

# 1. TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

---

## 1.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINT OF CONTACT

### Primary Point of Contact

Suzanne Avila, Planning Director  
26379 Fremont Rd.  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
Telephone: 650-941-7222  
e-mail Address: savila@losaltoshills.ca.gov

### Alternate Point of Contact

Marsha Hovey, Consultant  
26379 Fremont Rd.  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
Telephone: 408-722-1210  
e-mail Address: marshahovey@mac.com

## 1.2 JURISDICTION PROFILE

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

- **Date of Incorporation**— January 27, 1956
- **Current Population**—8,658 as of January 1, 2016
- **Population Growth**— 1.95 percent since 2010, 0.7 percent 2015 to 2016
- **Location and Description**— The Town of Los Altos Hills is a residential community in the northwestern region of Santa Clara County, California. It is thirty-five miles south of San Francisco, five miles south of Stanford University, and seventeen miles north of downtown San Jose. The Town encompasses nine square miles, making it one of the smallest incorporated cities in Santa Clara County. It borders the City of Palo Alto and Palo Alto’s Pearson-Arastradero Preserve to the north and west, the City of Los Altos to the east and the Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District’s Rancho San Antonio to the south. There is an additional 5.2 square miles of unincorporated land adjacent to the Town’s southern boundary that is designated within the Town’s “sphere of influence.” In addition Foothill Community College is located within the Town boundaries new Highway 280 and Moody Road. There are several distinct features of Los Altos Hills. One is the Town’s dedication to the preservation of a “residential-agricultural” conditional lifestyle, which is shown through open lands, rolling hills, and a rural atmosphere. The Town’s Pathway System manifests this lifestyle, with 85 miles of trails and off-road paths that connect the community. Another significant feature of the Town is the absence of commercial and industrial zones. Permitted uses include schools, religious, and recreational facilities. The Town’s zoning requires a minimum lot size of one acre.

The topography of Los Altos Hills provides significant constraints to development, such as steep slopes, unstable soils, seismic faults, and other natural hazards. Three major faults traverse the Town of Los Altos Hills: (1) Berrocal Fault, which runs from west to east, (2) Altamont Fault, parallel to Berrocal Fault, and (3) Monte Vista Fault, running from northwest to southeast. The Town is also near the San Andreas Fault and all are categorized as potentially active.

- **Brief History**— Ohlone Indians were the first known residents of Los Altos Hills. They were part of a group of Native Americans who once inhabited small villages throughout the Santa Clara Valley. Both Los Altos and Los Altos Hills have been substantiated as sites of early Ohlone villages. In 1955, Indian remains and artifacts such as mortars and pestles were found on the Peck property east of Moody Road. In 1964, developers on O'Keefe Lane unearthed more human remains and artifacts. Still later, in 1970, an Ohlone village and burial ground of major significance came to light on the Costello property on O'Keefe Lane, prompting archaeological study by Foothill College and others. Additional mounds and village sites have since been excavated along Permanente and Matadero Creeks.

Two large Spanish-Mexican land grants comprise Los Altos Hills: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, 4,436 acres granted to Native Americans Jose Gorgonio and his son Jose Ramon in 1840 and sold to Juana Briones de Miranda in 1844 for the sum of \$300; and Rancho San Antonio, 4,438 acres granted to Juan Prado Mesa. Adobe Creek was the boundary line of the two ranchos. The Briones and Mesa families were friendly and became related when two of the Mesa men married two of the Briones women.

In 1855 Juana Briones sold 3,000 acres to Martin Murphy, founder of the City of Sunnyvale, who had previously leased her land for cattle grazing. Murphy gave 2,800 acres to his daughter, Elizabeth Yuba, when she married William Taaffe, a prosperous San Francisco merchant. They built a home on what is now the Foothill Community College campus and had four children: William, Martin, and twin daughters Mary and Mathilda. Some of the Taaffe descendants still reside in Los Altos Hills. The two large ranchos were eventually parceled and sold as smaller ranches for cattle grazing and vineyards, mostly of Zinfandel grapes. Many Italian and French vintners lived on Purissima Road until a blight destroyed the vineyards near the turn of the century. Soon after, orchards of apricots, plums and prunes flourished.

