

2015 - 2020 Safety Element



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SAFETY ELEMENT

Purpose

The Safety Element sets forth goals, policies and strategies geared toward ensuring the safety of City residents and visitors to the community. Provision of public safety services is addressed, as well as the need for community preparedness in the event of an emergency.

Background

Government Code Section 65302(g) and Public Resources Code 4125(a). Government Code Section 65302(g) requires that a Safety Element or its equivalent be included in the General Plan to address measures necessary to protect the community from risks related to fire and other hazards and threats. Factors that affect the provision of fire and police services include distribution and intensity of land uses, accessibility and emergency response coordination. Consequently, the Safety Element relates directly to a number of other general plan elements, most notably Land Use, Circulation, Open Space and Conservation.

Police and Fire Protection

As communities grow, the provision of police and fire protection services are important to the ongoing safety of community residents and visitors. The City of Barstow oversees the Police Department as well as administering the Barstow Fire Protection District. Unincorporated areas in the vicinity of Barstow are served by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office.

The Barstow Police Department has a total of 37 sworn positions and 18 unsworn positions for a total of 55 personnel. The sworn positions include one Chief, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, 7 Detective/Corporals, and 23 Patrol Officers; while the unsworn positions include 10 Public Safety Dispatchers, one Senior Administrative Assistant, one Police Services Supervisor, 4 Police Services Assistants, one Senior Crime Scene/Evidence Technician, and one Crime Scene/Evidence Technician. The Police Department is organized into two main divisions: Operations and Administrative. The Police Department equipment inventory includes 15 marked patrol cars, 11 unmarked vehicles, one crime scene van, one armored vehicle, one SWAT van, one Citizen on Patrol SUV, one marked police truck and two marked police on/off-road motorcycles.

The Barstow Fire Protection District is a combination department consisting of full-time and paid-call firefighters. Currently the Fire District has 26 full time personnel, 1 Fire Chief, 6 Captains, 6 Engineers, 3 Firefighters, 6 Firefighter-Paramedics, 3 Limited Term Firefighters, and one Office Assistant (non-sworn). The paid-call staff fluctuates but currently includes 18 members that respond as needed. Currently the District operates with three different shifts;

the Fire Chief works a 9/80 schedule and responds off-duty as needed. The district operates 2 full-time paramedic engine companies and 1 paramedic squad. The paid-call members operate an engine, truck- company and a water tender. In additions, the District owns 3 staff vehicles.

With regard to demand for police and fire services, the Barstow Police Department handled 31,695 calls for service in 2013, of which 16.9% were for Priority 1 police services (including assaults and robberies) and 19% were Priority 2 calls, including petty theft and vandalism. The Department made 2725 arrests and issued 2341 citations. The average Police Department response time for Priority 1 calls was 7 minutes and 32 seconds.

The response times for the Barstow Fire Protection vary depending on the area served. The goal is to be en-route to an incident within one 1 minute 30 seconds, with an overall time of a few seconds near the stations to over 9 minutes to the most remote areas.

Historically, police and fire departments have utilized standards such as the number of officers per 1,000 residents as a means of measuring the adequacy of police and fire services. Increasingly, however, many experts have called into question the relevance and applicability of such arbitrary standards. Joseph Brann, the first Director of the Community Oriented Police Service (COPS) Office and retired chief of police in Haywood, California wrote in "Officer's per Thousand and other Urban Myths" appearing in ICMA's PM Magazine, "A key resource is discretionary patrol time, or the time available for officers to make self-initiated stops, advise a victim in how to prevent the next crime, or call property owners, neighbors, or local agencies to report problems or request assistance. From this perspective, the manner in which assigned personnel are trained, deployed and utilized is of greater importance than the establishment and maintenance of staffing levels based on number of residents served. Nonetheless, it is logical to assume that as communities grow the need for increased numbers of police and fire safety personnel is likely to expand as well, even assuming that such individuals are effectively and efficiently managed.

In addition to the direct provision of public safety services both the Barstow Police Department and the Barstow Fire Protection District engage in activities intended to promote greater public awareness of fire and safety hazards and prevention techniques and to prevent the occurrence of crime.

