeling of GHG emissions was completed using the California Emissions Estimator Model version 2016.3.2, which uses a GWP of 25 for methane, consistent with the IPCC's (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report*.

The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Without the natural heat-trapping effect of GHGs, the earth's surface would be about 33 degrees Celsius (°C) cooler (World Meteorological Organization 2021). However, since 1750, estimated concentrations of CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O in the atmosphere have increased by 36 percent, 148 percent, and 18 percent, respectively, primarily due to human activity (Forster et al. 2007). GHG emissions from human activities, particularly the consumption of fossil fuels for electricity production and transportation, are believed to have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere beyond the level of concentrations that occur naturally.

a. *Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

b. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would generate GHG emissions during construction through the use of petroleum-fueled construction equipment and worker vehicle trips to and from construction sites. In addition, operation of development under the Housing Element Update would generate GHG emissions through the use of electricity and natural gas, vehicle trips of occupants, waste generation, water use, and wastewater generation.

However, development under the Housing Element Update would not be expected to generate substantial GHG emissions as the proposed housing sites are located in urban areas within the southern portion of the city that are within walking and biking distance of existing residential, commercial, and recreational uses and within close proximity to transit which would reduce the amount of GHG emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the city. In addition, reasonably foreseeably development would be required to conduct project-specific CEQA review to address site-specific environmental concerns, which would mitigate potential GHG emission impacts to a less-than-significant level. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 6, *Energy*, development under the Housing Element Update would be required to be consistent with the goals and policies outlined in the City's EAP.

The EAP is a long-range plan that is designed to be integrated into a comprehensive climate action plan when the City's resources support the preparation of a plan to address the reduction of GHG emissions from electricity, natural gas, solid waste, transportation, and other sectors within the City (City of Duarte 2012). The EAP would also help achieve multiple community goals such as lowering energy costs, reducing air pollution, supporting local economic development, and improving public health and quality of life. The City's EAP establishes a reduction target of 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 in conformance with the recommended reduction target in AB 32. As part of the EAP, the City has committed to ensuring that new development complies with the energy efficiency and green building standards identified in CCR Title 24. The City adopted by reference the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) in 2020 (City of Duarte 2021c). Furthermore, Chapter 19.52 of the City's Development Code includes several sustainable development practices, including energy efficient appliances, alternative fuel vehicles, and water efficient landscaping, to increase energy efficiency and the use of sustainable practices which would reduce the amount of GHG emissions generated in the city.

Therefore, conflicts with applicable plans or policies to reduce GHG emissions and impacts related to GHG emissions generated by the construction and operation of future residential development under the Housing Element Update would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. For a project located in an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	■
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	■	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs.

The Safety Element Update includes the following objectives and goals to minimize the risks to lives and property due to the use and storage of hazardous materials:

Objective 1.1: Prepare the community for any expected or unexpected disasters resulting from natural or man-made causes.

Safe 1.1.1 Implement the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan which would enable the city to operate in a self-sufficient manner following a natural or man-made disaster.

Safe 1.1.2 Promote the development of community programs or neighborhood disaster relief groups that train volunteers to assist police, fire, and civil defense personnel to perform effectively after the occurrence of a natural or man-made disaster.

Safe 1.1.3 Expand and intensify precautionary measures in high-risk areas, including in disadvantaged communities, to reduce loss from natural or man-made disasters and investigate ways of reducing the likelihood of their occurrence.

Safe 1.1.4 Consider climate change vulnerability and safety implications during the review process for all development proposals, including those involving City-owned facilities and infrastructure.

Safe 1.1.5 Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and neighboring cities to ensure that adequate services are ready and available to serve the community in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

Safe 1.1.6 Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies responsible for the enforcement of all health, safety, and environmental laws.

Safe 1.1.7 Maintain hazard mitigation plans, disaster preparedness and emergency response plans, and update plans at regular intervals and when new information is available.

Safe 1.1.8 Establish designated emergency response and evacuation routes throughout the City, for each climate hazard (e.g., wildfire, storm flooding, etc.), prioritizing the most high-risk and disadvantaged populations.

Safe 1.1.9 Update emergency and disaster response measures to account for increased heat days with a focus on reducing health risks for the highest-risk individuals and disadvantaged communities.

Safe 1.1.10 Ensure that adequate provisions are made to supply drinking water for an extended period in the event of a major disaster.

Objective 2.1: Prepare the citizens of Duarte to be prepared for danger or disaster and, if need be, to be self-reliant for a length of time in the event of a catastrophic natural or man-made event.

Safe 2.1.1 Establish and support all appropriate media for reaching all segments of the community (English-speaking and non-English speaking) to educate residents concerning emergency preparedness and safety.

Safe 2.1.2 Present or support an on-going series of community meetings or seminars, and a community handbook on disaster preparedness and procedures. The program should be about minimizing hazards in the home, wildfire mitigation and disaster planning, and developing disaster preparedness and evacuation plans.

Safe 2.1.3 Encourage private businesses to develop disaster preparedness plans for their employees.

Safe 2.1.4 Coordinate emergency planning efforts with building managers of high-occupancy facilities, dependent care centers (nursing homes, day care centers, etc.) and critical facilities located in the City to facilitate effective emergency response.

Safe 2.1.5 Increase public awareness of City emergency response plans, evacuation routes and emergency shelters, with a focus on and disadvantaged communities.

Safe 2.1.6 Maintain a citizens notification system regarding natural, man-made, or climate change hazards that reaches all populations in the community with a focus on reaching disadvantaged communities.

Safe 2.1.7 Incorporate information for potential health threats due to climate change hazards, such as heat-illness, illnesses complicated by low air quality, and risks during heavy precipitation events, into early warning systems.

Objective 5.1: Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

Safe 5.1.1 Implement the Wildfire actions and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 5.1.2 Continue to support "mutual assistance" agreements between the fire departments of the local cities, Los Angeles County, and the U.S. Government.

Safe 5.1.3 Continue to support programs to reduce fire hazards of vegetation in areas of extreme to high fire risk. Such programs may take a variety of forms, but may include weed and brush removal and control and use of fire-resistant plantings.

Safe 5.1.4 Provide an adequate level of fire equipment, peakload water supply and personnel to protect the community.

Safe 5.1.5 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to comply with the following standards, codes, and regulations:

- Title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structured Regulations) for SRAs and VHFSZ, and with the California Government Codes 51175-57789 (Very High Fire Severity Zones),
- The latest fire-safe standards,
- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations; and,
- The most current version of the California Building Codes and California Fire Code.

Safe 5.1.6 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to develop site-specific fire management plans addressing fuel modification or incorporating open space and other defensible space areas, as well as multiple points of ingress and egress before approval.

Safe 5.1.7 Identify areas with inadequate access/evacuation routes and develop mitigation measures or improvement plans for these areas.

Objective 6.1: Reduce risks to public health and safety due to the transportation, use, or storage of hazardous materials within the community.

Safe 6.1.1 Implement the Hazardous Materials actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 6.1.2 Monitor to the greatest extent possible the location of hazardous materials that could adversely impact Duarte residents, and businesses, and include information on soil contamination and storage of hazardous materials in the City's Geographic Information System.

Safe 6.1.3 Regulate the delivery, use, and storage of hazardous materials within the city limits according to regulations and guidelines set forth by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

a. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Construction activity associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials, such as vehicle fuels and fluids, that could be released should a leak or spill occur. However, contractors would be required to implement standard construction BMPs for the use and handling of such materials to avoid or reduce the potential for such conditions to occur. Any use of potentially hazardous materials during construction of future development would be required to comply with all local, State, and federal regulations regarding the handling of potentially hazardous materials. Likewise, the transport, use, and storage of hazardous materials during future construction would be required to comply with applicable State and federal laws, such as the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the California Hazardous Material Management Act, and CCR Title 22, and Policies 6.1.1 through 6.1.3 of the City's Safety Element Update.