With its millions of fruit trees producing a beautiful, aromatic sea of blossoms, Santa Clara Valley became the "Valley of Heart's Delight" and so it remained well into the 1960s. Trains and tour buses brought countless travelers from near and far to glimpse this unique panorama.

Los Altos Hills was incorporated as a general law city on January 27, 1956 with the name "The Town of Los Altos Hills." Before then, residential development was constrained by numerous factors, including lack of a dependable water supply. Water from wells and creek beds was safe, but not always adequate. Headwaters for Hale, Adobe, Barron, Matadero, Purissima, and Deer Creeks are generated in local foothills characterized by heavily wooded banks and often-impenetrable areas of poison oak and chaparral. Homes and farms were usually on large acreage. The overall personality of the region was distinctly rural.

After World War II, the pressures of a growing population and increasing urbanization were felt throughout the San Francisco Peninsula. Many members of the unincorporated Los Altos Hills community viewed local commercialism as undesirable and felt threatened by possible annexation by neighboring cities. When adjacent Los Altos incorporated in 1952 with a one-quarter-acre minimum lot size, residents of the Hills knew they had to take action to defend and preserve the amenities of their rural life, such as one-acre lots and the right to keep horses on private property.

The compelling reasons for the incorporation of Los Altos Hills were printed on green paper and distributed to residents in the fall of 1955. As stated in this document (referred to as the "Green Sheets") one of the primary reasons the founders of the Town originally decided to incorporate in 1956 was to maintain the rural character of the community. This desire continues today.

In 2016 the Town celebrated its 60th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion the Town distributed a History Anthology. A time capsule was dedicated in 2016 and is to be opened on the Town's 75th anniversary in 2031.

Wealthy San Franciscans attracted to the area during this period built summer estates in Los Altos Hills. Among the many still standing are: The Shumate House on Viscaino, the Lohman and Griffin Houses on the Foothill College campus, the Morgan Manor (which for many years was operated as Ford Country Day School) on Stonebrook, and the Finn Mansion on Prospect. Both Morgan Manor and Griffin House are official Town Historical Landmarks.

- **Climate**—Los Altos Hills receives 37 inches of rain per year and 1 inch of snowfall. The average US city receives 37 inches and 25 inches, respectively. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 69. On average, there are 263 sunny days per year in Los Altos Hills, California. The July high is around 78 degrees. The January low is 39 degrees. The Best Places comfort index, which is based on humidity during the hot months, is rated as 53 out of 100, where higher is more comfortable. The US average on the comfort index is 44.
- **Governing Body Format**—Los Altos Hills was incorporated as a general law city on January 27, 1956 with the name “The Town of Los Altos Hills.” The Town of Los Altos Hills is governed by a five-member city council. The Town consists of six departments: City Manager, City Clerk, Building, Emergency Services, Engineering & Public Works, Finance & Administrative Services, Municipal Code, Planning and Parks & Recreation. The City Manager has administrative responsibility and authority to ensure that the laws and ordinances of the Town are duly enforced. He is responsible for managing and giving direction to all department heads except the City Attorney. The City Manager is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the City Council.

Major responsibilities of the City Manager are as follows:

- Represents the Town with other governmental agencies
- Recommends adoption of ordinances and resolutions to execute the City Council's policies
- Advises the City Council of the fiscal condition of the Town
- Prepares an annual budget and Capital Improvement Plan
- Exercises general supervision over all public buildings, parks, and other public properties under the control of the Town
- Appoints or removes employees of the Town.

The Town contracts police services with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. Fire services are provided by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District who hires the Santa Clara County Fire Department to perform fire department services. The Town has 16 committees and commissions that report to the City Council. The City Council assumes responsibility for adoption of this plan, the City Manager will oversee its implementation.

- **Development Trends**— The guiding principle of the Land Use Element, as with other parts of the General Plan, is to address long-term needs while preserving the semi-rural character of the community and the overall quality of life for residents of Los Altos Hills. While many changes have taken place in the intervening years, most of the pleasant country aspects of the Town remain as new housing is constructed to accommodate the needs and lifestyles of today's residents.

There are no commercial or industrial uses within the Town limits. As the Town has developed over the past 50 years, residents have continued to support the preservation of low-density residential development and the semi-rural character of the community through one-acre zoning, the right to keep horses on private property, and the protection of open space, creek corridors, wildlife habitat and heritage oak trees.