Barstow Police Department Prevention and Awareness Activities

- a. National Night Out
- b. Public Safety Day
- c. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) 5k Walk/Run
- d. Neighborhood Watch Program
- e. Police Explorer Program
- f. Police Activities League (After School Program)
- g. Bicycle Safety Fair
- h. Citizen on Patrol Program

- i. School Resource Officer Safety Awareness classes to students at BUSD
- j. BUSD Safety Fair
- k. Barstow Community College Summer Youth Program
- l. Community Awareness Meetings

The Barstow Fire District utilizes the shift members to conduct a variety of public education and prevention activities. The firefighters routinely conduct school programs, station tours, and first aid/ CPR classes. In addition, the Fire District holds an annual open house during Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Chief and engine companies conduct routine fire prevention inspections on local businesses to educate the business owners and to ensure code compliance.

Future Demand for Police and Fire Services

The City's continued growth is the primary factor in determining additional demand for police and fire protection service. The exact timing and location of additional police and fire facilities that may be necessary to provide adequate safety related services are dependent upon the type, location, intensity and pace of future development. While these may be difficult to precisely determine, the City, in general terms, is expected to grow by roughly two percent annually between 2014 and the General Plan horizon year of 2020, with much of this growth expected to occur as infill and in the southwest portion of the City. Depending upon the amount of future development that actually occurs as well as its location it may be necessary at some point in the future to identify locations for additional police and/or fire service facilities, although this is unlikely to occur within the time frame covered by the current General Plan. It may also be desirable to increase public safety staffing levels in order to maintain or improve upon current response times should the community grow in the manner projected by the General Plan. For example, the municipal services agreement under which the proposed casino would be established calls for a new fire station to be built in its vicinity should this project come to pass. Similarly, to the extent that large-scale industrial development were to occur in the southwest portion of the city additional police and/or fire facilities may be required.

Public Safety Goals, Policies and Strategies

GOAL 1: Maintain optimal levels of service and quality for fire and police protection, thereby ensuring the preservation and protection of health, well-being and property for all types of development and all residents of the community.

POLICY 1A: Increase police and fire staffing levels at an equal or greater rate than the City's overall population, household and employment growth.

STRATEGY 1.A.1: Budget for appropriate police and fire staffing levels based upon increases in the City's population, housing, commercial and industrial development.

STRATEGY 1.A.2: Promote collaboration between the Fire Protection District, Police Department and Community Development Department in the sharing of data and analysis to be utilized in the preparation of departmental staffing requests.

POLICY 1B: Implement strategies geared toward maximizing discretionary patrol time on the part of public safety personnel.

STRATEGY 1.B.1: Seek input from existing personnel concerning existing barriers to discretionary patrol time and work with staff to reduce any such barriers identified.

STRATEGY 1.B.2: Continue to utilize and seek to expand utilization of non-sworn personnel for the performance of functions that are peripherally related to the primary public service functions of sworn police and fire officers so that sworn personnel can have as much time as possible to focus on their core responsibilities of maximizing public safety.

GOAL 2: Expand police and fire facilities as needed in conjunction with future planned development.

POLICY 2A: Review all new development proposals, as well as significant remodeling projects to determine potential impacts to public safety and the provision of police and fire protection services.

STRATEGY 2.A.1: Collaborate with Building Department personnel in the process of reviewing development proposals.

STRATEGY 2.A.2: Ensure that all proposed development is designed to provide unencumbered access for police, fire, and paramedic vehicles.

POLICY 2B: Ensure, through planning and assessment, the adequacy of police and fire staffing and facilities to accommodate planned residential, commercial and industrial growth.

STRATEGY 2.B.1: Review and modify police and fire assessment fees annually to ensure that there are adequate funds to cover annual operating costs.

STRATEGY 2.B.2: Identify sites in the vicinity of large development projects that are suitable for police and/or fire stations/sub-stations.

STRATEGY 2.B.3: Continue to pursue funding from grant sources for public safety facilities and staffing enhancements.

GOAL 3: Continue to promote public safety by maintaining and enhancing prevention, education and outreach programs.

POLICY 3A: Develop new safety & outreach programs for the community.

STRATEGY 3.A.1: Collaborate with BPD and Fire District Staff to develop new community outreach & educational programs.

STRATEGY 3.A.2: Ensure that all proposed programs will provide the community with the most effective safety information and assistance.

STRATEGY 3.A.3: Identify sites for the programs that will allow information to be disseminated in a clear and thorough manner.

