

## Community Safety Element

**Current Conditions :** Community safety addresses three primary areas of concern: Noise, Seismic Safety, and General Safety. General Safety includes soil, geology, wildfire and flood control. In brief, noise exposure levels (from vehicular traffic, etc.) projected for Northwest El Dorado Hills Specific Plan will be acceptable. The danger of an earthquake and flooding originating within the area is very remote. Preliminary reports indicate that soils are stable, and flood control measures are not required. Wildfire hazard exists in those portions of the Plan Area that are not yet urbanized. The relatively steep topography and natural vegetation combine to create a hazardous wildfire potential. Urbanization of the area will reduce the amount of land left in natural brush and will provide improved access for fire suppression throughout the Plan Area.

According to maps prepared by the California Division of Mines and Geology, no active faults are located in the Plan Area. However, active faults can be found within five to ten miles to the north of the Plan Area and the inactive Bear Mountain Fault is located outside the Plan Area to the south. The danger of an earthquake occurring within the Northwest El Dorado Hills Specific Plan Area is slight to moderate because of the lack of faults. The area overall is classified in the Uniform Building Code as zone number 3 which is considered a moderate to high risk area depending upon fault activity.

**Policy A.** Identify potential noise sources, seismic hazards, unstable soil areas, and watershed areas and incorporate a means to minimize possible hazards in the Northwest El Dorado Hills Specific Plan.

### Implementation:

1. Noise buffering techniques, such as landscaping, berms and tastefully designed walls (as appropriate) will be utilized to attenuate sound for residences especially in areas where homes will be located next to an arterial street or a commercial site. Noise exposure levels will be within the acceptable range.
2. All structures in the Plan Area will be designed and constructed in accordance to Uniform Building Code Standards for seismic safety.
3. Areas of potential geologic hazard such as unstable slopes, slide areas or faults (no faults have been identified in the Plan Area) shall be reserved from development.
4. Grading and construction of roadways and building pads shall occur during periods of the year specified by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

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5. All soil areas disturbed by construction shall be stabilized according to the USDA Soil Conservation Service recommendations. Prior to grading operations the developer shall contact the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District for approval of an erosion control plan. Complete revegetation and stabilization of all disturbed areas, both within and outside of county rights-of-way, will be required. All road cuts and fills will have maximum slope of 2:1. If cuts expose subsurface rock, the project engineer should identify stabilization measures that will be required.

6. All structures in the Plan Area should be built in compliance with the Fire Safety Standards.

**Policy B.** Building permits for residential development within the Plan Area shall be reviewed by the County to insure use of efficient wood burning stoves or fire places, if proposed.