With limited land available for additional housing and only slight possibility of change on non-residential parcels, Los Altos Hills is almost fully developed. However, in addition to infill development on vacant lots, redevelopment is occurring as existing residences are torn down and replaced with new homes. The

current trend is to develop residences that maximize the square footage allowed under floor area and development area regulations established by the Town’s Zoning Ordinance.

### 1.3 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

#### 1.3.1 Resources for the 2017 Planning Initiative

The following technical reports, plans, and regulatory mechanisms were reviewed to provide information for inclusion into the 2017 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan for both Volume I and Volume II Los Altos Hills Annex. All of the below items were additionally reviewed as part of the full capability assessment for Los Altos Hills

- **Los Altos Hills General Plan**—The General Plan, including the Land Use and Safety Elements, were reviewed for information regarding goals and policies consistent with hazard mitigation for carry over as goals and objectives.
- **Los Altos Hills Municipal Code**—The Municipal Code was reviewed for the full capability assessment and for identifying opportunities for action plan integration.
- **Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**—The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was reviewed for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- **Capital Improvements Plan**—The Capital Improvements Plan was reviewed to identify cross-planning initiatives for inclusion as mitigation projects.
- **Los Altos Hills Local Hazard Mitigation Plan March 19, 2014**—The LHMP was used to develop the community profile portions of the plan and to compare strategies and information against current data.
- **Technical Reports and Information**—Outside resources and references used to complete the Los Altos Hills Annex are identified in 1.10 of this annex.

#### 1.3.2 Full Capability Assessment

An assessment of legal and regulatory capabilities is presented in Table 1-1. An assessment of fiscal capabilities is presented in Table 1-2. An assessment of administrative and technical capabilities is presented in Table 1-3. Information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance is presented in Table 1-4. An assessment of education and outreach capabilities is presented in Table 1-5. Classifications under various community mitigation programs are presented in Table 1-6. Development and permitting capabilities are presented in Table 1-7, and the community’s adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in Table 1-8.

**Table 1-1. Legal and Regulatory Capability**

	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
<b>Codes, Ordinances, &amp; Requirements</b>				
Building Code	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Comment: Muni Code Title 8 &amp; 2016 California Building Code</i>				
Zoning Code	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Comment: Muni Code Title 10 Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act Division 2, Chapter 7.5 2621 Public Resources Code</i>				
Subdivisions	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>Comment: Muni Code Title 9 &amp; Subdivision Map Act Govt Code 66410-66413.5</i>				
Stormwater Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<i>Comment: Muni Code Title 9, 10 California Regional Water Quality Control Board Order 01-119, State Waste Discharge Requirements, Clean Water Act</i>				

	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Post-Disaster Recovery <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	Yes
Real Estate Disclosure <i>Comment: State of California Dept of Real Estate Disclosures in Real Property Transactions Cal. Civ. Code §1102 et seq. 2005 Natural Hazards, Earthquake Guides</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No
Growth Management <i>Comment: Cal. Gov. Code §65300 et seq.</i>	No	No	Yes	No
Site Plan Review <i>Comment: Muni Code Title 10 – 1 &amp; 10-2</i>	Yes	No	No	No
Environmental Protection <i>Comment: Various sections of Municipal Code and General Plan, California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code 21000–21189 and the CEQA Guidelines California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000– 15387</i>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Flood Damage Prevention <i>Comment: Muni Code Title 7 Chapter 4, Department of Water Resources</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Emergency Management <i>Comment: Emergency Operations Plan 2009</i>	Yes	No	No	Yes
Climate Change <i>Comment: California SB-32 and SN-379</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes
Other: <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
<b>Planning Documents</b>				
General Plan <i>Is the plan compliant with Assembly Bill 2140? Yes</i> <i>Comment: Government Code 65300-65303.4; Town of Los Altos Hills General Plan Update 2007</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Capital Improvement Plan <i>How often is the plan updated? Annually</i> <i>Comment: 2016-2017 Operating &amp; Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Plan</i>	Yes	No	No	No
Floodplain or Watershed Plan <i>Comment: Santa Clara Valley Water District</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stormwater Plan <i>Comment: Los Altos Hills Sewer Management Plan 2016; Clean Water Act, County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Urban Water Management Plan <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
Habitat Conservation Plan <i>Comment: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan</i>	No	Yes	No	No
Economic Development Plan <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
Shoreline Management Plan <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
Community Wildfire Protection Plan <i>Comment: Town has not adopted Santa Clara County Draft Wildfire Protection Plan</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes

	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Forest Management Plan <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
Climate Action Plan <i>Comment: Los Altos Hills Draft Climate Action Plan</i>	Yes	No	No	Yes
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan <i>Comment: Santa Clara County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, 2008</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes
Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA) <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	Yes
Continuity of Operations Plan <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No
Public Health Plan <i>Comment: Santa Clara County</i>	No	Yes	No	No
Other: <i>Comment: None Identified</i>	No	No	No	No

**Table 1-2. Fiscal Capability**

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use?
Community Development Block Grants	No
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Yes - subject to voter approval
User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Service	Yes - sewer
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	Yes - subject to voter approval
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	Yes -subject to voter approval
Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	No
Withhold Public Expenditures in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
State-Sponsored Grant Programs	Yes
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	Yes
Other	No

**Table 1-3. Administrative and Technical Capability**

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available?	Department/Agency/Position
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Planning, Building, Public Works & Engineering / LAH
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Yes	Building Dept / LAH
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Planning, Building, Public Works & Engineering / LAH
Staff with training in benefit/cost analysis	Yes	Finance / LAH / Director
Surveyors	No	

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available?	Department/Agency/Position
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	Yes	Planning, Public Works & Engineering / LAH
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area	No	
Emergency manager	Yes	City Manager/Los Altos Hills/Emergency Manager
Grant writers	No	

**Table 1-4. National Flood Insurance Program Compliance**

Criteria	Response
What local department is responsible for floodplain management?	Public Works
Who is your floodplain administrator? (department/position)	Public Works / City Engineer
Are any certified floodplain managers on staff in your jurisdiction?	No
What is the date of adoption of your flood damage prevention ordinance?	November 17, 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does your floodplain management program meet or exceed minimum requirements?</li> <li>If exceeds, in what ways?</li> </ul>	May not meet minimum NFIP requirements
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit or Community Assistance Contact?	Unknown
Does your jurisdiction have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations that need to be addressed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If so, please state what they are.</li> </ul>	No
Do your flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within your jurisdiction? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no, please state why.</li> </ul>	Yes
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If so, what type of assistance/training is needed?</li> </ul>	No
Does your jurisdiction participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, is your jurisdiction interested in improving CRS Classification?</li> <li>Is your jurisdiction interested in joining the CRS program?</li> </ul>	No
How many Flood Insurance policies are in force in your jurisdiction? <i>Reference <a href="https://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/reports/1011.htm#CAT">https://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/reports/1011.htm#CAT</a></i>	82 <sup>a</sup>
What is the insurance in force?	\$24,837,300 <sup>a</sup>
What is the premium in force?	\$59,953 <sup>a</sup>
How many total loss claims have been filed in your jurisdiction? <i>Reference <a href="https://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/reports/1040.htm#06">https://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/reports/1040.htm#06</a></i>	13 <sup>a</sup>
How many claims were closed without payment/are still open?	8 CWOP/ 0 Open <sup>a</sup>
What were the total payments for losses?	\$31,535 <sup>a</sup>

a. According to FEMA statistics as of October 31, 2016

**Table 1-5. Education and Outreach**

Criteria	Response
Do you have a Public Information Officer or Communications Office?	Yes
Do you have personnel skilled or trained in website development?	No



Criteria	Response
Do you have hazard mitigation information available on your website?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	Webpage listing links to documents, websites and videos explaining preparedness for natural and man made hazards. Also provides documents explaining structural and no-structural hazard mitigation.
Do you utilize social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	Post information on Facebook, NextDoor, Twitter during emergencies and exercises
Do you have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation?	Yes - Environmental Design & Protection Committee, Environmental Initiatives Committee
Do you have any other programs already in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	CERT volunteers, Town website, Town newsletter, Nextdoor.com, community events
Do you have any established warning systems for hazard events?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please briefly describe.</li> </ul>	Reverse 9-1-1, local radio station, ham radio, Community Emergency Response Team