STRATEGY 3.A.4: Conduct an assessment of each new program to determine the effectiveness of the program.

STRATEGY 3.A.5: Continue to seek information from the community about prevention programs that they believe can be beneficial for them.

Emergency Preparedness

The City of Barstow and its vicinity is subject to a number of possible threats to public safety. First, like much of southern California, Barstow is located in an area that is subject to strong seismically-induced ground shaking. Two earthquake faults, the Barstow Fault and the Lenwood Fault, traverse the city in southeast-to-northwesterly direction. At least three additional known faults, including Mount General, Calico and Camp Rock, are located close enough to the city present the possibility of seismically induced hazards, including strong ground shaking adversely affecting the safety of the community. (see Exhibit S-1)

Since 1992, a number of earthquakes of magnitudes in excess of 3.0 have occurred in close enough proximity to cause significant ground shaking in Barstow, most notably the following:

- Landers Earthquake; magnitude 7.5, 74 miles southeast of Barstow on 6/28/92
- Big Bear Earthquake; magnitude 6.5, 62 miles south of Barstow on 6/28/92
- Hector Mine Earthquake; magnitude 7.1, 47 miles southeast of Barstow on 10/16/99
- Unnamed earthquake, magnitude 3.8, 18 miles northeast of Barstow, 5/27/12
- Unnamed earthquake, magnitude 3.0, 10 miles east/northeast of Barstow, 5/27/14
- Unnamed earthquake, magnitude 4.0, 9 miles northeast of Barstow, 6/11/14
- Unnamed earthquake, magnitude 3.7, 53 miles southeast of Barstow on 8/17/14

The Barstow and Lenwood faults include 500-foot wide Alquist-Priolo zones, within which no publicly occupied structures can be constructed. Outside of these zones, while there are no prohibitions on building construction; there are standards set forth in the California Building Code standards for Seismic Zone D, in which the entire city is located.

In addition to seismic safety threats, the City may also be vulnerable to human-caused