The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would primarily include mixed-use commercial and housing, which are not land uses typically associated with the use, transportation, storage, or generation of significant quantities of hazardous materials. Operation of future developments under the proposed project would likely involve an incremental increase in the use of common household hazardous materials, such as cleaning and degreasing solvents, fertilizers, pesticides, and other materials used in regular property and landscaping maintenance. Use of these materials would be subject to compliance with existing regulations, standards, and guidelines established by local, State, and federal agencies related to storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, including Safety Element Policies 6.1.1 through 6.1.3. Therefore, upon compliance with all applicable laws and regulations relating to environmental

protection and the management of hazardous materials, potential impacts associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operation of development projects under the Housing Element Update would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

As described under impact *a.* of this section, the transport, use, and storage of hazardous materials during the construction of future development under the proposed project would be conducted in accordance with applicable local, State and federal laws, such as the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the California Hazardous Material Management Act, CCR Title 22, and Policies 6.1.1 through 6.1.3 of the City's Safety Element Update. However, there is the potential for future construction to involve the demolition or alteration of structures that may contain asbestos and/or lead-based paint (LBP), which could pose hazards to receptors at adjacent land uses. Lead-based materials and asbestos exposure are regulated by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal OSHA). CCR Section 1532.1 requires testing, monitoring, containment, and disposal of lead-based materials such that exposure levels do not exceed Cal OSHA standards. Under this rule, construction workers (and by extension, neighboring properties) may not be exposed to lead at concentrations greater than 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged over an eight-hour period and exposure must be reduced to lower concentrations if the workday exceeds eight hours. Similarly, CCR Section 1529 sets requirements for asbestos exposure assessments and monitoring, methods of complying with exposure requirements, safety wear, communication of hazards, and medical examination of workers.

The control of asbestos during demolition or renovation of buildings is regulated under the Federal Clean Air Act. The Federal Clean Air Act requires a thorough inspection for asbestos where demolition will occur and specifies work practices to control emissions, such as removing all asbestos-containing materials, adequately wetting all regulated asbestos-containing materials, sealing the material in leak tight containers and disposing of the asbestos-containing waste material as expediently as practicable (USEPA 2021a). Compliance with the CCR and Federal Clean Air Act would reduce the potential hazards and risks associated with release of lead and asbestos to a less than significant level. Furthermore, the residential and mixed-uses under the Housing Element Update are not typically associated with upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. Although accidents may occur during the transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, including spills or leaks, adherence to City of Duarte and Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) plans and regulations would reduce the potential for contamination from hazardous materials through proper cleanup, disposal, and remediation. Therefore, impacts to the public or the environment through accidental release or exposure to hazardous materials as a result of project implementation would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?

The Duarte Unified School District (DUSD) oversees nine schools in the city, including five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and two alternative schools (DUSD 2021). There are also numerous day cares located throughout the city. As discussed in this section, future development under the Housing Element Update would not involve the use or transport of large quantities of hazardous materials. Although there is potential for schools to be located within 0.25 mile of future construction sites and the potential for release of contamination during the construction period, adherence to City and LACoFD HHMD plans and regulations would reduce the potential for contamination from hazardous materials through proper cleanup, disposal, and remediation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to develop an updated Cortese List, which includes information on hazardous material sites collected from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the USEPA. The analysis for this section included a review of the following resources on June 11, 2021 to provide hazardous material release information:

- SWRCB GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2021)
- DTSC EnviroStor database (DTSC 2021)
- USEPA Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) (USEPA 2021b)

Based on review of these databases, it was determined that the city is included on existing lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The GeoTracker and EnviroStor databases identified the following four open Cleanup Program Sites, Federal Superfund Site, Evaluation Site, and Tiered Permit Site within the city:

- **Conrac Corporation (SL603798694):** Located at 1724 South Mountain Avenue, the site is classified as a Cleanup Program Site, listed for potential VOC contamination of the drinking water. The site's cleanup status is listed as "open – inactive" as of October 29, 2014.
- **Dowty Hydraulic Units, Inc. (T10000015935):** Located at 1700 Business Center Drive, the site is classified as a Cleanup Program Site and Federal Superfund Site, listed for potential TPH-motor oil, TPH-diesel, and tributyl phosphate contamination of the soil. The site's cleanup status is listed as "open – inactive" as of January 1, 1985. The site was formerly GE Aviation Systems and has been used for the manufacture of hydraulic actuation systems since 1964. Current operations include design, development, and manufacture of hydraulic and electrical equipment and components used in aircraft flight controls, thrust reversers, landing gear, and utility systems.
- **Pacific Scientific, HTL Div. (T10000015935):** Located at 1800 Highland Avenue, the site is classified as a Cleanup Program Site. The site's cleanup status is listed as "completed – inactive" as of January 1, 1985. Current operations on the site include commercial/office uses.

- **Hoffman Educational System (T10000015963):** Located at 1863 Business Center Drive, the site is classified as a Cleanup Program Site. The site's cleanup status is listed as "open – inactive" as of January 1, 1985. Current operations on the site include commercial uses.
- **Former Lerner's Gas Station (70000050):** Located at 2107 Huntington Drive, the site is classified as an Evaluation Site. The site is listed for potential benzene, PCB, TPH-gas, toluene, and xylene contamination of the soil. The site was previously used for engine testing/repair, fuel - vehicle storage/refueling, and vehicle maintenance. In July 2012, DTSC concurred with the "No Further Action" letter issued by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and that no further action on the site was required.
- **TDH Gold Cleaning (71003333):** Located at 2300 East Central Avenue #1, the site is classified as a Tiered Permit. Current operations on the site include commercial uses.

New development facilitated by the Housing Element Update located on or near these identified hazardous material sites could expose construction workforce, as well as future occupants, to hazardous materials. However, before grading permits are issued for development on these sites, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and, as determined necessary, a Phase II ESA and Phase III remediation would be conducted under the direction of an appropriate regulatory agency to ensure that potential exposure to hazardous materials is minimized.

It is also possible that underground storage tanks (USTs) in use prior to permitting and record keeping requirements may be present in the city. If an unidentified UST were uncovered or disturbed during construction activities, it would be removed under permit by the HHMD; if such removal would potentially undermine the structural stability of existing structures, foundations, or impact existing utilities, the tank might be closed in place without removal. Tank removal activities could pose both health and safety risks, such as the exposure of workers, tank handling personnel, and the public to tank contents or vapors. Potential risks, if any, posed by USTs would be minimized by managing the tank according to existing standards contained in Division 20, Chapters 6.7 and 6.75 (Underground Storage Tank Program) of the California Health and Safety Code as enforced and monitored by the HHMD. In addition, compliance with Policies 1.1.1, 1.1.3, and 6.1.1 through 6.1.3 of the Safety Element Update would reduce potential hazard impacts to the public and environment. Therefore, compliance with existing State and local regulations, including Duarte's Safety Element policies, would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

The city does not contain any airports and is not located within an Airport Influence Area (Los Angeles County 2020). The closest airport is the San Gabriel Valley Airport, located approximately 3.6 miles southwest of the city. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

NO IMPACT

f. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Development facilitated by the Housing Element Update would accommodate future population growth and would increase VMT in the city, which could lead to increased congestion during emergency evacuations. However, the proposed updated language to the City's General Plan Safety Element policies are intended to ensure effective and coordinated response to disasters and further the City's preventative measures.

The City has also prepared a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP, adopted in 2004) which was recently updated and adopted in 2020 (City of Duarte 2019b). The LHMP assesses risk from natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfire, and landslides, and includes strategies to mitigate these potential disasters (City of Duarte 2019b). The primary objectives of the LHMP is to provide a mitigation plan that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects on the city, and to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements by addressing hazards, vulnerability, and risk. The City's General Plan Safety Element, and the LHMP therein, provide emergency response guidelines and planning for the city including fire inspections and brush clearance programs, staff training regarding emergency response procedures associated with transportation-based hazardous materials releases, and emergency response training regarding evacuation and traffic control. Therefore, development accommodated under the Housing Element Update would not result in interference with the adoption of these types of plans.

The LACoFD provides fire and emergency response services and assists in on-site emergency and command center management. The LACoFD's established web platform offers additional opportunity to circulate adopted emergency response and evacuation plans (LACoFD 2021a). In addition, the City provides a public alert system to help circulate information to Duarte residents in case of emergency (City of Duarte 2021d). Implementation of the City's General Plan policies, including Policies 1.1.1 through 1.1.10 and 2.1.1 through 2.1.7 of the Safety Element Update, the LHMP, and other programs associated with emergency planning and response would ensure that development under the Housing Element Update would result in less than significant impacts related to implementation of adopted emergency response and evacuation plans. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

The northeastern and eastern boundaries of the city, as well as the portion from the boundary of the Angeles National Forest to Conata Street are located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as mapped by CAL FIRE (CAL FIRE 2021). However, the Housing Element Update would prioritize future development in urban areas within the southern portion of the city that are not located in a VHFHSZ. In addition, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing and Safety Element Update would be required to be constructed according to the UBC requirements for fire-protection and would be subject to review and approval by the LACoFD. Therefore, development under the Housing Element Update would not pose a substantial risk to people or structures due to wildland fires or exacerbate existing wildland fire hazards. In addition, compliance with Policies 5.1.1

through 5.1.7 of the Safety Element Update would regulate development and reduce impacts relating to wildland fire risks. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	■	☐
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	■	☐
(iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	■	☐
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to hydrology and water quality and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Duarte is within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles RWQCB, which is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the water quality control plan for the Los Angeles Region. Chapter 6.15, *Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution Control*, of the DMC requires owners or developers to implement stormwater pollution control requirements for construction activities. In addition, Regulations under the Federal Clean Water Act require compliance with the NPDES storm water permit for projects disturbing more than one acre during construction. Operators of a construction site would be responsible for preparing and implementing a SWPPP that outlines project specific BMPs to control erosion, sediment release, and otherwise reduce the potential for discharge of pollutants in stormwater. Typical BMPs include covering stockpiled soils, installation of silt fences and erosion control blankets, and proper handling and disposal of wastes. Compliance with these regulatory requirements would minimize impacts to water quality during the construction of future projects under the Housing Element Update.

The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. Construction of reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update could potentially impact surface or ground water quality due to erosion resulting from exposed soils and the generation of water pollutants, including trash, construction materials, and equipment fluids. However, compliance with the regulations described above would reduce impacts resulting from reasonably foreseeable development to a less than significant level. Furthermore, the Housing Element Update would not introduce any features that would preclude implementation of or alter these policies and procedures. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would utilize water for construction, operations, and landscape maintenance. Water supply requirements for development under the Housing Element Update would be met by the California American Water Company (CAWC). The Los Angeles County District of the CACW provides potable water to the Duarte service area, which includes the cities of Azusa, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, and Monrovia. Because CAWC's water supply in this district is from groundwater resources, groundwater could potentially be a source in supplying water to future project sites. Water demand could be met in a number of

ways other than increasing groundwater withdrawal, such as implementing water conservation measures, increasing use of recycled water, and/or implementing groundwater recharge projects.

Reasonably foreseeable development would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surface in the city because the Housing Element Update would prioritize development on infill areas that are already urbanized and largely covered with impervious surfaces; therefore, the proposed project would not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. Implementation of the Housing and Safety Element Update may provide some benefits to groundwater recharge by replacing older development with new development subject to open space, landscaping, and stormwater BMP requirements that would increase pervious surfaces associated with new development.

Potential construction activities associated with future development, such as excavation for subterranean parking lots and foundation-laying for tall buildings, could potentially extend into the underlying groundwater table. Construction activities overlying areas with shallower groundwater depth could expose groundwater resources to contamination. However, the risk of groundwater contamination during construction is minimal and would most likely occur due to spills or leaks from equipment or materials used in construction (see Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Resources*). Developers of individual project sites with a size of one acre or more are also required to prepare a SWPPP, which includes BMPs to prevent contamination of stormwater and runoff during construction. Typical construction BMPs to prevent stormwater contamination would also prevent contamination of groundwater resources, as exemplified by the following BMPs:

- Construction equipment and vehicles shall be properly maintained.
- All materials shall be properly stored and transported.
- Fuels will be stored in secure areas.

With implementation of appropriate construction BMPs, the impact of reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update on groundwater resources would be minimized and impacts related to infiltration/contamination would be less than significant. However, each new residential development or renovation project is subject to its own CEQA process, and project-specific impacts associated with groundwater supplies and sustainable groundwater management would be analyzed; with potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c.(i) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

c.(ii) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

c.(iii) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would create or contribute runoff water which would

exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Under existing conditions, infill sites that would be the focus of reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update are primarily paved and/or developed with structures. Therefore, development under the Housing Element Updates would not be anticipated to substantially alter drainage patterns or alter drainage patterns to an extent that would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site. Residential uses that would be accommodated by the Housing Element Update are not sources of high levels of stormwater pollution.

As discussed under impact *a.* of this section, future construction activities would be required to include BMPs to prevent stormwater contamination and reduce runoff pursuant to DMC Chapter 6.15, and, depending on the size of future development, a NPDES General Construction Permit and subsequent SWPPP would be required to outline project-specific BMPs. BMPs and implementation of a Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) would be required for future projects to reduce polluted runoff by retaining, treating, or infiltrating polluted runoff onsite, and integrate post-construction BMPs into a site's overall drainage system. These construction and erosion control practices would reduce the potential for adverse effects caused by excavation and general construction. Therefore, reasonably foreseeable development would not introduce substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

Because development under the Housing Element Update would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern and development and construction of future projects would be required to implement stormwater BMPs, development under the proposed project would not generate a substantial increase in runoff that would result in substantial erosion, siltation, flooding on- or off-site, or increased polluted runoff. Therefore, impacts related to drainage and runoff would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c.(iv) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), the City does not contain any flood hazard areas (FEMA 2020).

New developments are required to comply with Section 1612 (Flood Loads) and Appendix G (Flood-Resistant Construction) of the CBC. Chapter 16.40, *Floodplain Management Regulations*, of the DMC also includes standards to meet the standards of the National Flood Insurance Program Regulations (44 CFR 59, etc.) and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions. In addition, as discussed under impacts *c(i), c (ii),* and *c(iii)* of this section, the Housing Element Update would emphasize new development of on infill sites in urbanized areas that are already primarily paved and/or developed with structures. Therefore, reasonably foreseeable development would not substantially alter drainage patterns. Consequently, growth under the proposed project would not substantially alter drainage patterns to an extent that would redirect or impede flood flows. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

Seiches are large waves generated by ground shaking effects within enclosed bodies of water. The reservoirs or dams surrounding the city include: Sawpit Dam, Sawpit Debris Basin, Morris Dam and Reservoir, and San Gabriel Dam and Reservoir. The southwest portion of the city is subject to dam inundation by the Sawpit Dam and Debris Basin, and the southern half of the city by the Morris and San Gabriel Dams and Reservoirs (DSOD 2021). However, these dams continue to be operated and maintained by Los Angeles County Public Works to control flood waters during storm periods. "Public Works makes post storm releases, when feasible, in amounts that can be conserved in downstream spreading grounds and by channel percolation" (Los Angeles County of Public Works [LACPW] 2021). Therefore, potential impacts associated with flooding from a seismically induced seiche would not be significant.

Tsunamis are tidal waves generated by fault displacement or major ground movement. Since Duarte is landlocked and located over 29 miles from the Pacific Ocean, tsunamis are not considered a hazard for this project.

As discussed under impact *c.(iv)*, above, no portion of the city lies in a flood hazard zone subject to 100-year and 500-year floods (FEMA 2020). Reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project would be concentrated on infill sites and would not substantially alter the overall development patterns in the city. The Housing Element Update would increase development capacity, thereby potentially increasing the number of people and structures exposed to potential flooding. However, this condition already exists, and the proposed project would not exacerbate existing flood hazards. Furthermore, while there is the potential for flooding to impact portions of the city, as discussed under Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, future developments under the Housing Element Update would not involve the storage or use of significant quantities of hazardous materials, and construction of new structures would be required to comply with CBC regulations for flooding. Therefore, risks related to the release of hazardous materials due to inundation are minimal and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Potential water quality and groundwater impacts associated with the Housing and Safety Element Update are discussed under impacts *a.* and *b.* of this section. The Housing Element Update would not contain any policies that would conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Furthermore, development under the proposed project would be required to comply with the existing regulations discussed under impacts *a.* and *b.* of this section, including during construction and operation, and would not otherwise substantially degrade water quality. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to land use and planning and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

Implementation of the Housing Element Update would prioritize future development on urban infill sites within the southern portion of the city. Therefore, reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project would not involve the construction of new roads, railroads, or other features that may physically divide established communities in the City. The Housing Element Update contains the following goal and policies which put a greater emphasis on preventing displacement and promoting housing stability to maintain and preserve the quality of the city's existing neighborhoods:

Housing Element Goal 1: Maintain and enhance the quality and affordability of existing housing in Duarte.

Policy 1.1.1 Enhance the quality of existing residential neighborhoods, including those identified as low resource areas, through responsible development and investment.

Policy 1.1.2 Support the long-term maintenance and improvement of existing housing through code enforcement, inspections and housing rehabilitation programs.

Policy 1.1.3 Strengthen Duarte neighborhoods through partnerships with housing providers in the acquisition and rehabilitation of deteriorated multi-family properties and provision as long-term affordable housing.

Policy 1.1.4 Work with property owners, tenants and non-profit purchasers to preserve assisted rental housing, and implement a strong affordable housing monitoring program.

Policy 1.1.5 Support the implementation of State laws to protect existing tenants from displacement through requirements for just cause evictions, limitations on rent increases, and replacement housing requirements if any existing residential units would be removed.

Policy 1.1.6 Encourage retention of Duarte's mobile home parks as a relatively affordable form of housing.

Policy 1.1.7 Maintain and enhance the quality of life within neighborhoods, including those identified as low resource, by providing adequate maintenance to streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks and other community facilities.

Consequently, there would be no impact associated with the physical division of an established community.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The proposed project includes the 2021-2029 Duarte Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and environmental justice policy update, which examines the City's housing needs, as they exist today, and projects future housing needs. The Housing Element Update focuses on addressing the City's housing needs by providing goals, policies and programs associated with fair housing, the prevention of displacement, promoting housing stability, and the prevention of homelessness. The proposed project includes actions the City is undertaking to achieve its housing RHNA targets, including an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density, and also would implement SCAG's land use goals and policies by primarily placing development in areas with access to transit and services, thereby minimizing vehicle trips and GHG emissions.

Upon its adoption by the City, the proposed project would serve as a comprehensive statement of the City's housing policies and as a specific guide for program actions to be taken in support of those policies. As a part of the General Plan, development with adherence to the Housing Element Update would comply with the City's General Plan. In addition, the Safety Element Update would be modified in a manner that achieves compliance with State, regional and local policies, and guidelines; and the associated environmental justice would reduce health risks to DACs, promote civic engagement, and prioritize the needs of these communities.

The Housing and Safety Element Update is a policy document that encourages development on infill sites but would not grant entitlements for any specific projects. Future development proposals that are intended to assist in meeting the City's projected housing need would be reviewed by the City for consistency with all adopted local and State laws, regulations, standards, and policies. Impacts related to conflicts with land use plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	■

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to mineral resources and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

The Housing Element Update plans for the development of up to 2,141 housing units to accommodate the City's 6th Cycle RHNA allocation and buffer, an update to the Westminster Garden Specific Plan, and the addition of the Affordable Housing Overlay to Opportunity Sites 7 through 12 to allow for higher residential density. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would primarily occur in existing commercial and residential areas, which are not compatible with or used for mineral extraction. It is not anticipated that development under the Housing and Safety Element Update would occur on lands presently in use for mineral extraction. Furthermore, the proposed project updates do not include any policies that are related to mineral resources or conflict with existing General Plan policies and City ordinances regulating the conservation and use of mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a loss of availability of a known mineral resource. There would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was enacted to promote conservation and protection of significant mineral deposits. SMARA requires the State to identify and classify mineral deposits within the State as either: (1) containing little or no mineral deposits

(Mineral Resource Zone [MRZ]-1), (2) significant deposits (MRZ-2) or (3) deposits identified but further evaluation needed (MRZ-3 and MRZ-4).

As discussed under impact *a.* of this section, the Housing Element Update would prioritize reasonably foreseeable development on infill sites in urban areas that primarily consist of residential, commercial and mixed-use development, which are not considered compatible with mineral extraction. According to the Generalized Mineral Land Classification Map of Los Angeles County- South Half, portions of the City are categorized as MRZ-2 and MRZ-4 (Miller 1994). However, due to the extensive urban development of the City and historical land use changes, mining activities are no longer feasible. In addition, the Housing Element Update would not result in development that would create environmental impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would not further the loss of available mineral resources. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	■

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create noise impacts and it is not discussed further in this section.

Existing Noise Setting

Based on the City's General Plan Noise Element, the most common source of noise in the city is mobile noise from vehicle traffic along local roadways and I-210, which control ambient noise levels. Ambient noise levels are generally highest during the daytime and peak traffic hours unless congestion substantially slows speeds. Furthermore, commercial and industrial land uses (e.g., Irwindale Rock Quarry, Azusa Rock Company) located near residential areas currently generate occasional noise levels associated with delivery trucks, air compressors, generators, outdoor loudspeakers, and gas venting. Other significant stationary noise sources in the city include noise from construction activities and typical maintenance activities (e.g., street sweepers, gas-powered leaf blowers). According to the City's General Plan Noise Element, land uses identified as noise-sensitive include residential, institutional (e.g., churches, schools, libraries), and parks, which should be protected from excessive noise exposure (City of Duarte 2007e).

a. Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Construction

The Housing Element Update would continue existing housing policies as well as provide a policy framework to address the City's future housing demand. As discussed in *Description of Project*, the City of Duarte would facilitate the development of up to 2,141 units under the proposed project. However, construction activities would occur at the 12 housing sites and five housing projects identified, as shown in Figure 3, which are located in urbanized portions of the city.

Reasonably foreseeable development would generate short-term noise levels through site-specific construction activities. However, DMC Section 9.68.120 prohibits the operation of construction equipment (e.g., pile-driver, pneumatic hammer, or any other construction-type device) between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day within a radius of 500 feet from a residential zone in such a manner that causes discomfort or annoyance. Therefore, construction noise would be limited to daytime hours which do not typically disrupt sleep. All future development would be required to comply with this regulation.

Furthermore, Policies Noise 1.1.5 and 3.1.3 of the City's Noise Element aims to reduce noise impacts associated with construction activities:

Policy Noise 1.1.5. Limit construction, delivery, and through truck traffic to designated routes.

Policy Noise 3.1.3. Ensure that construction noise does not cause an adverse impact to the residents of the City.

Compliance with the DMC and applicable General Plan policies would reduce noise impacts associated with construction activities under the Housing Element Update. Furthermore, reasonably foreseeable development would be required to implement additional mitigation if project-specific analysis identifies the potential to generate significant construction noise levels adjacent to sensitive receivers. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

Operational noise associated with vehicular traffic, outdoor activities, and stationary mechanical equipment associated with reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update could result in a permanent ambient increase in noise levels. However, future residential development would be required to comply with the City's Noise Ordinance (DMC Chapter 9.68, Noise Regulations), such that increases associated with regular residential noise (e.g., sound amplifying equipment or heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC] equipment) would not exceed City standards. In addition, each new development or renovation project would be subject to its own CEQA process where the project-specific impacts associated with vehicular traffic and outdoor activities noise levels would be analyzed. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element Update would result in less than significant increases in permanent ambient noise levels or exceedance of City standards.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

As discussed in *Description of Project*, the Housing Element Update would facilitate the development of up to 2,141 units in the city. Operation of the future reasonably foreseeable development would not include any substantial vibration sources, such as heavy equipment operations. Rather, construction activities would have the greatest potential to generate groundborne vibration affecting nearby receivers and structures. As discussed under impact *a.* of this section, DMC Section 9.68.120 prohibits the operation of construction equipment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day within a radius of 500 feet from a residential zone in such a manner that causes discomfort or annoyance. Therefore, vibration generated from construction activities would be limited to daytime hours which do not typically disrupt sleep. Furthermore, reasonably foreseeable development facilitated by the proposed Housing Element Update would be required to implement additional mitigation if project-specific analysis identifies the potential to generate significant construction vibration levels adjacent to sensitive receivers. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

As discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the city does not contain any airports and is not located within an Airport Influence Area (Los Angeles County 2020). The closest airport is the San Gabriel Valley Airport, located approximately 3.6 miles southwest of the city. Therefore, no impacts related to excessive noise exposure from airport or airstrip operations would occur.

NO IMPACT

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14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to population and housing and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

The purpose of the proposed project is to comply with State housing element law requiring the City to show it has adequate land designated to accommodate the existing and projected housing needs reflected in the City's RHNA, which is based on measures of existing housing need and the regional population forecasts. The RHNA does not encourage or promote growth, but rather requires communities to address the existing population needs and projected growth while providing its fair share of the regional housing needs.

As discussed in *Description of Project,* the City's final RHNA for the 2021-2029 planning period (6th RHNA cycle) is 888 housing units, distributed among the four income categories (i.e., very low, low, moderate, above moderate) (California HCD 2020). The RHNA represents the minimum number of housing units that the City is required to plan for in its Housing Element by providing "adequate sites" through the City's General Plan and zoning. Furthermore, the State requires jurisdictions to create a sufficient buffer in the Housing Element sites inventory beyond that required by the RHNA to ensure that adequate site capacity exists throughout the eight-year planning period. Therefore, the City would facilitate the development of up to 2,141 housing units under the Housing Element Update, which would exceed the RHNA allocation by 1,253 units. Since Duarte is a built-out community with few remaining vacant residential sites, the City plans to accommodate the level of housing growth through residential projects in process, the Duarte Station Specific Plan, the Town

Center Specific Plan, the Westminster Gardens Specific Plan, Affordable Housing Overlay, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

According to the DOF, the City of Duarte has a current population of 21,457 with an average household size of 2.98 persons per household (DOF 2021). Based on the average household size of 2.98, the increase of 2,141 housing units would generate a population increase of approximately 6,380 residents. This would increase the City's current population by 30 percent to 27,837 residents. Furthermore, the development of 2,141 housing units associated with the Housing Element Update would result in an approximately 30-percent increase to 9,254 units when compared to the 2018 housing supply of 7,113 units reported in SCAG's Local Profiles Report 2019 for the City (SCAG 2019).

Based on the 2045 forecasted population and household numbers from SCAG's 2020-2045 RTP/SCS and interpolation of these numbers for the year 2029, the forecasted population and households for the horizon year of the Housing Element Update is expected to be 23,390 residents and 7,548 units, respectively (SCAG 2020).[5] Therefore, compared to current demographics, implementation of 2,141 units under the Housing Element Update would surpass forecasted demographics for the year 2029 by 4,447 residents (based on a current population of 21,457) and 1,706 units (based on the current supply of 7,113 units).

Nonetheless, the housing units associated with the Housing Element Update would accommodate the RHNA, which is intended to meet existing housing needs (i.e., relieve overcrowding and cost burden for existing population, and provide housing to unhoused population), as well as meet the City's forecasted population growth from the latest RTP/SCS. The Housing Element Update does not directly entail construction of individual development projects, although it includes policies and policy changes to support their development. As discussed in Section 11, *Land Use and Planning*, the Housing Element Update includes policies to support the development of various types of housing projects through the year 2029. As analyzed, the Housing Element Update would expand the development capacity of the City in a manner that is consistent with SCAG projections for 2029. Furthermore, the Housing Element Update would first be submitted to the HCD for review and approval to ensure that the proposed project would adequately address the housing needs and demands of the City.

The Housing Element Update would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, either directly or indirectly, or accelerate development in undeveloped areas. Rather, the Housing Element Update would be growth accommodating, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing and Safety Element Update would involve development projects on infill sites. However, goals, policies, and objectives included in the proposed project aim to prevent displacement and promote housing stability. In addition, the Housing Element Update would provide additional opportunities for housing by expanding areas where housing is allowed. The Housing Element Update would accommodate up to 2,141 residential units throughout the planning period, and it is anticipated that any replacement housing need

5 Implementation of 2,141 housing units under the Housing Element Update would generate a population increase of 6,380 residents. Compared to the City's current population of 21,457 and housing supply of 7,113 units, implementation of 2,141 housing units would exceed 2029 forecasts by 4,447 people and 1,706 units.

created by displacement of existing housing would be more than offset through implementation of the Housing Element Update. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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15 Public Services

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	1 Fire protection?	☐	☐	■	☐
	2 Police protection?	☐	☐	■	☐
	3 Schools?	☐	☐	■	☐
	4 Parks?	☐	☐	■	☐
	5 Other public facilities?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to public services and it is not discussed further in this section.

The Safety Element Update includes the following objective and policies to minimize the risks to lives and property due to fire hazards:

Objective 5.1: Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

Safe 5.1.1 Implement the Wildfire actions and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 5.1.2 Continue to support "mutual assistance" agreements between the fire departments of the local cities, Los Angeles County, and the U.S. Government.

Safe 5.1.3 Continue to support programs to reduce fire hazards of vegetation in areas of extreme to high fire risk. Such programs may take a variety of forms, but may include weed and brush removal and control and use of fire-resistant plantings.

Safe 5.1.4 Provide an adequate level of fire equipment, peakload water supply and personnel to protect the community.

a.1. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

Fire protection in the city is provided by the LACoFD. The LACoFD, in conjunction with the City's Community Development Department, reviews site plans, construction plans, and architectural plans prior to occupancy to ensure the required fire protection safety features, including building sprinklers and emergency access, are implemented. Development with modern materials and in accordance with current standards, inclusive of fire-resistant materials, fire alarms and detection systems, and automatic fire sprinklers, would enhance fire safety and would support fire protection services (CCR Title 24, Part 9). The LACoFD Station 44 is located at 1105 South Highland Avenue and includes three fire engines, a patrol truck, and water truck (City of Duarte 2007c).

As discussed in Section 14, *Population and Housing*, housing development accommodated by the Housing Element Update would add an estimated 6,380 residents to the city, increasing Duarte's population from 21,457 to 27,837 persons. This population growth would occur in urban areas of the city and would incrementally increase demand for fire protection services.

LACoFD is responsible for enforcing fire codes, providing fire inspections, and assisting in planning and enforcing development standards for VHFHSZs to ensure that a defensible space is incorporated into newly constructed homes within the VHFHSZ (City of Duarte 2019b). All development carried out under the proposed project would be required to comply with all applicable fire code and ordinance requirements for construction, emergency/fire, access, water mains, fire flows, and hydrants, and would be subject to review and approval by the LACoFD prior to building permit and certificate of occupancy issuance. Development with modern materials and in accordance with current standards, inclusive of fire-resistant materials, fire alarms and detection systems, and automatic fire sprinklers, would enhance fire safety and support fire protection services.

Future housing development under the Housing Element Update would be required to submit their applications to LACoFD for review to ensure fire protection services are available to serve the proposed housing development and would be required to adhere to the 2019 California Fire Code. The City would review future housing development applications to ensure compliance with the established regulatory framework.

The City's Safety Element Update includes Policies 5.1.1 through 5.1.4, which are intended to reduce fire risk by allocating resources to meet projected demands and response times, maintaining adequate fire resources in areas vulnerable to fires in VHFHSZ and dense urban areas, and coordinating firefighting efforts with other local, State, and federal agencies (City of Duarte 2021b). The LACoFD receives its funding through property taxes, fees for service, Proposition E taxes, and other funding sources, and can fund expanded services as new development occurs (LACoFD 2021b).

Construction of a future fire station or an expansion to an existing station could result in one or more potentially significant impacts. However, no sites have yet been selected by the City. It is anticipated that a future fire station or an expansion to an existing station will be subject to CEQA review at the time a site is identified, and a specific design proposed. In addition, implementation of

the Safety Element Update could provide additional improvements regarding emergency access and evacuation beyond the current Safety Element. Therefore, impacts related to the provision of fire services would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.2. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services in the city. Services include emergency and non-emergency police response, routine police patrols, investigative services, traffic enforcement, traffic investigation, and parking code enforcement. The Duarte Satellite Station is located at 1042 Huntington Drive and provides 24-hour services to Duarte, Bradbury, and the unincorporated area west of Duarte (City of Duarte 2007c).

As discussed in Section 14, *Population and Housing*, housing development accommodated by the Housing Element Update would add an estimated 6,380 residents to the city, increasing Duarte's population from 21,457 to 27,837 persons. Based on the Duarte Satellite Station's current staffing level of 30 sworn officers, the Duarte Satellite Station's officer/resident ratio would drop from 1.43 to approximately 1.07 sworn officers per 1,000 residents.

Policy Safe 3.1.1 in the City's current Safety Element requires that high levels of emergency services are maintained and that safety services are monitored and evaluated annually to ensure existing services demands are met. Additional demand for police service would be accommodated through the expansion of police personnel and facilities to continue to meet the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's service standards. New facilities would be required to comply with all applicable federal, State, and local regulations and policies. Police protection service levels would continue to be evaluated and maintained by the City and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in accordance with existing policies, procedures and practices as development occurs over the lifetime of the Housing Element Update.

Planning for new or physically altered Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department stations is based on an assessment of the cumulative need for new facilities. The Housing Element Update would not result in the need for new or expanded facilities. The incremental contribution to demand for increased Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department protection services would be offset by payment of proportionate property taxes and sales taxes to the City of Duarte by developers and the addition of new residents. Therefore, impacts related to the provision of police services would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.3. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, or the need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?

The DUSD provides public school services to Duarte residents for grades kindergarten through 12. DUSD oversees five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and two alternative schools that offer child development, special education, independent learning, and adult education

programs (DUSD 2021). As discussed in Section 14, *Population and Housing*, the net increase of 2,141 units would generate an increase of approximately 6,380 new residents, some of whom would be school-aged children. Based on the student generation rate of 0.55 students per dwelling unit (City of Duarte 2007d), the proposed project could generate an estimated 1,178 students which may result in or contribute to the need for new or physically altered schools.

In the event that DUSD constructs a new school or physically alters an existing facility, a project-specific environmental analysis would be required under CEQA to address site-specific environmental concerns. Possible impacts include, but are not necessarily limited to, those related to such issues as aesthetics, cultural resources, and noise.

To offset a project's potential impact to schools, Government Code 65995(b) establishes the base amount of allowable developer fees a school district can collect from development projects located within its boundaries. The fees obtained by DUSD are used to maintain the desired school capacity and the maintenance and/or development of new school facilities. Any development facilitated by the proposed Housing Element Update would be subject to these State-mandated school impact fees. Pursuant to Section 65995(3)(h) of the California Government Code (SB 50, chaptered August 27, 1998), the payment of statutory fees "is deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization." DUSD evaluates demand, capacity, and plans for facility needs. If project-level significant impacts are identified, applicable mitigation measures will be placed on the project as conditions of approval. Therefore, existing laws and regulations would require funding for the provision or expansion of new school facilities to offset impacts from new residential development under the Housing Element Update and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.4. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks, or the need for new or physically altered parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?

As identified in the City's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element, the city has approximately 84 acres of developed recreation and parkland and includes 11 city parks and six school parks. The City owns 39.2 active park acreages, leases 26.5 acreages from the DUSD for recreational purposes, and includes an 18.55-acre golf course which is designated as open space and is used for recreational purposes.

Goal 2 of the City's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element establishes various objectives, including to provide open space ratios for current and future city residents at current acreage per capita, in order to develop enough park acreage to meet the needs of the population and upgrade existing facilities. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommend a minimum of 0.6 to one acre of developed open space per 1,000 population for minimum needs of the community and five acres of developed open space per 1,000 population to provide a middle level of service to the community. The Housing Element Update would add an estimated 6,380 residents to the city, increasing Duarte's population from 21,457 to 27,837 persons.

Policies in the City's General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element would ensure that adequate parks and recreational facilities are provided to accommodate the anticipated increase in new residents. Policies Open Space 2.1.3 and 2.1.6 aim to provide future expansion of existing parks

and establish neighborhood parks to serve the needs of the community. In addition, Policy Open Space 2.1.2 requires that new development mitigate the burden it creates on existing parks through parkland dedication, recreational space development and/or mitigation fees. Implementation of these policies would direct construction of new parks and provide ongoing park maintenance to prevent deterioration of existing facilities. Increased demand associated with an increase in population would not significantly accelerate the deterioration of existing park areas or recreational facilities. Therefore, impacts to parks and recreation facilities would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.5. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of other new or physically altered public facilities, or the need for other new or physically altered public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

The Housing Element Update would emphasize the creation of new housing units within urban infill areas of the city, which could increase demand for other public facilities, such as libraries. Impacts related to increased demand for other public facilities such as stormwater, wastewater, and utility facilities are discussed in Section 19, *Utilities and Service Systems*. Project development could affect the need for new or physically altered libraries when residential dwelling units are constructed, and demand increases beyond existing capacity. As the city does not have its own library system, it is anticipated that potential future residents would likely use the Los Angeles County Library system, including the Duarte Library, located at 1301 Buena Vista Street, which would potentially increase the number of library facility users.

As discussed in Section 14, *Population and Housing*, housing development accommodated by the Housing Element Update would increase the City's population from 21,457 to 27,837 residents, an approximately 29.7 percent of the city's estimated 2021 population. Given that not all new residents would visit the library every month, the increase in monthly visitation would be lower than 29.7 percent. Therefore, an increase in potential residents from reasonably foreseeable development is unlikely to result in a substantial increase in annual visits to library facilities. In addition, demand for library facilities may also be offset over time due to increased use of digital materials available as one of the main goals of the Los Angeles County Library Strategic Plan is to expand and support the digital library by adding more easily accessible digital content and expanding mobile access (Los Angeles County 2021).

The Housing Element Update is not expected to cause an exceedance of capacity at existing facilities or to generate a substantial demand for the community library serving the city, and it is unlikely that expansion or construction of new library facilities would be required. Since the Housing Element Update would not affect the need for new or physically altered public facilities, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to recreation and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

As discussed in Section 15, *Public Services*, Duarte has approximately 84 acres of developed recreation and parkland, including 11 city parks and six school parks. The City owns 39.2 active park acreages, leases 26.5 acreages from the DUSD for recreational purposes, and includes an 18.55-acre golf course which is designated as open space and is used for recreational purposes. According to the DOF there are an estimated 21,457 residents in the City of Duarte (DOF 2021). With approximately 84 acres of public parkland in the City, there are approximately four acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The Open Space and Conservation Element of the City's General Plan establishes a citywide parkland level of service goal of a minimum of 0.6 to one acre of developed open space per 1,000 residents for minimum needs of the community and five acres of developed open space per 1,000 population to provide a middle level of service to the community.

Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update could increase the use of existing city and school parks. As discussed in *Description of Project*, the Housing Element Update would accommodate up to 2,141 new residential units in the city, which would generate a population increase of approximately 6,380 residents. The population increase would result in a total of approximately 27,837 residents, which would increase demand for parks and recreational facilities. With the 84 acres of public parkland in the city, there would be approximately three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents with all forecast growth under the proposed project. As such, the City would meet the standard of a minimum of 0.6 to one acre of developed open space per 1,000 residents. Furthermore, applicants for development projects under the Housing Element Update

would be required to either provide parkland, recreational space development and/or mitigation fees to meet the standard of a minimum of 0.6 to one acre of developed open space per 1,000 residents. Therefore, development under the Housing Element Update would not result in substantial deterioration of existing recreation facilities. Potential impacts to existing parks would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

As discussed in Section 15, *Public Services*, the proposed project does not include goals or policies to develop additional park space. However, the Open Space and Conservation Element of the City's General Plan establishes a requirement for a minimum of 0.6 to one acre of developed open space per 1,000 residents. Development under the Housing Element Update would increase the population of the city by an estimated 6,380 residents by 2029, resulting in a total population of approximately 27,837 residents and a parkland ratio of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This ratio would still meet the City's goal of a minimum of 0.6 to one acre of developed open space per 1,000 residents and, therefore, new or expanded park facilities would not be required.

In the event that a future development under the Housing Element Update causes the parkland ratio to fall below the minimum of 0.6 acre of developed open space, the applicant would be required to either provide parkland, recreational space development and/or mitigation fees to meet the City's parkland ratio standard. Therefore, the construction or expansion of park facilities would result in less than significant impacts with adherence to the City's policies.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs.

The Safety Element Update includes the following objectives and goals to improve emergency access and evacuation:

Objective 1.1: Prepare the community for any expected or unexpected disasters resulting from natural or man-made causes.

Safe 1.1.8 Establish designated emergency response and evacuation routes throughout the City, for each climate hazard (e.g., wildfire, storm flooding, etc.), prioritizing the most high-risk and disadvantaged populations.

Objective 2.1: Prepare the citizens of Duarte to be prepared for danger or disaster and, if need be, to be self-reliant for a length of time in the event of a catastrophic natural or man-made event.

Safe 2.1.5 Increase public awareness of City emergency response plans, evacuation routes and emergency shelters, with a focus on and disadvantaged communities.

Objective 5.1: Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

Safe 5.1.1 Implement the Wildfire actions and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 5.1.5 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to comply with the following standards, codes, and regulations:

- Title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structured Regulations) for SRAs and VHFSZ, and with the California Government Codes 51175-57789 (Very High Fire Severity Zones),
- The latest fire-safe standards,
- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations; and,
- The most current version of the California Building Codes and California Fire Code.

Safe 5.1.6 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to develop site-specific fire management plans addressing fuel modification or incorporating open space and other defensible space areas, as well as multiple points of ingress and egress before approval.

Safe 5.1.7 Identify areas with inadequate access/evacuation routes and develop mitigation measures or improvement plans for these areas.

a. Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

c. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?

d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

The Housing Element Update would provide a policy framework for the community's residential needs and continues the City's housing policies contained in the previous Housing Element and does not include specific development projects. Any new housing production would occur within the limits established by the current General Plan Land Use Element and DMC. Furthermore, all new residential development is subject to its own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with transportation and traffic during construction and operation would be analyzed. The City would continue to examine individual housing development proposals, as they are submitted, to determine whether any site-specific approaches are required to address particular traffic concerns. Therefore, the proposed project would have less than significant impacts on the performance of the City's circulation system and applicable congestion management programs.

There are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update; rather, the implementation of the Housing Element Update would provide a policy framework for the City's residential needs. All new development is subject to its own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with transportation and traffic during construction and operation would be analyzed. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element Update would not have significant impacts associated with a potential for hazardous design features, changes in traffic patterns, or inadequate emergency access, and it would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. In addition, implementation of Policies 1.1.8, 2.1.5, 5.1.1, and 5.1.5 through 5.1.7 of the Safety Element Update would provide additional improvements regarding emergency access and evacuation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

The Housing Element Update would provide a policy framework for the community's residential needs and would continue the City's housing policies contained in the previous Housing Element. As discussed in *Description of Project*, the City would exceed the RHNA allocation for affordable housing by 1,253 units under the Housing Element Update. While the Housing Element Update does not include specific development projects, reasonably foreseeable development would have the potential to affect VMT. However, according to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, adding affordable housing to infill locations generally improves jobs-housing match, in turn shortening commutes and reducing VMT. Therefore, a project consisting of a high percentage of affordable housing may be a basis for the lead agency to find a less-than-significant impact on VMT. Evidence supports a presumption of less than significant impact for a 100 percent affordable residential development (or the residential component of a mixed-use development) in infill locations (OPR 2018). Furthermore, all new residential development is subject to its own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with transportation and traffic during construction and operation would be analyzed. Therefore, impacts related to VMT would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in a Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts related to tribal cultural resources and it is not discussed further in this section.

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?

b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074 that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1?

On July 1, 2021, the following Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)-identified local Native American tribal groups were formally notified that the City initiated environmental review of the Housing Element Update and were invited to provide AB 52 and SB 18 consultation:

- Andrew Salas, Chairperson for the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
- Anthony Morales, Chairperson for the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Sandonne Goad, Chairperson for the Gabrielino / Tongva Nation
- Robert Dorame, Chairperson for the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Christina Conley, Tribal Consultant and Administrator for the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Charles Alvarez, Tribal Chairman of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
- Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair for the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Isaiah Vivanco, Chairperson for the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

As of the date of this document, no responses and no formal consultation has been requested.

The proposed Housing Element does not include specific development projects; instead, it only provides a framework for the City's anticipated future housing demand. The provision of such a framework would not result in any direct physical changes to existing known or unknown tribal cultural resources. Nevertheless, future residential development implemented under the proposed Housing Element could potentially impact known and unknown tribal cultural resources. However, each new residential development or renovation project is subject to its own CEQA process, and project-specific impacts associated with cultural resources would be analyzed; with potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. Consequently, it is anticipated that adoption of the Housing Element would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of tribal cultural resources; therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant impacts.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. The associated environmental justice policy updates would not result in development that would create impacts related to utilities and service systems and are not discussed further in this section.

The Safety Element Update includes the following objective and goal to minimize the risks to lives and property due to natural, man-made, and climate change related hazards:

Objective 1.1: Prepare the community for any expected or unexpected disasters resulting from natural or man-made causes.

Safe 1.1.10 Ensure that adequate provisions are made to supply drinking water for an extended period in the event of a major disaster.

a. *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

b. *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*

c. *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

There are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update; rather, the implementation of the Housing Element Update would provide a policy framework for the City's residential needs. Reasonably foreseeable development would occur in urbanized areas that are served by existing utilities infrastructure, including potable water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities.

Water Supply

The Housing Element Update would accommodate reasonably foreseeable development that would require water for a variety of activities such as landscaping, controlling fugitive dust, and providing potable water to workers during construction and residents and commercial occupants of future developments. Furthermore, as development occurs throughout the city, upgrades to water conveyance facilities may be required. The precise location and connection would need to be determined at the time development is proposed. Any future line size modifications or connections would be designed in accordance with applicable provisions of the DMC and to the satisfaction of the City Engineer. Increased development density has the potential to impact the capacities of local utilities infrastructure, which may require the expansion or construction of new facilities. In addition, under the Safety Element Update, expanded resiliency policy, including Policy 1.1.10, could potentially result in the relocation of critical infrastructure out of disaster-prone areas, and/or the expansion of utilities and infrastructure to improve resilience. However, all new development is subject to its own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with water supply would be analyzed. There are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update; rather, the implementation of the proposed project would provide a policy framework for the City's residential needs; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Wastewater Generation

Wastewater treatment would be provided by existing infrastructure in the city. However, the amount of wastewater generated by project development is not known at this time and may exceed existing capacity. Similar to water supply, development has the potential to impact the capacities of the City's wastewater treatment conveyance systems that may require the expansion or construction of new infrastructure or facilities. In addition, the updates under the Safety Element could result in relocation of critical infrastructure. However, all new development is subject to its

own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with wastewater would be analyzed. There are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update; rather, the implementation of the proposed project would provide a policy framework for the City's residential needs; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Stormwater

New infill development would be located in an urban area that is served by existing stormwater drainage systems. Increased development density has the potential to impact the capacities of local utilities infrastructure that may require the expansion or construction of new wastewater treatment and storm water drainage facilities. In addition, the updates under the Safety Element could result in relocation of critical infrastructure. However, all new development is subject to its own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with stormwater would be analyzed. There are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update; rather, the implementation of the proposed project would provide a policy framework for the City's residential needs; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Electricity, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications

Telecommunications services are provided by AT&T, Charter/Spectrum, DirectTV or other providers, at the discretion of residents (City of Duarte 2021e). Telecommunications are generally available in the City and facility upgrades would not likely be necessary.

Electricity is currently provided by SCE and natural gas service is provided by SoCal Gas. Operation and occupancy of reasonably foreseeable development under the proposed project would increase demand for electricity and natural gas compared to existing conditions. Increased development density has the potential to impact the capacities of local utilities infrastructure that may require the expansion or construction of new facilities, and updates under the Safety Element could result in relocation of critical infrastructure.

All new residential development is subject to its own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with utility use and availability would be analyzed. However, there are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update; rather, the implementation of the proposed project would provide a policy framework for the City's residential needs; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

The City has a contract with Burrtec Waste Industries to provide residential and commercial trash and recycling collection (City of Duarte 2021f). Los Angeles County solid waste disposal facilities that generally accept solid waste generated in Duarte include the following: Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal, Azusa Land Reclamation, Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill, Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility, Lancaster Landfill, Savage Canyon Landfill, and Southeast Resource Recovery Facility (CalRecycle 2019). Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would generate both construction and operational solid waste that would be disposed of at the aforementioned facilities and other collection centers.

There are no specific development projects proposed as part of the Housing Element Update. The proposed Housing Element policies would not conflict with any statutes or regulations pertaining to solid waste. All future development projects within the city are subject to their own CEQA process where project-specific impacts associated with utility use and availability would be analyzed, must comply with federal, State, and local regulations pertaining to solid waste. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

A significant impact could occur if the Housing Element Update would conflict with any statutes and regulations governing solid waste. In compliance with State legislation, any development project under the Housing and Safety Element Update would be required to implement a Solid Waste Diversion Program and divert at least 75 percent of the solid waste generated from the applicable landfill site. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update would comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, such as the California Waste Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939), mandatory commercial recycling (AB 341, AB 1826), and the City's recycling program. Since development projects under the Housing Element Update would comply with applicable federal, State, and local regulations involving solid waste, impacts related to conflict with statutes and regulations governing solid waste would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	■	☐

The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs.

The Safety Element Update includes the following objective and policies to minimize the risks to lives and property due to fire hazards:

Objective 5.1: Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards through mitigation and planning efforts.

Safe 5.1.1 Implement the Wildfire actions and the Multi-Hazard actions listed in the Mitigation Actions Matrix in Part III (Mitigation Strategies) of the City of Duarte Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Safe 5.1.2 Continue to support "mutual assistance" agreements between the fire departments of the local cities, Los Angeles County, and the U.S. Government.

Safe 5.1.3 Continue to support programs to reduce fire hazards of vegetation in areas of extreme to high fire risk. Such programs may take a variety of forms, but may include weed and brush removal and control and use of fire-resistant plantings.

Safe 5.1.4 Provide an adequate level of fire equipment, peakload water supply and personnel to protect the community.

Safe 5.1.5 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to comply with the following standards, codes, and regulations:

- Title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structured Regulations) for SRAs and VHFSZ, and with the California Government Codes 51175-57789 (Very High Fire Severity Zones),
- The latest fire-safe standards,
- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Safe Regulations; and,
- The most current version of the California Building Codes and California Fire Code.

Safe 5.1.6 Require all new development in the VHFSZ to develop site-specific fire management plans addressing fuel modification or incorporating open space and other defensible space areas, as well as multiple points of ingress and egress before approval.

Safe 5.1.7 Identify areas with inadequate access/evacuation routes and develop mitigation measures or improvement plans for these areas.

a. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Based on the California Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map, there are three areas at risk for wildfire in the city. As discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the northeastern and eastern boundaries of the City are within a VHFHSZ, as well as the portion from the boundary of the Angeles National Forest to Conata Street (CalFire 2021). The northeastern and eastern boundaries are primarily developed with residential development, while the portion from the boundary of the Angeles National Forest to Conata Street is primarily undeveloped land and also includes single-family residential uses. The Housing Element Update would emphasize development in urbanized areas of the city that are not subject to significant wildfire risks. Such development would not conflict with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

As discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, traffic created by development under the proposed project would not interfere with an evacuation plan as the General Plan Safety Element and LHMP policies and strategies, including Policies 5.1.1 and 5.1.2, would ensure effective and coordinated response to disasters in the city and further the City's preventative measures.

Increased density in urban areas of the city under the Housing Element Update could result in additional traffic within area roadways. However, in the event of a wildfire, implementation of the County's 2012 Emergency Response Plan (ERP) would coordinate all the facilities and personnel of County government, along with the jurisdictional resources of the cities and special districts within the county, into an efficient organization capable of managing emergency evacuation for affected areas.

The LACoFD would be responsible for ensuring that future development does not impair adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. As part of standard development procedures, future development plans would be submitted for review and approval to ensure that reasonably foreseeable development has adequate emergency access and escape routes in compliance with existing City regulations. Furthermore, the Housing Element Update would not introduce features or policies that would preclude implementation of or alter these policies or procedures or encourage development in a VHFHSZ and Policies 5.1.1 through 5.1.7 of the Safety Element Update would improve policies and regulations associated with emergency response or evacuation plans and wildland fires. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

d. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Portions of the city are subject to wildland fire risk, primarily areas along the northeastern and eastern boundaries, and the portion of the city from the boundary of the Angeles National Forest to Conata Street. Properties located within a VHFHSZ, as mapped by CAL FIRE are required to comply with requirements of Government Code Section 51175 et seq., including the minimization of fire risks during the high fire season through vegetation clearance and the maintenance of landscape vegetation to minimize fuel supply that would spread the intensity of a fire (City of Duarte 2021g). The undeveloped portions located in the Angeles National Forest are generally designated for open space with no opportunities for development.

The Housing Element Update would incentivize development on urban infill sites within the city, including near high quality public transit. All development would be subject to applicable response plans and would be required to comply with all existing City regulations. In the event of a wildfire, the County's ERP would coordinate all the facilities and personnel, along with the jurisdictional resources of the surrounding cities, into an efficient organization capable of managing emergency evacuation for affected areas. Furthermore, site-specific project development would be required to be constructed according to the UBC requirements for fire-protection and would be subject to review and approval by the LACoFD. The LACoFD provides several fire developments services to the City related to enforcing codes concerning new construction and remodeling, including individual project plan checks. In addition, Policies 5.1.1 through 5.1.7 of the Safety Element Update specifically aim at reducing wildfire risks.

Because the Housing Element Update would generally direct development away from the areas within the city designated as VHFHSZs and reasonably foreseeable development would be required to comply with fire safety provisions established by the DMC and DDC, development under the proposed project would not pose a substantial risk to people or structures due to wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

The Housing Element Update would prioritize reasonably foreseeable development in urban areas within the southern portion of the city. As such, the Housing Element Update would not encourage development in the residential areas subject to wildfire risk, and development would occur in areas that are well-served by existing roadways and utilities infrastructure. Therefore, development under the Housing Element Update would not require additional roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities that would exacerbate fire risk. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Does the project:				
a. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	■	☐

a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

The proposed project is a policy document that provides a framework for addressing the City's future housing demand and it does not propose any specific residential projects. The proposed project includes updates to the Safety Element, which would provide additional consistency with the Housing Element Update, conform with recent State legislation and guidelines, and include environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of DACs. As discussed in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, Section 5, *Cultural Resources*, and Section 18, *Tribal Cultural Resources*, the Safety Element Update, and associated environmental justice policy updates, would not result in

development that would create significant impacts related to biological, historical, or prehistorical resources. Furthermore, the Housing Element Update would not directly provide for housing development in any sensitive biological resource area or directly affect any historic resources. Reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element Update may involve alteration, intensification, and redistribution of land uses in the city. While proposed changes could have the potential to have a substantial adverse effect on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, the Housing Element Update focuses on infill development and not on the hillsides or slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains. As such, proposed changes are in fact unlikely to have any significant impact.

Each new residential development or renovation project would be subject to its own CEQA process, where the project-specific impacts associated with biological and cultural resources would be analyzed; therefore, no potentially significant impacts are anticipated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

As discussed in Sections 1 through 20, the proposed project is a policy document that provides a framework for addressing the City's future housing demand and it does not propose any specific residential projects. As such, any new residential development or renovation projects would be subject to its own CEQA process, where the project-specific impacts would be analyzed. The proposed project would not directly result in significant impacts to the above-discussed areas; therefore, project impacts would not be cumulatively considerable and would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

In general, impacts to human beings are associated with air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise. As discussed in Section 3, *Air Quality*, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element update would generate short-term and long-term air pollutant emission associated with construction and operational activities, respectively. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, there is the potential for future construction to involve the demolition or alteration of structures that may contain asbestos and/or LBP, and residential construction under the Housing Element Update could lead to a significant hazard to the public or environment by exposing future residents to potential on-site contamination if not properly identified. Similar to air quality impacts, and as discussed in Section 13, *Noise*, reasonably foreseeable development under the Housing Element update would generate short-term and long-term noise at nearby sensitive receivers from construction and operational activities.

The Housing Element Update would prioritize reasonably foreseeable development on infill sites in the city that have previously been developed and disturbed, however it does not include specific development projects. Rather, each new development or renovation project would be subject to its own CEQA process where the project-specific impacts would be analyzed and potentially significant impacts avoided or mitigated if required. Furthermore, the Safety Element Update, and associated

environmental justice policy updates, would not result in development that would create impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to adverse effects on human beings.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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List of Preparers

Rincon Consultants, Inc. prepared this IS-ND under contract to the City of Duarte. Persons involved in data gathering analysis, project management, and quality control are listed below.

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

Deanna Hansen, Principal-In-Charge
Susanne Huerta, Project Manager/Supervising Planner
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Shannon McAlpine, Environmental Planner

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RESOLUTION NO. PC 21-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUARTE RECOMMENDING TO THE DUARTE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2021-02, ADOPTING THE SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE TO THE CITY OF DUARTE GENERAL PLAN, AND ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Section 65302 of the California Government Code requires the periodic review and update of the Safety Element of the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed update of the Safety Element would outline the City's policies, goals, and objectives aimed at reducing the potential risks and harms that may result from natural or man-made hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the City initiated an update to the Safety Element of the City of Duarte General Plan to be consistent with the update to the Housing Element and to comply with recent State legislation and guidelines; and

WHEREAS, a notice of a public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment was published in the local newspaper, posted at three (3) public locations, and provided on the City's website in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2021, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment, whereupon the Planning Commission received public testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte received and considered the staff report and all of the information, evidence, and public testimony presented in connection with the foregoing at the public hearing held on October 18, 2021 at 7 PM; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte, based on the preceding findings, hereby forwards the Safety Element Update to the City's General Plan and the Findings of Consistency with the General Plan to the City Council with recommendation for approval of General Plan Amendment 2021-02, and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The Safety Element Update to the City's General Plan is recommended for adoption as shown in attached Exhibit 1.

SECTION 2. The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a Negative Declaration determining that the Safety Element Update to the City's General Plan and related General Plan changes could not have a significant effect on the environment. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration is in attached Exhibit 2.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of October, 2021.

_____
Tina Heany, Chairperson
City of Duarte Planning Commission

ATTEST:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss.
CITY OF DUARTE

I, Craig Hensley, Community Development Director of the City of Duarte, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held on October 18, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

RESOLUTION NO. PC 21-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUARTE RECOMMENDING TO THE DUARTE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 2021-03, ADOPTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES OF THE CITY OF DUARTE GENERAL PLAN, AND ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Section 65302 of the California Government Code requires the adoption and review of either an Environmental Justice Element, or Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements of the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Environmental Justice policies of the City of Duarte General Plan would identify disadvantaged communities and aim to reduce health risks to disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the City initiated the development of Environmental Justice policies of the City of Duarte General Plan to comply with recent State legislation and guidelines, including Senate Bill 1000; and

WHEREAS, a notice of a public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment was published in the local newspaper, posted at three (3) public locations, and provided on the City's website in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2021, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed General Plan Amendment, whereupon the Planning Commission received public testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission received and considered the staff report and all of the information, evidence, and public testimony presented in connection with the foregoing at the public hearing held on October 18, 2021 at 7 PM; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte, based on the preceding findings, hereby forwards the Environmental Justice policies of the City's General Plan and the Findings of Consistency with the General Plan to the City Council with recommendation for approval of General Plan Amendment 2021-03, and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The Environmental Justice policies of the City's General Plan is recommended for adoption as shown in attached Exhibit 1.

SECTION 2. The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a Negative Declaration determining that the Environmental Justice policies of the City's General Plan and related General Plan changes could not have a significant effect

on the environment. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration is in attached Exhibit 2.

APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of October, 2021.

_____
Tina Heany, Chairperson
City of Duarte Planning Commission

ATTEST:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss.
CITY OF DUARTE

I, Craig Hensley, Community Development Director of the City of Duarte, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Duarte held on October 18, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____
Craig Hensley, Community Development Director