**Table 1-6. Community Classifications**

	Participating?	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System	No	N/A	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule	No	N/A	N/A
Public Protection (Alameda County Fire Department)	No	N/A	N/A
Storm Ready	No	N/A	N/A
Firewise	No	N/A	N/A

**Table 1-7. Development and Permit Capabilities**

Criteria	Response				
Has your jurisdiction annexed any land since the development of the previous hazard mitigation plan?	Yes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please include estimated land area annexed and estimated number of parcels or structures.</li> </ul>	Six properties on Mora Drive and Mora Glen Drive were annexed in September 2016.				
Is your jurisdiction expected to annex any areas during the performance period of this plan?	Yes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please describe land areas and dominant uses.</li> </ul>	The Town intends to pursue annexation of most of the remaining County islands that are within the Urban Service Area.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, who currently has permitting authority over these areas?</li> </ul>	County of Santa Clara				
Does your jurisdiction issue development permits?	Yes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no, who does? If yes, which department?</li> </ul>	Building Department				
How many building permits were issued in your jurisdiction since the development of the previous hazard mitigation plan in 2014?					
Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Single Family	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	634	634
Multi-Family	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	0	0



Criteria			Response		
Other (commercial, mixed use, etc.)	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	0	0
Does your jurisdiction have the ability to track permits by hazard area?			No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please provide the number of permits for each hazard area.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Flood Hazard Areas- unknown</li> <li>Landslide- unknown</li> <li>High Liquefaction Areas- unknown</li> <li>Tsunami Inundation Area - unknown</li> <li>Wildfire Risk Areas - unknown</li> </ul> <p>The Town is moving forward with the implementation of a new permit tracking software and once that is in place we will have the ability to track permits by these or similar categories.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no, please provide a qualitative description of where development has occurred in terms of hazard risk areas.</li> </ul>			<p>The Town has a geologic hazards map and requires geotechnical peer review for new residences. Until recently, many properties in Los Altos Hills were in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area and therefore subject to building code and landscape restrictions related to fire prevention. The City Council rescinded the WUI map on October 20, 2016. New residences and properties re-roofing a residence are still required to have class A roofing, and new residences and second units are required to have fire sprinkler systems.</p> <p>Development has occurred throughout the Town during the performance period for this plan. For those hazards with impacts town-wide, it is safe to assume that this new development could be subject to impacts from those hazards. However, it is important to note that all new development was subject to the regulatory capabilities identified in this annex.</p>		
Does your jurisdiction have a buildable lands inventory?			No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please describe.</li> </ul>			N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no, please quantitatively describe the level of build-out in the jurisdiction.</li> </ul>			The Town is close to being built out. Most new projects involve the demolition of an existing residence and construction of a new (replacement) residence. A few subdivisions are processed each year. In 2015 two two-lot subdivisions were approved. Pending subdivision applications include one for two lots and one for nine lots.		
Are any areas targeted for development or major redevelopment in the next five year?			No		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, please describe.</li> </ul>			N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, are any of these areas located in known hazard risk zones?</li> </ul>			N/A		

**Table 1-8. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change**

Adaptive Capacity Assessment	Jurisdiction Rating
<b>Technical Capacity</b>	
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> Climate Action Plan December 15, 2016	
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	Low

<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	High
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	Low
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks	Low
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
<b>Implementation Capacity</b>	
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	High
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> Adopted Climate Action Plan December 15, 2016	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	Low
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Champions for climate action in local government departments	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	Low
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
<b>Public Capacity</b>	
Local residents knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Local residents support of adaptation efforts	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	
Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Medium
<i>Comments/Additional Information:</i> None provided	

## 1.4 INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PLANNING INITIATIVES

The following describe the jurisdiction's process for integrating the hazard mitigation plan into local planning mechanisms.

### 1.4.1 Existing Integration

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

- **Los Altos Hills General Plan**—Mitigation Plan is an Annex to the General Plan.

## 1.4.2 Opportunities for Future Integration

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

- **Los Altos Hills General Plan**—Plan will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the updated LHMP.
- **Los Altos Hills Municipal Code**—Sections related to zoning and building codes will be reviewed to ensure alignment with LHMP.
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**—Santa Clara County Fire recently adopted the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan included City annexes, which identify specific measures to reduce impacts from wildfires.
- **Legal and Regulatory Capabilities**—Those capabilities identified as providing an integration opportunity in Table 1-1 will be reviewed and updated to include information on hazard risk reduction as feasible and appropriate.