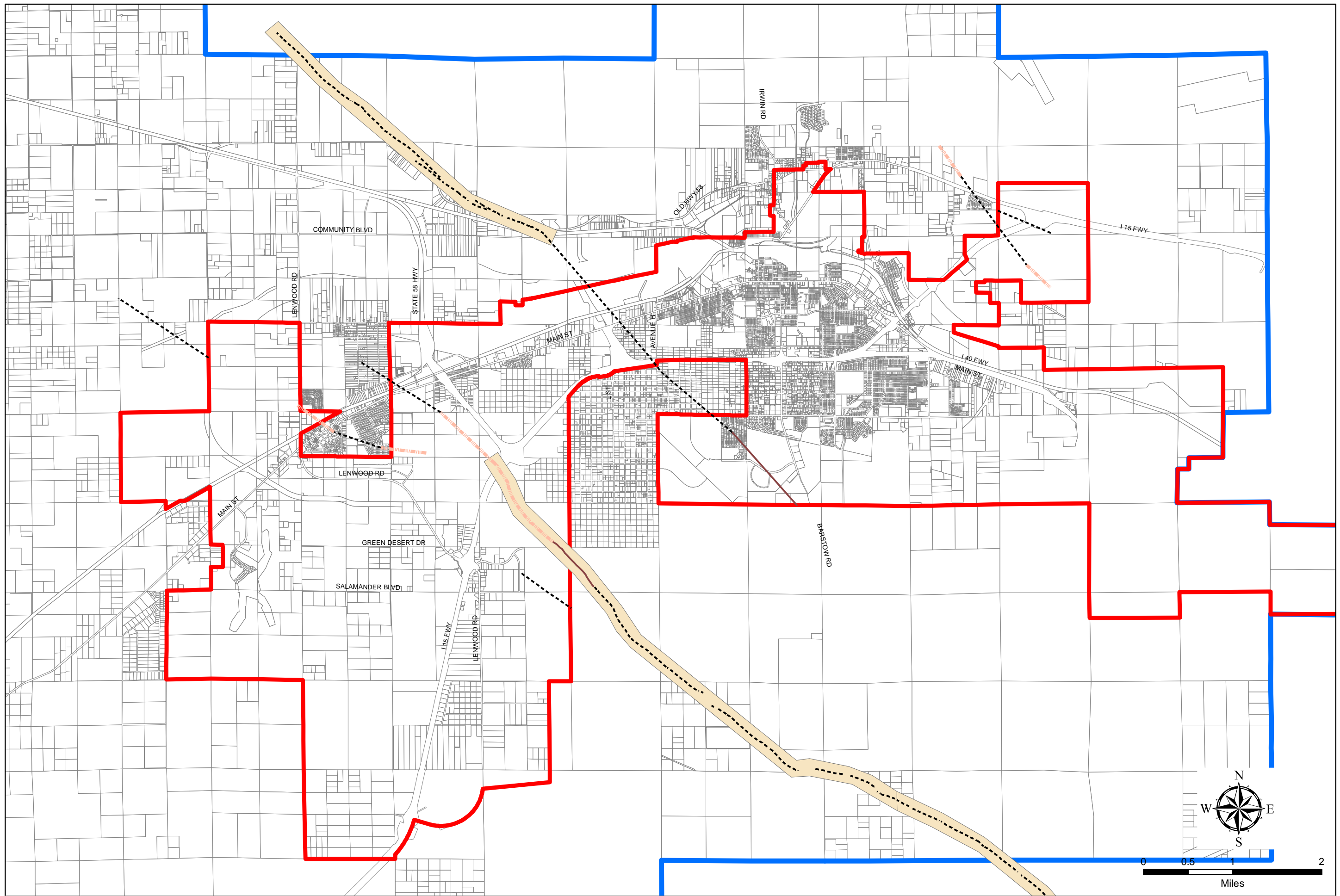









Exhibit S-1
Seismic Hazards Map

Legend		Fault Traces/Lines	
	City Limits		Buried
	Sphere of Influence		Inferred
	Parcel Lines		Surficial
			Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones

emergencies, including train accidents along the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad line that bisects the city, vehicular accidents and/or toxic spills along Interstate 15 and 40, which pass through the community, and wildfires in portions of the city and surrounding area containing flammable vegetation. The prevalence of these safety hazards necessitates adequate emergency preparation and appropriate land use planning to encompass threat minimization and mitigation.

The City adopted a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan in 2003. The emergency plan was updated in 2008 and 2014 and will continue to be periodically updated to ensure compliance with federal and state emergency planning requirements. Plans and systems must be maintained and upgraded as needed to keep pace with population growth, new construction, business development, and growth-induced circulation issues.

The City's emergency preparedness plan designates the headquarters of the Barstow Fire Protection District, located on the northeast corner of Barstow Road and Virginia Way, as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 220 Mountain View Avenue, as the alternative EOC.

Emergency Evacuation Routes

Designated emergency evacuation routes are illustrated on Exhibit S-2. These routes include State Highway 247 to the south, State Highway 58 to the north and Historic Route 66 to the east and west. Utilization of these roadways for emergency evacuation will be necessary in the event that interstate highways become impassable or inaccessible.

Emergency Preparation Goals, Policies and Strategies

GOAL 1: Maintain a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan for the City, ensuring a high level of responsiveness to natural and human-caused disasters and other emergency situations.

POLICY 1A: Periodically update the Emergency Operations Plan and implement the plan's provisions on an ongoing basis.

STRATEGY 1.A.1: Engage appropriate personnel from the BFPD, BPD, Building Department and other entities on ongoing monitoring and assessment of public facilities and publically occupied buildings to ensure public safety in the event of an emergency.

STRATEGY 1.A.2: Conduct periodic drills and safety meetings to ensure that all designated responsible personnel are aware of the Plan and their responsibilities in the event of an emergency.

GOAL 2: Continue to actively participate in regional and statewide emergency preparation efforts.

