

CHAPTER THREE

HAZARD MANAGEMENT

HAZARD MANAGEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Hazard Management Chapter, Chapter 3, includes the Noise, Airport and Safety Elements. The purpose of the Hazard Management Chapter and these three general plan elements is to minimize exposure of the public to hazards associated with high noise levels, earthquakes and related ground failures, fire, and hazards associated with aircraft operations. The goals, objectives, and policies contained in these three elements contain mitigation measures to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Mapping of data such as earthquake faults, noise contours for transportation related noise, and airport approach zones is included. The Noise Element and Safety Element are required general plan elements while the Airport Element is an optional general plan element. The City has chosen to include an Airport Element in order to address in detail the complex land use development issues associated with new development in the vicinity of the airport. The Imperial Airport is the only air carrier airport in Imperial County, and therefore generates a high number of annual aircraft operations, which have a corresponding noise impact on land areas within the City's planning area. Land use compatibility issues/problems are addressed in detail in the Noise and Airport Elements, and the Land Use Element is consistent with the Noise and Airport Elements. Lower density residential uses are planned for areas located within the approach corridor for runway 14. Land uses which are not noise sensitive, such as agricultural, industrial, and commercial uses, are planned for areas immediately adjacent to the airport in order to ensure minimal exposure of the public to high noise levels. Noise attenuation building techniques are required where noise sensitive residential uses are constructed within the airport planning area. This technique ensures that interior noise levels remain at or below 45 decibels, thereby protecting public health.

Earthquakes are a significant potential hazard in Imperial County and the Safety Element helps ensure that all possible precautions are taken to ensure new developments are not constructed dangerously close to identified earthquake faults. A map depicting the faults in the Imperial Valley area is included in the Safety Element. Developers will be required to provide a soils report prepared by a registered civil engineer which will contain mitigation measures for geologic hazards and will also contain an analysis of liquefaction potential for the specific development site.