## 1.5 JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC NATURAL HAZARD EVENT HISTORY

Table 1-9 lists all past occurrences of natural hazards within the jurisdiction.

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Winter Storm	-	Jan 7, 2017	\$7,000
Fire (Stanford Dish)	-	June 25, 2007	The flames prompted a voluntary evacuation of homes in the area, but no structures were damaged and no injuries to residents. The blaze, burned about 125 acres
Flood	-	Jan 1, 2006	Not available
Flood	1203	Feb 2, 1998	Not available
Flood	1155	Dec 28, 1996	Not available
Winter Storm	1046	Feb 13, 1995	Not available
Winter Storm	1044	Jan 3, 1995	Not available
Severe Freeze	894	Dec 19, 1990	Not available
Earthquake (Loma Prieta)	845	Oct 17, 1989	Significant damage in Los Altos Hills, resulting in the demolition of 7 homes and necessitating substantial repairs to more than 25 residential units.
Winter Storm	758	Feb 12, 1986	Not available
Wildfire (Liddicoat)	739	July 1, 1985	\$9,000,000 (2014 LHMP) A major fire set by an arsonist destroyed nine homes in Los Altos Hills and damaged 16 others. The fire spread rapidly, burning 200 acres. The fire forced the evacuation of 195 residents, as well as horses, sheep, and dogs. The American Red Cross established a shelter at Gunn High School in Palo Alto. Injuries were limited to smoke inhalation, heat exhaustion and minor burns.
Earthquake 6.2	-	March 24, 1984	Not available

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Storm/Flooding	677	Jan 21, 1983	In January 1983, both President Reagan and Governor Deukmejian declared Santa Clara County a disaster area caused by major rainfall. Major rainfall in March, 1983 caused flooding on Edith Road and West Fremont Road. A series of landslides closed Page Mill Road from Paseo del Roble to Three Forks Road. There were numerous slides on Viscaino Road from Concepcion to Purissima. The rain-swollen Adobe Creek caused erosion and landslides in the area of Foothill College.
Winter Storm	651	Dec 19, 1981	Not available
Earthquake 5.8	-	Jan. 27, 1980	Not available
Earthquake 5.9	-	Jan. 24, 1980	Not available
Earthquake 5.9	-	Aug. 6, 1979	Not available
Drought	3023	Jan 20, 1977	Not available
Earthquake 7.9	-	April 18, 1907	Not available

## 1.6 JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES

Repetitive loss records are as follows:

- Number of FEMA-identified Repetitive-Loss Properties: 0
- Number of FEMA-identified Severe-Repetitive-Loss Properties: 0
- Number of Repetitive-Loss Properties or Severe-Repetitive-Loss Properties that have been mitigated: 0

Other noted vulnerabilities include the following:

- Although only approximately 1 percent of structures in the Town are in the 1 percent annual chance floodplain, almost 92 percent of the Town’s structures are believed to be located in the 0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard area.

## 1.7 HAZARD RISK RANKING

Table 1-10 presents the ranking of the hazards of concern.

Rank	Hazard Type	Risk Rating Score (Probability x Impact)	Category
1	Earthquake	48	High
2	Severe Weather	33	Medium
3	Wildfire	18	Medium
3	Flood	18	Medium
4	Landslide	15	Medium
5	Drought	9	Low
6	Dam and Levee Failure	0	Low

## **1.8 STATUS OF PREVIOUS PLAN INITIATIVES**

The status of previous actions from the 2014 LHMP for Los Altos Hills can be found in Appendix A of this Volume.

## **1.9 HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN AND EVALUATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Table 1-11 lists the actions that make up the Town of Los Altos Hills hazard mitigation action plan. Table 1-12 identifies the priority for each action. Table 1-13 summarizes the mitigation actions by hazard of concern and the six mitigation types.