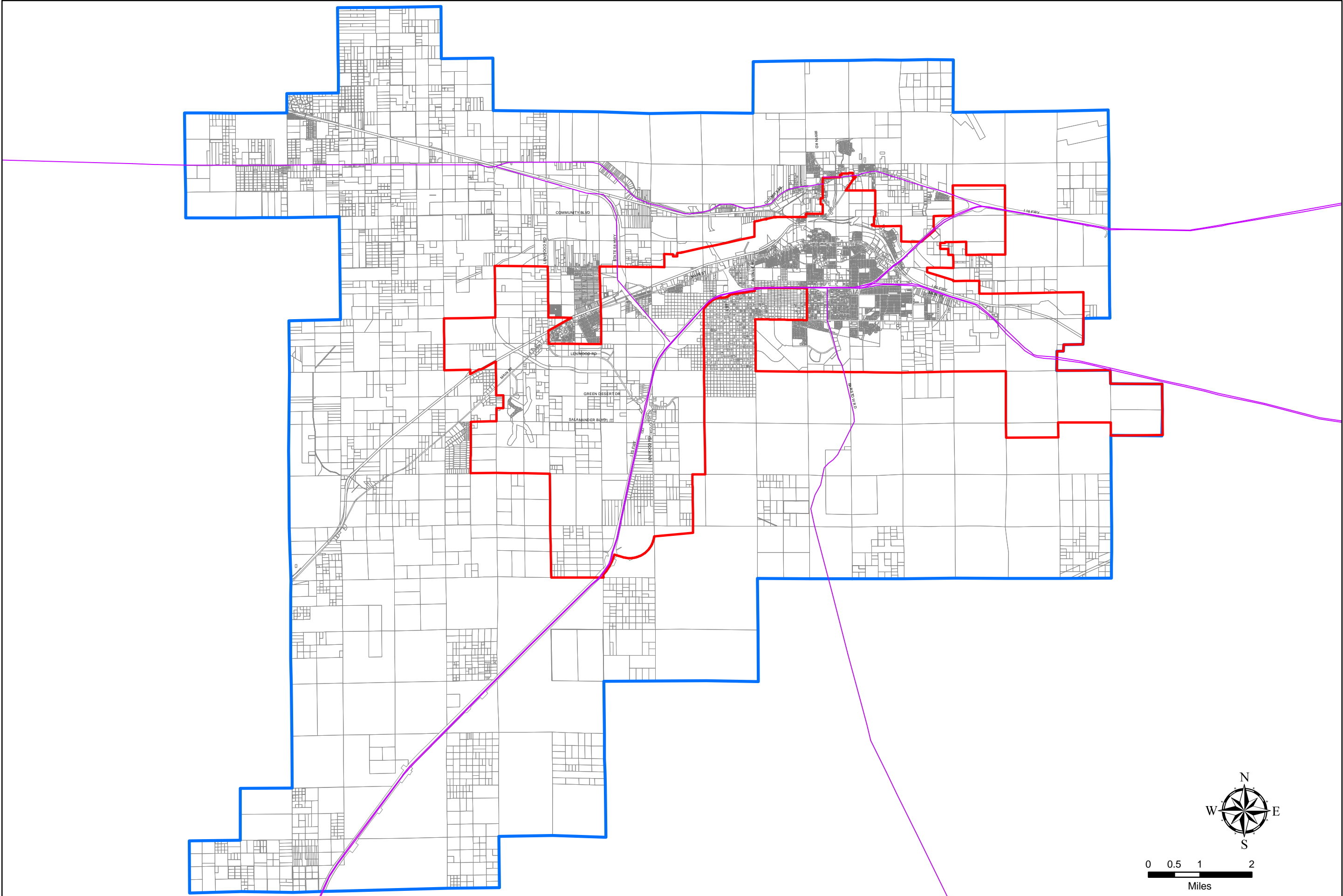






Exhibit S-2
Emergency Evacuation Routes Map

Legend

 City Limits	 Parcel Lines
 Sphere of Influence	 Evacuation Routes

POLICY 2.A: Cooperate and coordinate with San Bernardino County Emergency Services, Golden State Water Company, Southern California Edison and Southwest Gas Company and other agencies and utilities in the development and dissemination of information and instructions on appropriate actions in the event of a local disaster or emergency.

STRATEGY 2.A.1: Continue to engage in ongoing communication with these entities concerning emergency preparation.

STRATEGY 2.A.2: Provide the organizations identified in Policy 2.A with updated emergency preparation plans and procedures.

GOAL3: Ensure that all development occurring under the General Plan is designed and built in accordance with current standards for seismic safety, fire protection and defensible space.

POLICY 3.1 Consider and assess vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters or emergencies when reviewing proposals for the siting and development of public/quasi-public facilities such as schools, water towers and power and communication transmitters.

STRATEGY 3.1.A: Incorporate hazards assessment into the project review process for all proposed new development.

STRATEGY 3.1.B: Conduct follow-up inspections to ensure that structures are built as designed and that all safety-related conditions of approval continue to be met.