**Table 1-11. Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Matrix**

Applies to new or existing assets	Hazards Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead Department	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline
<b>LAH-1</b> —Create resources to assist neighbors in networking and having an emergency action plan.						
Existing	Earthquake, Flood, Wildfire	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9	OES*, CERT	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-2</b> —Continue tree trimming programs, brush clearance, and other defensible space outreach efforts as necessary to minimize the potential for road blockage. Maintenance of brush and vegetative growth for fire prevention is addressed in Section 4-2.115 and 4-2.116 of the LAH Municipal Code						
Existing	Wildfire, Flood, Severe Weather	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8	Public Works*, LAHCFD	Medium	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-3</b> —Develop and enhance public education and outreach materials for all hazards with emphasis on high risk ratings.						
Existing	All Hazards	1, 2, 4, 8, 9	OES	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-4</b> —Prepare a comprehensive evacuation plan focusing on potential wildland fire threats and identifying potential evacuation routes.						
Existing	Earthquake, Wildfire, Flood, Landslide	1-6, 8, 9	OES*, Sheriff, Fire	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-5</b> —Participate in County organized efforts to implement a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan.						
Existing	Wildfire	1-9	County OES*, LAH OES	Low	Staff Time, General Fund, HMPG	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-6</b> —Evaluate options and resources available to support home owners in completing seismic retrofits.						
Existing	Earthquake	1-6, 8	Planning	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-7</b> —Coordinate with the appropriate state and county agencies to develop a comprehensive list of bridges and overpasses within Los Altos Hills and who is responsible for their maintenance.						
Existing	Earthquake, Flood, Landslide	1, 2, 4, 5, 8	Public Works	Low	Staff Time, General Fund, HMGP	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-8</b> —Where appropriate, support retro-fitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas.						
Existing	Earthquake, Wildfire, Flood	1-6, 8	Planning	High	HMGP, PDM, FMA, Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-9</b> —Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans, ordinances and programs that dictate land use decisions within the community such as Municipal Code.						
New and Existing	All Hazards	1-4,8	Planning	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-10</b> —Develop and implement a program to capture perishable data after significant events (e.g. high water marks, preliminary damage estimates, damage photos, total losses, successes, lessons learned) to support future mitigation efforts including the implementation and maintenance of the hazard mitigation plan.						
Existing	All Hazards	1-4	OES	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
<b>LAH-11</b> —Support the Countywide initiatives identified in Volume 1 of the hazard mitigation plan						
Existing	All Hazards	1-9	Planning	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	On-going
<b>LAH-12</b> —Actively participate in the plan maintenance protocols outlined in Volume 1 of the hazard mitigation plan						
Existing	All Hazards	1-6	OES	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)

**LAH-13**—Continue to maintain good standing and compliance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This will be accomplished through the implementation of floodplain management programs that will, at a minimum, meet the requirements of the NFIP:

- Enforcement of the flood damage prevention ordinance.
- Participate in floodplain identification and mapping updates.
- Provide public assistance/information on floodplain requirements and impacts.

New and Existing	Flood	1-5	Planning	High	Staff Time, General Fund , HMGP	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
------------------	-------	-----	----------	------	---------------------------------	----------------------

**LAH-14**—Participate in the development of a countywide post-disaster recovery plan and a debris management plan

Existing	Earthquake, Flood, Landslide	2, 3, 5, 6, 8	OES, Finance, Public Works	High	Staff Time, General Fund, HMGP	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	------------------------------	---------------	----------------------------	------	--------------------------------	----------------------

**LAH-15**—Consider participation in programs such as Firewise, StormReady and the Community Rating System

Existing	Wildfire, Flood, Severe Weather	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	LAHCFD, Public Works, Planning	High	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	---------------------------------	------------------	--------------------------------	------	--------------------------	----------------------

**LAH-16**—Complete Matadero Creek Erosion Control Project

Existing	Flood	1-6	Public Works	Low	Staff Time, General Fund, HMGP, PDM, FMA, SCVWD Matching Grant	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	-------	-----	--------------	-----	--	----------------------

**LAH-17**—Complete Barron Creek restoration joint project with private property owner.

Existing	Flood	1-6	Public Works	Low	Staff Time, General Fund , HMGP, PDM, FMA, SCVWD Matching Grant	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	-------	-----	--------------	-----	---	----------------------

**LAH-18**—Complete open space vegetation restoration project.

Existing	Earthquake, Landslide	1-6	Public Works	Low	Staff Time, General Funds HMGP, PDM	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	-----------------------	-----	--------------	-----	-------------------------------------	----------------------

**LAH-19**—Continue offering Personal Emergency Preparedness and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to the community.

Existing	Earthquake, Wildfire, Flood	1, 2, 4, 8, 9	LAHCFD*, OES	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	-----------------------------	---------------	--------------	-----	--------------------------	----------------------

**LAH-20**— Create and maintain a pathways inventory for alternate evacuation routes.

Existing	Earthquake, Wildfire, Flood	2, 3, 4	Planning	Low	Staff Time, General Fund	1-5 yrs (Short-term)
----------	-----------------------------	---------	----------	-----	--------------------------	----------------------

\* — Indicates lead agency

**Table 1-12. Mitigation Strategy Priority Schedule**

Action #	# of Objectives Met	Benefits	Costs	Do Benefits Equal or Exceed Costs?	Is Project Grant-Eligible?	Can Project Be Funded Under Existing Programs/Budgets?	Implementation Priority <sup>a</sup>	Grant Pursuit Priority <sup>a</sup>
LAH-1	6	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-2	6	Medium	Medium	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-3	5	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-4	8	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low



LAH-5	9	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	Med
LAH-6	7	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-7	5	Medium	Low	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	Med
LAH-8	7	High	High	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High
LAH-9	5	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-10	4	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-11	9	Low	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-12	6	Medium	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-13	5	High	High	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	High
LAH-14	5	Medium	High	No	Yes	No	Medium	High
LAH-15	6	Medium	High	No	No	No	Low	Low
LAH-16	6	High	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High
LAH-17	6	High	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High
LAH-18	6	High	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High
LAH-19	5	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low
LAH-20	3	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	High	Low

a. See the introduction to this volume for explanation of priorities.

**Table 1-13. Analysis of Mitigation Actions**

Hazard Type	Action Addressing Hazard, by Mitigation Type <sup>a</sup>						
	1. Prevention	2. Property Protection	3. Public Education and Awareness	4. Natural Resource Protection	5. Emergency Services	6. Structural Projects	7. Climate Resilient
<b>Earthquake</b>	LAH-1, LAH-3, LAH-6, LAH-8, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-12,	LAH-6, LAH-7, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-19	LAH-1, LAH-3, LAH-4, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-19, LAH-20	LAH-14	LAH-4		
<b>Severe Weather</b>	LAH-2, LAH-3, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-15	LAH-10, LAH-19	LAH-3, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-15, LAH-19	LAH-14			
<b>Wildfire</b>	LAH-1, LAH-2, LAH-3, LAH-5, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-15	LAH-5, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-15, LAH-19	LAH-1, LAH-3, LAH-4, LAH-5, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-16, LAH-19, LAH-20	LAH-9, LAH-12, LAH-14, LAH-18	LAH-4		

Hazard Type	Action Addressing Hazard, by Mitigation Type <sup>a</sup>						
	1. Prevention	2. Property Protection	3. Public Education and Awareness	4. Natural Resource Protection	5. Emergency Services	6. Structural Projects	7. Climate Resilient
<b>Flood</b>	LAH-1, LAH-2,3, LAH-8, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-11, LAH-12, LAH-13, LAH-15	LAH-7, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-13, LAH-15, LAH-20	LAH-1, LAH-3, LAH-4, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-13, LAH-15, LAH-19, LAH-20	LAH-9, LAH-12, LAH-13, LAH-14, LAH-16, LAH-17, LAH-18	LAH-4		
<b>Landslide</b>	LAH-3, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-11, LAH-12	LAH-7, LAH-10	LAH-3, LAH-4, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-19, LAH-20	LAH-14, LAH-16, LAH-17, LAH-18	LAH-4		
<b>Drought</b>	LAH-3, LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-11, LAH-12	LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-19	LAH-3, LAH-10, LAH-12, LAH-19	LAH-9, LAH-12			
<b>Dam and Levee Failure</b>	LAH-9, LAH-10, LAH-11, LAH-12	LAH-9, LAH-10,	LAH-3	LAH-9,			

a. See the introduction to this volume for explanation of mitigation types.

## 1.10 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The hazard mitigation plan annex development tool-kit was used in the development of this annex to the Santa Clara Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan.