

# Introduction



June 25, 1990

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL PLAN**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Role and Purpose of the General Plan</b>	1
<b>Public Participation</b>	3
<b>Organization of the General Plan</b>	4
<b>Amendment of the General Plan</b>	5

## INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL PLAN

### LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>		<u>Page</u>
I-1	Vicinity Map	2

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL PLAN**

The City of Rolling Hills is a beautiful wooded area with deep canyons and hilly terrain located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (refer to Figure I-1). The community is characterized by one-story rambling ranch style homes, and functions in a regional context where commercial uses and services are provided by adjoining cities.

From its inception in 1936, Rolling Hills has been guided by deed restrictions established by the original developer. With the incorporation of the area in January 1957 as a general law City, the responsibility of governmental activity has been assumed by a city council-city manager system of local government. Through the Rolling Hills Community Association's Board of Directors and Architectural Committee, adherence to the community's original concept as a rural residential community has been maintained.

### **ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN**

---

The City of Rolling Hills first General Plan was adopted in 1973, with updates prepared to the Housing Element in 1981 and 1984. Changes in the residential character of the community, along with changes in State Planning Law, has rendered the need to undertake a comprehensive update to the City's General Plan.

The Rolling Hills General Plan is, in effect, the constitution of the City and will serve as a blueprint for the long-range physical planning of the City. The Plan contains community goals and policies designed to shape the long-term development of the city, as well as protect its environmental, social, cultural and economic resources.

California Government Code Section 65302 requires that a general plan contain seven elements: 1) Land Use, 2) Housing, 3) Circulation, 4) Open Space, 5) Conservation, 6) Safety, and 7) Noise. The Rolling Hills General Plan Update consists of an integrated and internally consistent set of goals and policies that address a number of different topic areas related to the future development of the community. These topics correspond to the

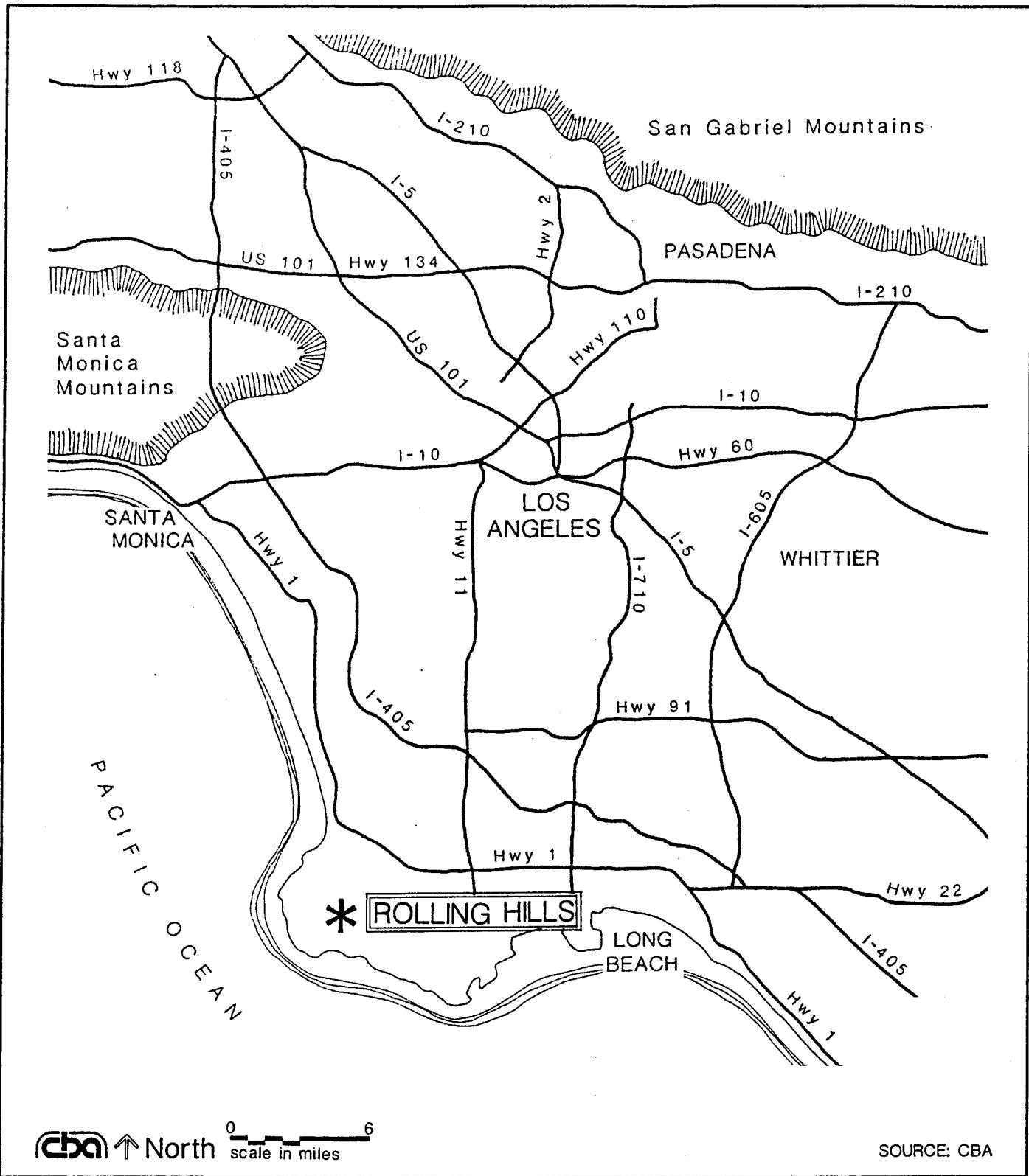


Figure I-1  
Vicinity Map

JUNE 25, 1990

seven mandated General Plan elements - Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Open Space, Conservation, Safety and Noise.

Although the focus of this Plan is on land use and the need to plan for future development, other issues also benefit from long-range planning. In the Rolling

Hills General Plan, the relationship of the other elements to the Land Use Element is constantly examined. This structure ensures compliance with State law regarding General Plan consistency. Moreover, it establishes a comprehensive document which can improve coordination of community development activities among all units of government.

This Plan is an internally consistent document which provides a comprehensive data base and set of projections for all of its parts. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Plan will require periodic review and possible amendment to ensure that its information is timely and relevant.

Planning case law has placed the General Plan atop the hierarchy of local government law regulating land use. Consequently, consistency between the General Plan and all other land use plans, policies and programs is necessary. Zoning ordinances, specific plans and individual project plans must be consistent with the goals, policies and standards contained in the General Plan. In addition, all capital improvements and public works projects must be consistent with the General Plan.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

---

The public plays an important role in both the preparation and implementation phases of the General Plan. Because the General Plan reflects community goals and objectives, citizens must be involved with issues identification and goals formulation. The City made every effort to insure that the public and various civic organizations were consulted during the plan preparation stage. Additional public involvement was also encouraged through the public hearing process.

The General Plan Advisory Committee was instrumental in identifying the issues to be addressed in the Plan, and in drafting the Plan's goals and policies. Members of the fifteen person

committee were chosen from a variety of interest groups within the City, including members of the City Council, Planning Commission, Traffic Commission, Architecture Committee, Landscape Committee, Wastewater Committee, Viewshed Committee, Wildlife Committee, Community Association, Tennis Club, Women's Club, and Caballeros (equestrian) Club, as well as residents selected at large. The diverse make-up of the Committee resulted in a cross section of knowledge and concern which surfaced from meetings with the group.

A City-wide Community Attitude Survey was conducted to solicit resident response to planning issues, constraints and opportunities to be addressed in the General Plan Update. The results of the questionnaire have been incorporated into the General Plan as appropriate, and will also be utilized for future planning purposes in the City.

Finally, the General Plan and its supporting documents underwent review at public hearings held before the City of Rolling Hills Planning Commission and City Council. At that time, the appointed and elected officials heard public testimony concerning the adequacy of the Draft General Plan.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN

---

The Rolling Hills General Plan consists of an introduction and six elements which together satisfy the content requirements of State Planning Law. To eliminate overlap in subject matter and policy, the Open Space and Conservation elements have been combined as permitted by state law (Government Code Section 65301). The General Plan elements and Land Use Policy Map clearly state the community's goals and policies for the long term development of the City.

Each element is comprised of several sections. The first section is an introduction to the purpose of the element, and its relationship to other General Plan elements. The second section provides background information necessary for issues identification and preparation of element policies. The third section presents a summary of element issue areas which will need to be addressed by policy. The fourth and final section contains the goals and policies designed to guide development decisions relative to the element topic. In addition, the Land Use Element contains a section which

)  
describes the Land Use Policy Map, and the Circulation Element contains a section describing the Circulation Plan.

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared coincident with the preparation of the Rolling Hills General Plan. This document discusses the change in the City's physical and environmental character which could occur under implementation of the Plan. More specifically, the EIR analyzes the impact of land use buildout under the Plan for each of the Plan's elements, and identifies mitigation measures to minimize these impacts. In accordance with CEQA, the environmental impacts of several land use alternatives to the Plan are evaluated. The General Plan EIR provides a mechanism by which development proposals in conformance with the Plan, and other specified criteria, may forego the preparation of a project specific EIR.

---

## AMENDMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN

---

)  
The State recognizes the dynamic nature of the General Plan and provides for periodic review of the document to insure that it is consistent with the conditions, values, expectations, and needs of the community. The State General Plan Guidelines state:

"The General Plan is a dynamic document because it is based on community values and an understanding of existing and projected conditions and needs, all of which continually change. Local governments should plan for change by establishing formal procedures for regularly monitoring, reviewing, and amending the General Plan."

The State (Government Code Section 65588) requires a Housing Element update to be conducted every five years and revisions to be made as necessary to reflect "new conditions, local attitudes, and political realities." It may also be appropriate for a comprehensive review of the entire General Plan to be made along with any subsequent revisions at a time which is concurrent with the Housing Element update. The format of the Rolling Hills General Plan is designed to facilitate the updating and amending of the General Plan by the City.

# Land Use Element



June 25, 1990

**LAND USE ELEMENT**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Purpose of the Element</b>	1
<b>Relationship to Other Elements</b>	2
<b>Existing Land Use</b>	3
<b>Residential</b>	5
<b>Public/Association-Owned Facilities</b>	7
<b>Education</b>	7
<b>Recreation</b>	8
<b>Vacant Land</b>	8
<b>Significant Land Use Issues</b>	9
<b>Overview of Land Use Plan</b>	10
<b>Residential Land Use</b>	10
<b>Civic Center</b>	10
<b>Publicly-Owned Open Space</b>	13
<b>Landslide Hazard Overlay</b>	13
<b>Implications of Land Use Policy</b>	13
<b>Goals and Policies</b>	15

## LAND USE ELEMENT

### LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
LU-1 Existing Land Use Inventory	6
LU-2 General Plan Land Use Categories	12
LU-3 Estimated General Plan Buildout	14

### LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
LU-1 Existing Land Use	4
LU-2 Land Use Policy Map	11

## LAND USE ELEMENT

### INTRODUCTION

---

The City of Rolling Hills enjoys the advantages of being located on the San Pedro Hills of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, including cool sea breezes and low concentrations of smog in the summer months, more sunshine due to its elevation above much of the coastal fog, and commanding views of the Pacific Ocean and Los Angeles Basin. Due to its coastal location, Rolling Hills has been able to avoid many of the air quality and traffic problems associated with growth in the Los Angeles area. However, geologic hazards have greatly affected properties within Rolling Hills and have forced the City to examine development policies within certain areas of the community.

This Land Use Element describes official City policy for the location of land uses and their orderly growth and development. It serves as a guide for public officials and citizens to determine the best uses of lands within the City. To the private citizen, the Land Use Element will set forth the type of neighborhood he or she can expect to live in, the location and type of public facilities available, and the time and distance required for travel to necessary activities. Public officials will use the Land Use Element as a guide for placement of public facilities and services, and for directing new development. The Element also serves as a basis for definition of short-range and long-range capital improvement programs.

#### Purpose of the Element

The intent of the Land Use Element is to describe present and projected land use activity within Rolling Hills. The Element also addresses crucial issues concerning the relationship between land uses and environmental quality, potential hazards, and social and economic objectives.

In accordance with the State of California General Plan Guidelines, the Land Use Element serves the following purposes:

- Identifies land use issues;

- Provides a statement of land use policies and proposals, distinguishing, when appropriate, between short, middle and long-term periods of fulfillment;
- Describes land use density and land use intensities provided for under the Plan, including the relationships of such uses to social, environmental and economic goals and objectives;
- Provides for standards and criteria for physical development within each use area with consideration for land capacity; and
- Describes and depicts land use patterns provided for under the Plan.

### **Relationship to Other Elements**

A major goal in this General Plan Update is to achieve internal consistency throughout the various General Plan elements. Since the Land Use Element regulates how land is utilized, it integrates and synthesizes most of the issues and policies contained in the other Plan elements.

Specifically, the Land Use Element relates to the Housing Element by defining the extent and density of future residential development in the City. The Land Use Element is also coordinated with the Open Space/ Conservation Element in that open space resources are designated on the Land Use Policy Map, and environmental factors are considered in the location of land use types. The Land Use Element also relates to the Safety and Noise Elements by integrating their broad land use recommendations into detailed policies which apply to specific geographic locations. Finally, the Circulation and Land Use Elements are interrelated in that specific land use decisions depend upon traffic routes and circulation patterns.

## EXISTING LAND USE

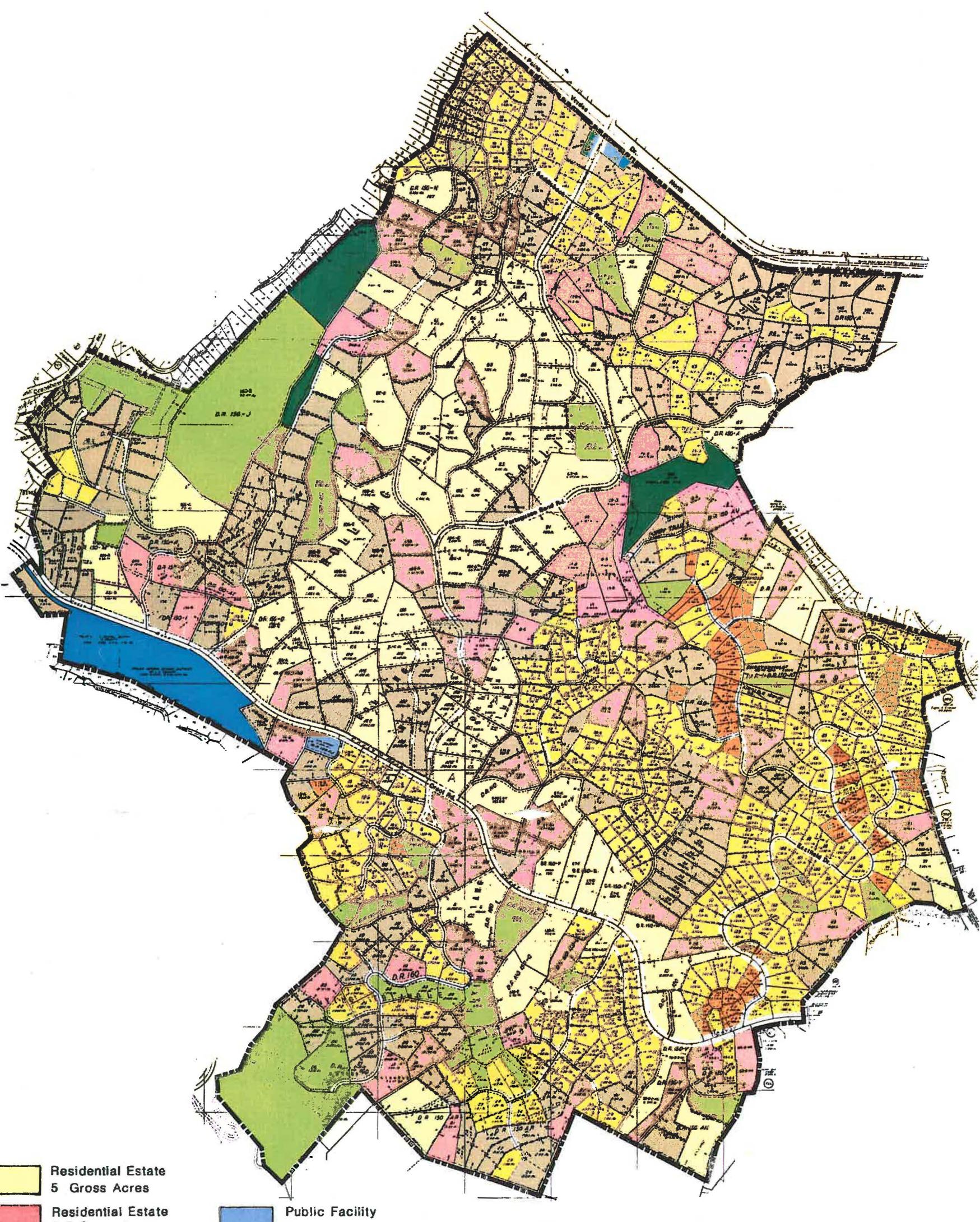
---

The City of Rolling Hills is an entirely residential community of large one+ acre parcels on 2.98 square miles of land. The land use pattern was established with the original subdivision and sale of parcels which began in 1936. Situated astride the San Pedro Hills of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rolling Hills is characterized by white, single-story California ranch style homes with three-rail fences and an abundance of equestrian facilities. Landscaping which was located as parcels developed has matured, rendering the Rolling Hills area a heavily wooded setting. Lot sizes range from a minimum of one acre to several acres in size. Many lots contain a buildable ridge and steep arroyos. The City's zoning allows for one and two acre lots with most lots exceeding these minimum requirements.

Rolling Hills was created by A.E. Hanson and the Palos Verdes Corporation in 1936 following a generally unsuccessful attempt to sell 10 to 50 acre parcels as "dude ranches" to residents of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. The concept was modified to offer one to five acre parcels to residents of closer-by communities attracted to the cleaner, cooler air, sunshine and absence of congestion. One of Rolling Hills' unique features is the set of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions which have assured the maintenance and uniformity of properties throughout the years. Buildings are limited to one story in height with three-rail fences surrounding the properties. Residences are strongly encouraged to be of a ranch style, and are required to be painted white. All properties provide easements which are primarily utilized for equestrian trails. The CC&Rs are enforced through the Rolling Hills Community Association. Through the association, fees are levied which are used for maintenance of the roads and recreational facilities.

Beginning in 1938, the 150-acre area known as the Flying Triangle was added to the development's original 600 acres. The Flying Triangle area has, in recent years, been subject to major landslides resulting in building moratoriums for parts of the area that are known to be at risk.

A comprehensive land use survey was undertaken by City staff and the consultant in September 1989 to identify the extent of existing land uses in the community. Figure LU-1 illustrates existing land uses in Rolling Hills; a 1:800 scale colored existing land use map is



SOURCE: City of Rolling Hills, October 1989.



Figure LU-1  
Existing Land Use

JUNE 25, 1990

also on file at City Hall. Table LU-1, Existing Land Use Inventory, quantifies the acreage dedicated to the various land uses present in Rolling Hills. The table is divided into five residential density categories and categories for Public Facility, Education, Recreation and Vacant Land. The following sections describe the nature of each of these land uses in Rolling Hills.

### **Residential**

Rolling Hills is comprised almost exclusively of ranch style residential homes. The City's zoning ordinance provides two residential districts. The first requires single-family homes on one acre minimum lots and the second allows single-family homes on two acre minimum lots. Large setback requirements and lot sizes, as well as topographic constraints on many lots provide significant amounts of open space on developed parcels that give the overall community a sense of openness. Many of the lots are large enough to support horses, and many have stables as accessory structures.

In recent years, the character of residential development in Rolling Hills has changed substantially. Many homes are now being constructed to maximize the building area on the lot. The increasing building size has also fostered a tendency for more grading to prepare many of the steeper properties for a structure. Increases in grading practices have had a significant effect on the natural environment and viewscapes. These combined trends have significantly altered the community's character and affect surrounding properties. The results of the Community Attitude Survey indicate a high level of concern among residents related to residential development and design compatibility issues. The City has recently adopted a site plan review ordinance. This type of legislation is new to the City and the General Plan encourages such legislation to preserve and enhance the community's character.

In addition to the changes in community character, increased building size and related grading may have contributed to the instability of soil in the area of the City known as the Flying Triangle. Combined with several winters of heavy rainfall, increases in water discharged from septic systems and increased grading are believed to have contributed to soil destabilization. Except for repairs to existing structures, the City has not permitted any development in this area since 1980 pursuant to provisions of the Building Code which do not permit construction in geologically unstable areas. In order to define the range of existing residential

**TABLE LU-1**  
**CITY OF ROLLING HILLS**  
**EXISTING LAND USE INVENTORY**  
**January 1989**

Land Use	Acreage	DUs
<b>SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL</b>		
0-1 acre	49.6	
1-2 acres	436.4	
2-3 acres	430.5	
3-5 acres	317.3	
5+ acres	403.0	
Total Residential	1,636.8	683
<b>PUBLIC/ASSOCIATION-OWNED FACILITIES</b>	5.5	
<b>EDUCATION</b>	30.3	
<b>RECREATION</b>	33.3	
<b>VACANT LAND</b>	203.1	
Total Non-Residential	272.2	
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	1,908.9 (2.98 sq.miles)	

Source: City of Rolling Hills  
 compiled by Cotton/Beland/Associates, Inc.

land use, five density ranges were arrived upon. The five categories include parcels of 0-1 acres, 1-2 acres, 2-3 acres, 3-5 acres and 5+ acres. As illustrated in Table LU-1, approximately three percent of the City's developed residential acreage consists of parcels less than one acre in size, 20 percent consists of parcels between 3-5 acres, with 1-2 acre parcels, 2-3 acre parcels, and 5+ acre parcels each comprising 25 percent of the City's developed acreage. A total of 683 single-family dwelling units have been developed in Rolling Hills on 1,636.8 acres of land.

### **Public/Association-Owned Facilities**

Public facilities owned by the City of Rolling Hills and private facilities owned by the Rolling Hills Community Association provide for the needs of the community. The City owns the Rolling Hills Administrative Building which houses the offices of the City of Rolling Hills and the Rolling Hills Community Association. The City also owns a maintenance building, three tennis courts and two equestrian riding rings.

The Community Association owns roadway easements and the guard gates. The Palos Verdes Water Company owns two water tanks and several antenna towers adjacent to and accessed through Rolling Hills. A major radar installation site is contiguous to the City's eastern boundary that is operated by the Federal Aeronautic Administration. Finally, the Los Angeles County Fire Protection District owns and operates a Fire Station within the City. Table LU-1 shows facilities owned by the City, other public entities, and the Community Association. These facilities comprise a total of 5.5 acres within the community.

### **Education**

The Palos Verdes Peninsula School District owns a site of 30.3 acres which is located south of Crest Road along the City's western boundary. The site is home to the Rancho Del Mar Continuation High School which serves the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. The high school serves the communities of Rolling Hills, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills Estates. The continuation high school program provides students an opportunity to complete required academic courses of instruction and a program which offers an occupational orientation. Enrollment in the Rancho Del Mar Continuation High School has a capacity of 125 students. Due to the unique nature of the school, enrollment

)  
varies substantially and quickly as students can graduate at any time. The site is also used for the storage and maintenance of school district vehicles and equipment. Access to the school district property is via Crest Road outside the City.

### **Recreation**

The City contains 33.3 acres of recreational open space. Opposite the City administration building are three City-owned tennis courts which are operated and maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association. The courts are open to Association members and their guests and are operated from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Also contained within the City are two riding rings and a series of trails. The trails are an extensive network laced throughout the City affording hikers and equestrians alike varied opportunities within the community's boundaries. Also available for recreational use within Rolling Hills is an 8.01 acre parcel on the north end of Storm Hill which was dedicated through provisions of the Quimby Act. The property is open to City residents for use as an open equestrian area.

### **Vacant Land**

Of the numerous vacant properties in Rolling Hills, many are constrained from future developments. The area within the Flying Triangle which is subject to landslides is under a moratorium and will not likely be buildable into the foreseeable future due to building code requirements which do not permit construction in geologically unstable areas. Other properties exist which are constrained due to excessive slopes on the property. It is estimated that there are 203.1 acres of vacant, residentially zoned land within the City. Of that total, 172.75 acres are unconstrained (either located outside the Flying Triangle and/or not constrained by slope) and, subject to site plan review requirements, may accommodate a maximum of 59 additional residential units.

## SIGNIFICANT LAND USE ISSUES

---

The following list is a summary of issues and opportunities relating to land use that have been identified in Rolling Hills from the Community Attitude Survey and through discussions with the General Plan Advisory Committee. These issues are addressed in the Goals and Policies of this Land Use Element.

- The landslide area within the Flying Triangle has rendered a large amount of land within the City's southwest area unsuitable for residential development, and is subject to ongoing changes in topography.
- Due to the constraints of the landslide area within the Flying Triangle, a large amount of open space remains open to alternative uses such as recreation or study of such geologic hazards.
- The City's topography renders large parts of many parcels constrained, thus leaving smaller areas available for development. Recent residential construction has maximized lot coverage through extensive grading.
- Grading of individual lots have significantly altered the topography and drainage patterns on many lots thus eliminating certain viewscapes and diminishing of the natural character of the City.
- New residential development within the community has changed significantly in character from the original residential developments, thus generating an increasing degree of incompatibility between adjacent uses.
- The increasing size and bulk of recent residential developments within Rolling Hills and the surrounding area have substantially reduced the natural, rural environment which has characterized Rolling Hills in the past.
- The use of private septic systems within the City may have contributed to soil instability. While lot size does not mandate a conversion to a common sewage system, the City may facilitate such a conversion.

## OVERVIEW OF LAND USE PLAN

---

The Rolling Hills Land Use Policy Map is presented in Figure LU-2. The Map provides a graphic representation of the General Plan's development policies and indicates land uses as they are designated and for which policies and standards have been formulated. The major goal of Rolling Hills' General Plan Update is to maintain and foster the community's rural and residential environment while ensuring that new development is in conformance with established community standards.

The land use classifications designated by the General Plan provide for the development of the community's limited vacant properties in a manner that is consistent with established and approved development patterns. The land use classifications established by this General Plan Update reflect a system that is different but generally consistent with the previous land use classifications. The dominance of a low density single family land use pattern clearly continues to be the policy of the City of Rolling Hills. Table LU-2 presents the list of updated General Plan land use categories, their general development standards and characteristics. The following discussion will elaborate on the location and intent of the General Plan land uses.

### **Residential Land Uses**

The Plan continues the City's two existing single-family residential land use categories - Low Density and Very Low Density. The former mandates one net acre minimum lot sizes per dwelling unit and the latter mandates two net acre minimum lot sizes per dwelling unit. Through these two classifications, the City will be able to ensure that the remaining undeveloped properties throughout Rolling Hills will be developed at densities that are compatible with existing residential development.

### **Civic Center**

The Civic Center designation has been added to the Land Use Policy Map to specify the 1.3 acre area that is currently used by the City for its administrative offices. The Civic Center land use category has been created to accurately reflect uses that exist within the City, and to provide consistency between the General Plan Land Use Policy Map and the Zoning Map.

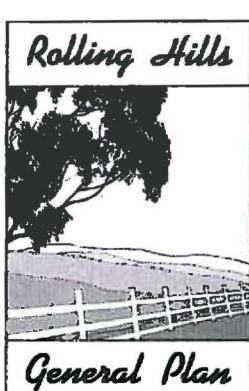
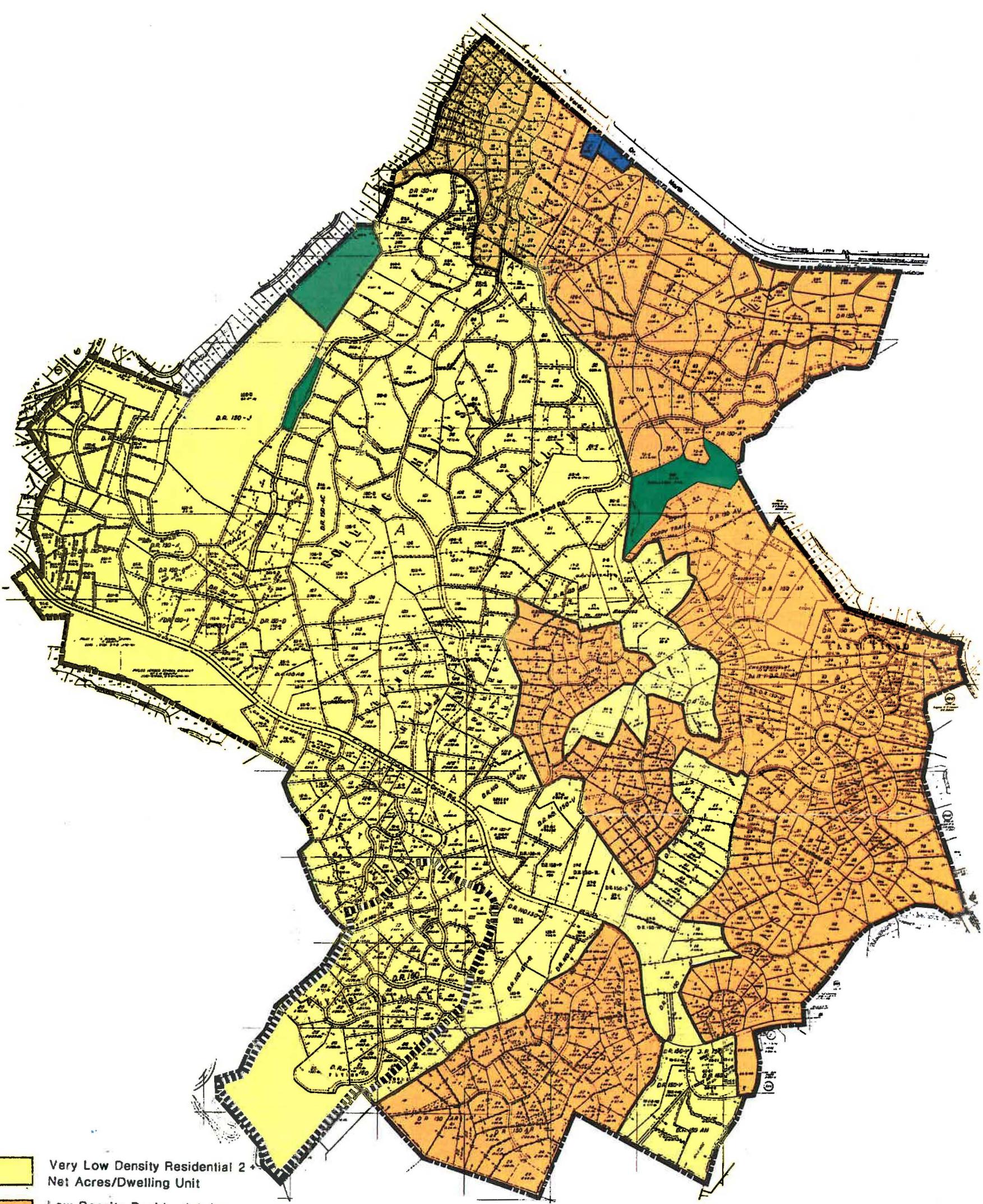


Figure LU-2  
Land Use Policy Map

JUNE 25, 1990

**TABLE LU-2**  
**CITY OF ROLLING HILLS**  
**GENERAL PLAN LAND USE CATEGORIES**

Designation	Development Standards	Development Characteristics
<b>Residential</b>		
Very Low Density	2+ net acres/dwelling unit, single story	Single-family homes on large lots, usually custom designed. Parcels often contain varied topography and canyon areas.
Low Density	1-2 net acres/dwelling unit, single story	Single-family homes on large lots, often custom designed.
<b>Public</b>		
Civic Center	Single story	City Hall and associated facilities.
Publicly-Owned Open Space	Development prohibited	Equestrian riding rings and undeveloped open space areas owned by the City.
<b>Landslide Hazard Overlay</b>	Development prohibited unless landslide hazard is mitigated	Active landslide areas requiring mitigation of geologic hazards prior to development.

## **Publicly-Owned Open Space**

While the majority of recreational open space within the community is maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association, a limited amount of open space is also owned by the City. Areas of publicly-owned open space lie at the northern end of Storm Hill where a parcel of eight acres was dedicated to the City through the provisions of the Quimby Act. Also included as publicly owned open space are the two equestrian riding rings owned by the City. The purpose of separating out publicly-owned open space is to identify lands that are owned and maintained by the City and will remain as open space. In addition, this land use category could also be utilized in the future for any additional open space land purchased by the City.

## **Landslide Hazard Overlay**

A Landslide Hazard Overlay classification has been created to address the landslide hazards present in Rolling Hills. Landslide hazards have occurred most notably in the Flying Triangle area beginning in 1980. The reasons for the onset of landslide activity are multiple and are addressed in detail in the Safety Element.

The Landslide Hazard Overlay classification has been developed to further establish the City's continuing policy which prohibits development in areas which are known to be subject to active landslides, specifically the Flying Triangle. Establishing this policy in the General Plan provides the framework for the inclusion of specific criteria in the Zoning Ordinance. Residential development will be permitted pursuant to the underlying zoning, only where evidence can be provided that establishes such development as posing no hazard to the property or adjacent properties. This evidence will be formed on a case by case basis upon review of geologic and soils information and hydrologic and topographic analyses. The Rolling Hills Zoning Ordinance, upon revision, will specify development constraints in overlay areas.

## **Implications of Land Use Policy**

The Land Use Element provides for the continued residential emphasis of the Rolling Hills community. The General Plan ensures that this growth will take place in a way that promotes compatibility with adjacent properties, preserves the existing rural residential character, and is environmentally sensitive. The amount

of additional growth that can be accommodated under this General Plan is presented as Table LU-3. As this table illustrates, the Plan only provides for the expansion of residential uses.

**TABLE LU-3  
CITY OF ROLLING HILLS  
ESTIMATED GENERAL PLAN BUILDOUT  
NET INCREASE IN DEVELOPMENT**

Residential	Acres	Dwelling Units	Population
Very Low Density	148.50	49	156.8
Low Density	24.25	10	32.0
Totals	172.75	59	188.8

Based on an average household size of 3.2 persons.

Source: City of Rolling Hills  
Cotton/Beland/Associates, Inc.

The Plan accommodates a maximum net increase of 59 single-family dwelling units, representing an approximate nine percent increase over the City's existing (1989) 683 dwelling units. The majority of this growth would occur on the properties under the Very Low Density classification, residential development on 2+ acre parcels accounting for 83 percent of the City's additional growth. Growth in the residential areas will occur under different circumstances. Some property will be subdivided from vacant property. This will account for 28 additional units in the Very Low Density classification. An additional 12 units in the Very Low Density classification will be allowed on subdividable property which already contains at least one dwelling unit. The remaining new development will take place on individual lots which are currently vacant. This will account for 10 additional units in the Low Density classification and nine units in the Very Low Density classification.

The population of Rolling Hills as of January 1, 1989 was 2,092. Over the City's 2.98 square miles the population density is 702 persons per square mile. Based on Department of Finance estimates of an average 3.2 persons per household in Rolling Hills, an additional 189 persons could reside in the City under General Plan buildout. This would result in an ultimate population density of 765 persons per square mile.

## **GOALS AND POLICIES**

---

The goals and policies contained in the 1973 General Plan were reviewed with the General Plan Advisory Committee as part of the General Plan update process. The following goals and policies contain revisions and additions to those previous goals and policies. These goals and policies reflect current land use issues affecting the community of Rolling Hills and will serve as a guide to future policy decisions made for the City.

**GOAL 1: Maintain Rolling Hills' distinctive rural residential character.**

**Policy 1.1:** Maintain the City's one and two acre minimum lot size requirements.

**Policy 1.2:** Maintain the City's one story height limitation to preserve scenic viewsheds.

**Policy 1.3:** Require the use of landscaping which is compatible with the City's rural character.

**Policy 1.4:** Require that development conform with the City's existing low-profile, ranch style architecture.

**Policy 1.5:** Preserve a natural twilight environment at night by prohibiting street lighting and uplighting of landscaping and minimizing driveway lighting.

**Policy 1.6:** Evaluate the City's existing requirement for minimum stable size to assess its appropriateness and effectiveness.

**GOAL 2: Accommodate development which is compatible with and complements existing land uses.**

**Policy 2.1:** Evaluate the City's lot coverage standards to assess their effectiveness in providing for development which is compatible with adjacent uses.

**Policy 2.2:** Require that lighting of residential properties not adversely affect adjacent residences.

**Policy 2.3:** Maintain and provide regulations for sufficient setbacks and easements to provide buffers between residential uses.

**Policy 2.4:** Ensure the siting of buildings maintain and preserve viewscapes from adjacent structures through the site review process.

**GOAL 3: Accommodate development that is sensitive to the natural environment and accounts for environmental hazards.**

**Policy 3.1:** Establish a Landslide Overlay classification to reflect the more stringent development standards the City has applied to development in active landslide areas.

**Policy 3.2:** Maintain strict grading practices to preserve the community's natural terrain.

**Policy 3.3:** Require the use of native, naturally fire resistant landscape materials in development.

**Policy 3.4:** Maintain the City's open space requirement to preserve natural vegetation and wildlife habitat.

**Policy 3.5:** Facilitate the preservation and restoration of viewscapes through the removal of obstructions.



**Rolling Hills General Plan  
2021-2029 Housing Element**

Adopted September 26, 2022

---



Initial Release: December 3, 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Submittal to HCD: January 11, 2022

Second Release: May 9, 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> Submittal to HCD: May 22, 2022

Third Release: September 15, 2022  
Adoption: September 26, 2022  
3<sup>rd</sup> Submittal to HCD: September 27, 2022

# ROLLING HILLS HOUSING ELEMENT 2021-2029



CITY OF ROLLING HILLS

CONTACT:  
City of Rolling Hills  
2 Portuguese Bend Road  
Rolling Hills, CA 90274  
Contact: John Signo, AICP  
[jsigno@cityofrh.net](mailto:jsigno@cityofrh.net)

Published December 3, 2021  
Revised May 9, 2022  
Revised September 15, 2022

ADOPTED September 26, 2022

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

---

### **Rolling Hills City Council**

*James Black, M.D., Mayor  
Bea Dieringer, Councilmember  
Leah Mirsch, Councilmember  
Jeff Pieper, Councilmember  
Patrick Wilson, Councilmember*

### **Rolling Hills Planning Commission**

*Brad Chelf, Chair  
Greg Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair  
Sean Cardenas, Commissioner  
Jana Cooley, Commissioner  
Abby Douglass, Commissioner*

### **City Staff**

*Elaine Jeng, P.E., City Manager  
John Signo, Planning and Community Services Director  
Michael Jenkins, City Attorney*

### **Consultants**

*Barry Miller, Barry Miller Consulting*

## FOREWORD

*This document has been prepared to comply with the requirements of California Government Code Sections 65580-65589, which mandate that all California cities and counties adopt a Housing Element to address local and regional housing needs. The Housing Element is part of the Rolling Hills General Plan and covers the time period 2021-2029. State law requires that the Housing Element is updated every eight years and submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for certification.*

*Certification of the Housing Element is based on a determination that the City has complied with a variety of State laws addressing regional issues such as affordability, fair housing, density, housing type, overcrowding, and homelessness. These laws apply universally to all cities, including those with limited services and land capacity.*

*As a community within the Greater Los Angeles region, the City of Rolling Hills is obligated to provide for its “fair share” of regional housing needs as determined by the Southern California Association of Governments. Cities without certified Housing Elements are subject to legal and financial penalties, the loss of eligibility for grants which help fund City operations, and even the potential loss of local control over building and land use decisions. For these reasons, it is in the City’s best interest to strive for a compliant element.*

*In adopting this Element, the City has endeavored to balance State mandates with the overarching goal of preserving the semi-rural, equestrian character of Rolling Hills. The Housing Element responds to local as well as regional needs, including the need to preserve the community’s environment, minimize further exposure to wildfire and landslide hazards, and recognize infrastructure and public facility constraints.*

**Rolling Hills Housing Element  
2021-2029**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>FOREWORD .....</b>	i
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	ii
<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Purpose .....	1-1
1.2 Community Overview .....	1-2
1.3 Legislative Requirements.....	1-3
1.4 Relationship to Other General Plan Elements.....	1-5
1.5 Relationship to Private Land Use Restrictions .....	1-6
1.6 Public Participation and Project Timeline.....	1-6
1.7 Data Sources .....	1-9
<b>2. EVALUATION OF PRIOR HOUSING ELEMENT.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Purpose .....	2-1
2.2 2014-2021 RHNA and Actual Housing Production .....	2-1
2.3 Review of Prior Housing Element Goals and Policies.....	2-2
2.4 Implementation Status of Prior Housing Element Programs .....	2-5
<b>3. HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	3-1
3.2 Population Characteristics.....	3-2
3.3 Household Characteristics .....	3-9
3.4 Populations with Special Needs.....	3-17
3.5 Housing Stock Characteristics.....	3-26
3.6 Future Housing Needs .....	3-33

Section	Page
<b>4. HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	4-1
4.2 Approved or Pending Development.....	4-1
4.3 Vacant Sites.....	4-2
4.4 Lot Splits .....	4-6
4.5 Non-Vacant Sites .....	4-6
4.6 Accessory Dwellings .....	4-12
4.7 Summary of Ability to Meet RHNA .....	4-15
4.8 Opportunities for Energy Conservation .....	4-16
4.9 Financial Resources .....	4-18
<b>5 CONSTRAINTS TO HOUSING PRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	5-1
5.2 Governmental Constraints.....	5-1
5.3 Non-Governmental Constraints .....	5-23
<b>6 HOUSING GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND PROGRAMS.....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
6.1 Goals and Policies .....	6-1
6.2 Housing Implementation Plan, 2021-2029 .....	6-4
6.3 Summary of 2021-2029 Quantified Objectives .....	6-23
 <b>APPENDIX A:</b>	
Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Analysis.....	A-1
Overview.....	A-1
Duty of All Agencies to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing .....	A-3
Integration and Segregation .....	A-5
Access to Opportunity .....	A-22
Disproportionate Housing Needs .....	A-29
Other Relevant Factors.....	A-41
Local Data and Knowledge .....	A-42
Distribution of Proposed Housing Sites .....	A-43
Identification and Prioritization of Contributing Factors.....	A-44
Summary of Fair Housing Issues and Additional Fair Housing Concerns.....	A-48
 <b>APPENDIX B:</b>	
Analysis of Palos Verdes Unified School District (PVUSD) Site .....	B-1
 <b>APPENDIX C:</b>	
Accessory Dwelling Unit Survey Findings .....	C-1

	<b>Page</b>
1.1 Vicinity Map .....	1-2
4.1 Vacant Residentially Zoned Sites.....	4-5
4.2 Non-Vacant Sites Evaluated .....	4-8
5.1 Slope Setbacks on PVUSD Site .....	5-9
5.2 Landslide Hazard Areas in Rolling Hills.....	5-32
5.3 Earthquake Faults in the Rolling Hills Vicinity.....	5-33
5.4 CalFIRE Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.....	5-34
A-1 AFFH Percentage of Residents who are Non-White .....	A-8
A-2 AFFH Diversity Index .....	A-9
A-3 AFFH Percentage of Residents with a Disability .....	A-10
A-4 Familial Status.....	A-15
A-5 Low Moderate Income (LMI) Areas .....	A-16
A-6 Median Income by Census Tract Block Group .....	A-17
A-7 Regional Income by Census Tract in Greater Los Angeles .....	A-18
A-8 Racially and Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP).....	A-19
A-9 Environmental Outcomes .....	A-25
A-10 Economic Outcomes.....	A-26
A-11 Education Outcomes.....	A-27
A-12 Composite Opportunity Map.....	A-28
A-13 Cost-Burdened Homeowners .....	A-34
A-14 Cost-Burdened Renters.....	A-35
A-15 Incidence of Overcrowding.....	A-36
A-16 Percent of Households with One or More Severe Housing Problems .....	A-37
A-17 Sensitive Communities .....	A-38
A-18 Density of Homeless Population in 2020 in Los Angeles County.....	A-40

## **Charts**

3.1 Age Distribution of Rolling Hills Residents, 2000 and 2020.....	3-4
3.2 Racial Distribution of Rolling Hills Residents, 2000 and 2020 .....	3-4
3.3 Household Type in Rolling Hills and Los Angeles County, 2021 .....	3-10
3.4 Household Size in Rolling Hills and Other Jurisdictions, 2010 and 2021 .....	3-11
3.5 Total Number of Housing Units in Rolling Hills, 1990-2020.....	3-26
3.6 Year of Construction for Rolling Hills Homes .....	3-27
3.7 Percent of Housing Units by Number of Bedrooms, Rolling Hills and LA County	3-29
3.8 Home Prices in Rolling Hills, Peninsula Cities, and LA County.....	3-31
A-1 Summary of AB 686 Requirements .....	A-2

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
2.1 Implementation Status of 2014-2021 Housing Element Programs .....	2-5
3.1 Rolling Hills Population, 1970-2021 .....	3-2
3.2 Comparison of Rolling Hills Growth with Nearby Cities and Region .....	3-3
3.3 Race and Ethnicity in Rolling Hills, Peninsula Cities, LA County, and State .....	3-5
3.4 Rolling Hills Employed Residents by Occupation .....	3-8
3.5 Rolling Hills Employed Residents by Industry.....	3-8
3.6 Income Limits for Los Angeles County, 2021.....	3-13
3.7 Affordable Monthly Housing Costs Based on 2021 Income Limits .....	3-13
3.8 Rolling Hills Households by HUD Income Category .....	3-14
3.9 Household Income in Rolling Hills, Peninsula Cities, and LA County .....	3-15
3.10 Percent of Income Spent on Housing in Rolling Hills and LA County.....	3-16
3.11 Overpayment among Lower Income Households in Rolling Hills.....	3-17
3.12 Older Adults in Rolling Hills and Nearby Jurisdictions .....	3-18
3.13 Percent of Rolling Hills Residents with a Disability .....	3-20
3.14 Number of Persons in Family and Non-Family Household.....	3-23
3.15 Homes for Sale in Rolling Hills, July 2021.....	3-32
3.16 RHNA by City and Comparison to Fifth Cycle .....	3-33
3.17 Comparison of 6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA by Income Category.....	3-34
4.1 Committed Development for the 2021-2029 RHNA Period.....	4-1
4.2 Vacant Residentially Zoned Sites .....	4-3
4.3 Summary of Housing Opportunities, 2021-2029 .....	4-15
5.1 Summary of Rolling Hills Zoning Standards .....	5-4
5.2 City of Rolling Hills Major Development Fees.....	5-19
6.1 Quantified Objectives by Income Group for Rolling Hills, 2021-2029.....	6-23
6.2 Housing Element Action Plan Summary.....	6-24
A-1 Population Share by Race and Ethnicity, Rolling Hills and LA County .....	A-5
A-2 Percentage of Residents with a Disability, Rolling Hills and LA County .....	A-7
A-3 Population by Familial Status, Rolling Hills and LA County .....	A-11
A-4 Household Share by Income, Rolling Hills and LA County.....	A-13
A-5 Housing Units by Type, Rolling Hills and LA County .....	A-20
A-6 Housing Tenure in Rolling Hills and LA County .....	A-29
A-7 Percentage of Cost-Burdened Households, Rolling Hills and LA County .....	A-31
A-8 Overcrowded Households, Rolling Hills and LA County.....	A-32
A-9 Rolling Hills Home Ownership Rates by Race and Ethnicity .....	A-41
A-10 Fair Housing Priorities, Issues, Contributing Factors and Strategies .....	A-47



# **1.0 Introduction**

## **1.1 Purpose**

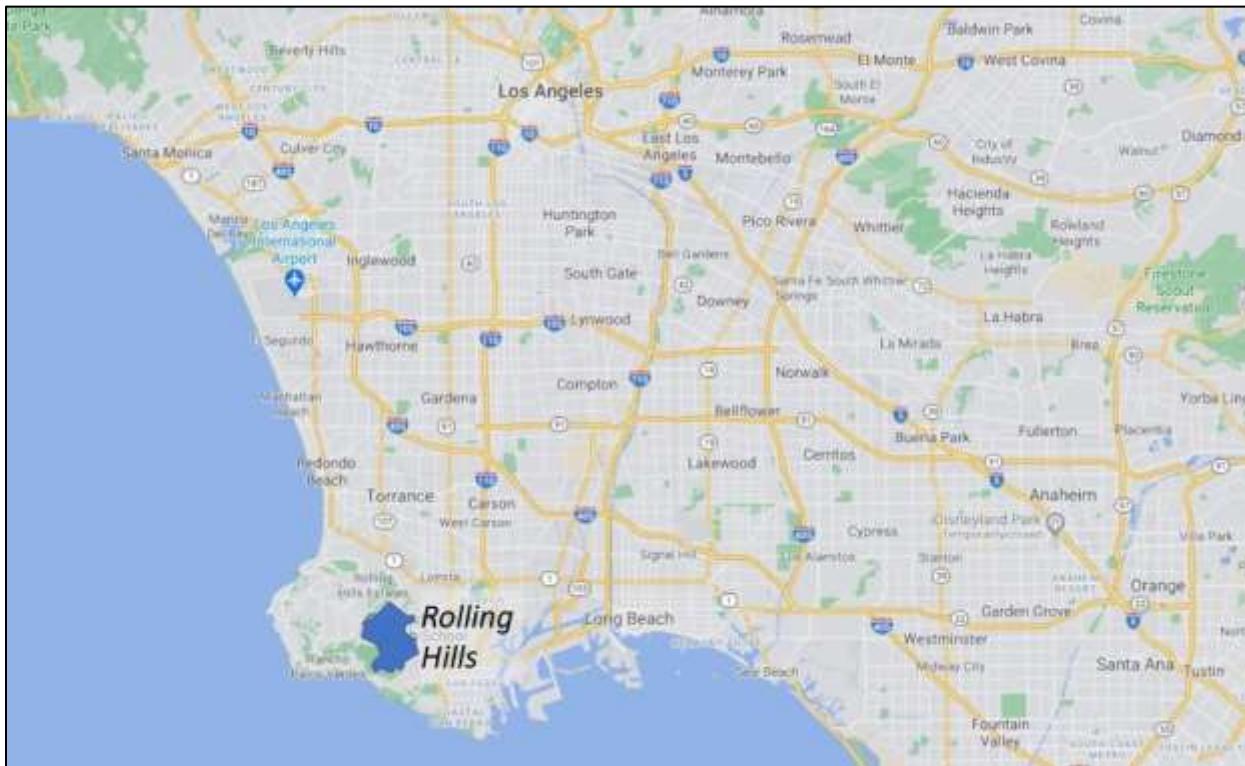
The purpose of the Housing Element is to ensure that a safe, decent supply of housing is provided for current and future Rolling Hills residents. The Element strives to conserve existing housing while providing opportunities for new housing serving a variety of income levels.

State law mandates that all municipal governments prepare and maintain a Housing Element as a component of their General Plans. The following five sections are required:

1. Evaluation of the previous Housing Element
2. Assessment of local housing needs based on demographics, economic, and housing conditions
3. Inventory of potential sites for housing development
4. Analysis of City regulatory framework related to housing development
5. Goals and policies for housing, coupled with specific action programs to be implemented in the coming years.

In addition, the Element must demonstrate the steps the City is taking to promote fair housing practices, and to proactively develop housing for all income groups. The Housing Element describes how the City will provide for its fair share of the region's housing needs over the eight-year planning period (2021 to 2029). It identifies new programs to be implemented, along with on-going programs that create housing opportunities in Rolling Hills.

The Housing Element is the only part of the General Plan that is subject to review and certification by a State agency. Adopted Elements must be submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD determines if the Element meets the requirements of the California Government Code, which apply equally to all cities and counties of the state regardless of the community's size, physical constraints, or resources. A compliance determination is important to maintain eligibility for State grants, avoid costly lawsuits, and maintain local control over local land use and building decisions.



Source: Google Maps, 2021

**Figure 1.1: Vicinity Map**

## 1.2 Community Overview

The city of Rolling Hills is a rural, equestrian residential community, consisting entirely of large lot residential parcels of one acre or more. The community encompasses 2.99 square miles of land (approximately 1,910 acres) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the County of Los Angeles (Refer to Figure 1.1, Vicinity Map). The 2020 Census indicates a citywide population of 1,739 residents, making Rolling Hills the fifth smallest of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County.

The land use pattern in Rolling Hills was established in 1936 with the original subdivision and sale of parcels. American landscape architect A.E. Hanson designed the community in the 1930s, establishing an historic Southern California design aesthetic that remains today, 85 years later. Well-known architects like Cliff May and Wallace Neff designed some of the early homes, contributing to the community's historic context.

The entire city is characterized by single-story California ranch-style homes on large lots with three-rail fences and equestrian facilities. There are three points of ingress and egress to the city, each of which has a controlled entry gate. Rolling Hills was planned and conceived to balance development with nature and respect the area's rugged topography. The community was laid out on hilly terrain, with narrow, winding roads traversing steep, wooded canyons. Minimum lot size requirements were established to recognize the area's many natural constraints, including geologic hazards, wildfire, and sensitive biological resources.

The natural landscape is characterized by steep slopes of 25 to 50 percent. Underlying this terrain are ancient landslides, occasionally causing damage or even destroying property, roads, and infrastructure. The City carefully regulates grading and earth movement to protect public safety and minimize the potential for property damage. Geologic studies and grading requirements also add to housing costs.

The entire city lies within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This is the most constrained designation used by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and requires restrictive construction standards such as the boxing in of eave projections and use of construction materials approved by the California Fire Marshal. Professionally designed landscaping meeting Fire Department fuel reduction standards (i.e., fire-resistant plants around structures) also is required. Fire hazards are complicated by an aging water distribution system, and the high cost of water system improvements on steep terrain.

Rolling Hills is also home to a number of sensitive plant and animal species, several of which are listed or being considered for listing by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. These species include the Palos Verdes Blue butterfly, the California Gnatcatcher, the Pacific Pocket Mouse, the San Diego Horned Lizard, and Brackishwater Snail. The community is also underlain with blue-line streams that are under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The City's infrastructure is scaled to meet the needs of a mature, rural community with severe natural hazards. Its water distribution system is designed for very low-density residential land uses. Wastewater treatment generally occurs through private septic tanks. Only a few parcels on the western periphery of the city have access to sanitary sewer. All roads in the community are private and many were built 60 to 80 years ago before modern emergency vehicle standards were in place.

Housing policies and programs in Rolling Hills reflect the city's natural hazards, lack of developable land, and infrastructure limitations. In the past, the City has complied with Government Code housing requirements in ways that respond to these inherent physical constraints. For example, Rolling Hills has adopted provisions for accessory dwelling units in all of its zoning districts, permitted manufactured housing units, and created an affordable housing overlay zone on its most developable land. Its policies also emphasize conservation and maintenance of the existing housing stock, much of which is over 60 years old.

## **1.3 Legislative Requirements**

The provision of adequate housing for families and individuals of all economic levels is an important public goal and has been a focus for state and local governments for more than five decades. Local governments have been required to prepare Housing Elements since 1969. The required contents of the Element have expanded significantly over this time, in response to rising housing costs, increasing competition for resources, and a growing population of individuals with special needs that cannot be met by the private sector alone.

### **1.3.1 Government Code Requirements**

State law requires each municipality to perform the following tasks:

- Identify and analyze the current and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community.
- Evaluate current and potential constraints to meeting those needs, including constraints due to the marketplace and those imposed by the government.
- Promote and affirmatively further fair housing opportunities and promote housing throughout the community for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, familial status, or disability.
- Inventory and assess the availability of land suitable for residential use.
- Establish goals, objectives, policies and programs aimed at responding to identified housing needs, market and governmental constraints, and housing opportunities.

*"The availability of housing is of vital statewide importance, and the early attainment of decent housing and a suitable living environment for every Californian, including farmworkers, is a priority of the highest order. The early attainment of this goal requires the cooperative participation of government and the private sector in an effort to expand housing opportunities and accommodate the housing needs of Californians of all economic levels."*

*California Government Code,  
Section 65580*

### **1.3.2 Regional Housing Needs Allocation**

As part of the Housing Element process, the State of California determines the total need for housing in each region of California. For the 2021-2029 period, the State determined that the need for the six county Southern California region was 1,341,827 housing units. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for allocating this total to each of the six counties and 191 cities in the SCAG area. This process is known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and occurs every eight years.

SCAG calculates each city and county's "fair share" of the regional need using a computer model that weighs factors such as existing population and employment, growth potential, proximity to transit, and social equity. For each jurisdiction, SCAG distributes the RHNA among four different income groups. This ensures that each city or county is planning for housing that meet the needs of all economic segments of the community, including lower income households.

Each city in California is required to plan for its RHNA. This does not mean the cities must acquire land or construct housing. Rather, it means that they must identify sites where the RHNA can be accommodated and adopt policies and regulations which facilitate housing construction on those sites. Ultimately, the responsibility for constructing housing falls to the private market and non-profit housing developers. Cities are expected to assist by adopting

development standards that support housing at a variety of densities, providing technical assistance and infrastructure, and adopting policies that encourage housing production, conservation, and assistance to persons with special needs.

In Rolling Hills, the RHNA for 2021-2029 is 45 units. This includes 20 very low income units, 9 low income units, 11 moderate income units, and 5 above moderate income units.<sup>1</sup> The 2021-2029 Housing Element demonstrates that the City has the capacity to accommodate this assignment.

### **1.3.3 HCD Review Authority and Compliance Requirements**

Once the Housing Element is adopted, it is submitted to HCD to determine whether, in HCD's view, the Housing Element "substantially complies" with state Housing Element Law. HCD's compliance determination is based in part on a detailed checklist corresponding to specific requirements set forth by the Government Code. Once certified, HCD still has the authority to find a city out of compliance if it finds that city is taking actions that are inconsistent with its Housing Element or failing to implement the programs listed in its Element.

Localities without an HCD-certified Housing Element are subject to a growing number of penalties and potential risks. This includes litigation from housing organizations, developers, and HCD itself. In addition to legal costs, potential consequences include suspension of local control of building matters and court approval of housing development. Courts can also levy costly fines on local governments and mandate streamlined and less rigorous approvals. Cities also become ineligible for numerous state local funding programs, including those supporting infrastructure and roads, as well as housing and planning.

## **1.4 Relationship to Other General Plan Elements**

The Government Code requires internal consistency among the various elements of a General Plan. Section 65300.5 of the Government Code states that "the General Plan and the parts and elements thereof shall comprise an integrated and an internally consistent and compatible statement of policies."

The Rolling Hills General Plan contains the following six elements: 1) Land Use; 2) Housing; 3) Circulation; 4) Open Space and Conservation; 5) Safety; and 6) Noise. The General Plan is internally consistent, meaning that the policies in different elements complement and support one another. The Housing Element reflects the policy direction provided by the other General Plan elements. For example, it references the residential densities established in the Land Use Element and the natural constraints identified in the Safety Element. The City amended its Land Use Element in early 2021 to maintain consistency with its new Housing Plan. It adopted a revised Safety Element in March 2022 to comply with new provisions of the Government Code.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65400, the City will annually review its progress in implementing this Housing Element. This review will help ensure consistency between this Element and the other General Plan Elements.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Section 3.2.5 of this document for a definition of these income categories

## **1.5 Relationship to Private Land Use Restrictions**

Most of the developable property in Rolling Hills is subject to covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) adopted by the Rolling Hills Community Association (RHCA), a non-profit California Corporation and homeowners association. RHCA is governed by elected Rolling Hills residents and oversees and enforces implementation of the CC&Rs. The CC&Rs run with each property in perpetuity and cover all properties in the City except those listed below:

1. City Hall Complex
2. Tennis Court Facility
3. Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District property
4. Daughters of Mary and Joseph Retreat Center

CC&Rs represent private contractual obligations between homeowners and are usually established at the time a subdivision or community is built. Development in Rolling Hills has been governed by CC&Rs since the community was planned in the 1930s. The RHCA and the CC&Rs were in force prior to the City's incorporation, which occurred in 1957. The City of Rolling Hills has no jurisdiction over the RHCA or the content or implementation of the CC&Rs.

The CC&Rs limit the density on most parcels in Rolling Hills to one residence per one-acre or two-acre lot. In addition, any construction, remodel, or grading for a building, fence or structure is required under the CC&Rs to adhere to traditional or California ranch and equestrian architectural styles and aesthetics. The uses and purposes of all perimeter easements around each property are required to be dedicated to the RHCA and maintained for the purposes of ingress, egress, construction, and maintenance of all infrastructure constructed as roadways, bridle trials, storm drains, utility access and drainage.

In some instances, State law may supersede the authority of CC&Rs. For example, AB 670 (Cal Civil Code 4751—effective January 1, 2020) limits CC&Rs from placing unreasonable limitations on accessory dwelling units (ADUs). To the greatest extent feasible, the programs in this Housing Element reflect the requirements of State law while maintaining the integrity of the CC&Rs. CC&Rs that directly conflict with State or Federal law are not enforceable.

## **1.6 Public Participation and Project Timeline**

The City of Rolling Hills has made a diligent effort to engage the community in the Housing Element update. The process was structured as a continuation of the previous (2014-2021) Housing Element update, which included an initial phase in 2013-14 when the Element was adopted and a second phase in 2020-2021 when the adopted Element was amended and resubmitted to the State for a compliance determination. The 2020-2021 amendments coincided with the Sixth Cycle engagement processes that were underway throughout Southern California cities at that time. Although the focus of the 2020-2021 effort was on Fifth Cycle compliance, the process provided an opportunity to engage the community in a broader conversation about housing, the RHNA process, and new State requirements.

SCAG began the RHNA process for the Sixth Cycle in Fall 2019, exploring different methodologies for allocating the regional need to individual cities and counties. As other cities began work on their Sixth Cycle Elements, Rolling Hills was required to first amend its Fifth Cycle Element to accommodate both the current (Fifth) cycle and the prior (Fourth) cycle RHNA allocations due to its non-compliant status. The combined RHNA for the two cycles was 28 units. Accommodating this need meant that Rolling Hills was also required to amend its General Plan and zoning to create additional housing capacity.

The City held a public hearing on the Housing Element on November 25, 2019. The meeting focused on potential sites for rezoning and related development impacts. The meeting was widely noticed through advertisements in the Palos Verdes Peninsula News, an announcement in the City newsletter, posting at City Hall, and an email to the City's interested parties list.

The Draft RHNA numbers were published in March 2020. Rolling Hills did not appeal its allocation, instead focusing its efforts on continued outreach and engagement to certify the Fifth Cycle Element and lay the groundwork for the Sixth Cycle. This outreach included nine public hearings related to the Housing Element on the following dates:

- October 20, 2020 (Planning Commission)
- November 9, 2020 (City Council)
- December 22, 2020 (Planning Commission)
- January 25, 2021 (City Council)
- February 5, 2021 (Planning Commission)
- February 8, 2021 (City Council)
- February 22, 2021 (City Council)
- March 8, 2021 (City Council)
- March 16, 2021 (Planning Commission)

The outcome of these meetings included adoption of the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone, new provisions for by-right affordable multi-family housing and emergency shelter, amendments to the Land Use Element of the General Plan, and various changes to the Municipal Code to facilitate housing production. On June 1, 2021, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the amended Fifth Cycle Housing Element. The Council took action on June 14, 2021. The Element was submitted to HCD and found to be in compliance on July 7, 2021. As a result of the compliance determination, the City does not have to carry over its prior allocation and may plan only for the 45 units identified in the Sixth Cycle RHNA.

In addition to the public hearings described above, staff conducted direct outreach to Rolling Hills residents in 2020 and 2021 through newsletters, including a survey on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) administered to every household in the city. More than 30 percent of the city's households completed the survey, and a report on the findings was prepared (it is included as Appendix C to this Element).

The City continued its public outreach efforts after adoption of the revised Element in July 2021. A special session of the Planning Commission was convened on October 19, 2021 to provide an overview of the Sixth Cycle Element and solicit input from the entire community. In addition, public hearings on the HCD Draft Element were convened by the Planning Commission on December 16, 2021 and by the City Council on January 10, 2022. In March 2022, the City

convened a public meeting on its Annual Progress Report, providing another opportunity for public input on housing issues as well as an opportunity to evaluate progress in Housing Element implementation. Additional public hearings were held on May 17 (Planning Commission) and May 23 (City Council) after the document was revised.

A revised version of the Housing Element, incorporating responses to HCD's initial comments, was submitted to the State on May 24, 2022. Staff received HCD's comments on July 22. The number of comments was much smaller at this point, and staff worked collaboratively with HCD in August and September 2022 to prepare revisions. On September 20, 2022, the Planning Commission convened a public hearing on the Housing Element and recommended Council approval of the Plan and related environmental document. The City Council took action on September 26, 2022, adopting the Element at that meeting.

The City has endeavored to solicit input from all economic segments of the community, including local renters as well as homeowners. It has also incorporated this input in the Housing Element. In surveys and public hearings, the community generally supported the Rancho Del Mar site as the preferred location for accommodating denser housing, and also supported meeting the RHNA primarily through accessory dwelling units (ADU). Both of these concepts are reflected in this document. Housing advocacy groups also provided letters to the City encouraging ADU development, which helped shape Housing Element programs. In addition, the community was especially concerned about the housing needs of older adults. Thus, policies relating to special needs populations and lower income households focus on the needs of seniors, particularly those who may need assistance with the maintenance of their homes and properties, or adaptive changes to facilitate aging in place.

City staff has also engaged service providers, the development community, and partner agencies such as the School District in the process. As a small community, most residents rely on the City newsletter for information on local government affairs. The City has featured the Housing Element in newsletter articles and encouraged residents to share their views on proposed housing policies. Publication of the "HCD Review Draft" was announced in the City's newsletter during the first week of December 2021. More than 30 stakeholder organizations on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and in the South Bay, Los Angeles, and Long Beach regions were notified of the document's availability for 30-day review and comment. These agencies were also notified when the document was brought back to the Planning Commission and City Council for adoption.

In addition, as required by SB 1087, the City sent an electronic copy of its Housing Element to the appropriate water and sewer providers immediately after adoption. The document was accompanied by a letter reminding these agencies they must have adopted written policies and procedures that grant a priority for service hook-ups to developments that help meet the community's share of the regional need for lower-income housing.

## **1.7 Data Sources**

The Housing Element is a data-driven document, with policies and programs that are based on analyses of demographics, housing conditions, resource constraints, and forecasts. The primary data sources consulted were:

- Rolling Hills General Plan, as amended
- Rolling Hills Municipal Code
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Final Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan, adopted March 4, 2021
- SCAG “pre-approved” Housing Element data set for Rolling Hills, 2020
- City of Rolling Hills Planning Department records (building permits, etc.)
- American Community Survey, 2015-2019
- US Census (1990, 2000, 2010)
- US Census August 12, 2021 data release from the 2020 Census
- Department of Finance Table E-5, population and housing estimates, 2010-2021
- California Economic Development Department (EDD) Labor Force Data
- Rolling Hills Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- County of Los Angeles (data on homelessness)



## **2.0 Evaluation of Prior Housing Element**

### **2.1 Purpose**

Government Code Section 65588 requires each local government to periodically review its housing element to:

- (1) Evaluate the appropriateness of the housing goals, objectives, and policies in contributing to the attainment of the state housing goal, which is to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for every Californian.
- (2) Evaluate the effectiveness of the housing element in attainment of the community's housing goals and objectives.
- (3) Discuss the progress of the city or county in implementation of the housing element.

### **2.2 2014-2021 RHNA and Actual Housing Production**

The City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the prior (2014-2021) period was six units. This included two very low income units, one low income unit, one moderate income unit, and two above moderate income units. Rolling Hills also had a "carry-over" requirement of 22 units from the prior (2006-2013) planning period, including six very low, four low, four moderate, and eight above moderate income units. The 2014-2021 Housing Element identified the capacity to meet the combined two-cycle (2006-2021) need.

Actual housing construction during 2014-2021 was five units. There were four new market rate (e.g., "above-moderate income") single-family homes completed on previously vacant lots over the 2014-2021 period.<sup>1</sup> Another three single family homes were approved on vacant lots but have not yet been constructed. There was one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) completed. It is estimated to be a moderate-income unit based on its size (720 square feet). Another six ADUs were approved between September 2020 and September 2021.<sup>2</sup> Three more were pending as of October 15, 2021. All of these units will become available for occupancy during the Sixth Cycle.

There were no new low or very low-income units recorded during the Fifth Cycle, although lower income households may have secured housing in the city through room rentals, on-site employment (caregivers, etc.), or housing provided at nominal or no charge (family members, domestic staff, etc.). Production of deed-restricted lower-income housing units during the 2014-2021 planning period was constrained by the high cost of land and construction, limited opportunities for multi-family housing, and limits to Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) development during the first half of the planning period. The latter two constraints were removed over the course of the planning period, placing the City in a better position to meet its targets during the upcoming 2021-2029 period.

---

<sup>1</sup> There were also 12 new homes built on sites that previously included single family homes, with no net gain in units (e.g., "tear downs")

<sup>2</sup> The six ADUs approved in 2020-2021 were in various states of completion in October 2021 and are all counted toward the Sixth Cycle RHNA rather than the Fifth Cycle.

## **2.3 Review of Prior Housing Element Goals and Policies**

The next section of this chapter systematically evaluates the policies and actions of the previous Housing Element and reports on implementation progress. The 2014-2021 Element included four goals, each of which included related policies. The goals and policies are evaluated below.

### **2.3.1 Progress on Goal 1: Housing that Meets the Needs of Rolling Hills Residents**

This goal expresses one of the main purposes of the Housing Element. It remains relevant and should be carried forward. The City worked to accomplish this goal throughout the 2014-2021 planning period through its planning, zoning, building, code enforcement, and fire safety programs.

Policy 1.1 called for evaluating ways to assist special needs populations. The largest population with special needs in Rolling Hills consists of seniors, including those with disabilities. The City continues to implement programs to assist seniors with housing, transportation, emergency preparedness, and access to social services. The policy should be carried forward. Policy 1.2 called for working with other governmental entities to explore providing affordable housing in the South Bay region. This occurs on an ongoing basis through the city's participation in SCAG, communication and liaison with developers, and meetings with planners and housing organizations on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and throughout Los Angeles County. Policy 1.3 called for encouraging energy conservation and weatherization. The City implements this policy through its planning and building regulations, including Title 24. It also works with residents interested in solar installation and weatherization.

Policy 1.4 expresses the City's commitment to facilitating a variety of housing types. The City made significant progress through its creation of the Rancho Del Mar Overlay zone, permitting of accessory dwelling units by right, and allowance of emergency shelter and single room occupancy dwellings. Given community context, constraints, and development costs, ADUs and home sharing provide the best solution for meeting the needs of all income groups. Policy 1.5 recommends effective community participation. The City produces a twice-monthly newsletter which is delivered to all households and uses its website to keep the community informed. It has used a variety of methods, such as surveys and workshops, to involve the public. Given the community's small size and engaged population, there is a very high level of awareness of housing issues and requirements. Policy 1.6 calls for the City to participate in countywide programs to meet the needs of unsheltered residents. This continues on an ongoing basis.

### **2.3.2 Progress on Goal 2: Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Residential Neighborhoods**

Maintaining the city's neighborhoods as great places to live is the fundamental purpose of the City's General Plan. As a built out community with extreme natural hazards and constraints, this goal is primarily covered by the Land Use and Safety Elements. Nonetheless, it is appropriate to include policies in the Housing Element addressing conservation of the existing housing stock, as well as management of home alterations and additions. There are five policies in the 2013-2021 Element, and they all remain relevant.

Policy 2.1 is to encourage and assist in the maintenance and improvement of existing homes. The City does this through its planning and building processes, and works closely with homeowners to support home improvements. Policy 2.2 requires housing that complies with building code requirements. This could be restated in the updated Element, since compliance with the building code is required under State law. Policy 2.3 requires “compatible design” that minimizes impacts on adjacent neighborhoods. This remains valid, but should reference the zoning ordinance as the source of objective design standards that clarify the meaning of “compatible design.”

Policy 2.4 calls for code enforcement to maintain housing, which is still relevant. Policy 2.5 allows for ADUs and Junior ADUs (JADUs) in all residential zones. Consistent with State law, the City implemented regulations allowing ADUs in all zones in 2018 and amended those regulations in 2020. The policy should be retained, as it provides the foundation for related regulations in the Municipal Code.

### **2.3.3 Progress on Goal 3: Provide Housing Services to Address the Needs of the City's Seniors**

Seniors/older adults are the predominant special needs group in Rolling Hills. The Housing Element Needs Assessment confirms that a significant number of the city's seniors have disabilities, are living alone, and may have difficulty covering their housing expenses.

Policy 3.1 calls for housing reference and referral services for seniors, which is still relevant and implemented on an ongoing basis. The Rolling Hills Community Association formed a committee in 2014 to specifically focus on the needs of seniors. Policy 3.2 calls for more information on shared housing, which remains valid. Policy 3.3 recommends reverse mortgage loans for seniors with limited incomes. Given the mixed success of reverse mortgage programs, the City should consider replacing this policy with others relating to the needs of seniors. For instance, it could indicate that affordable senior housing be considered on the Rancho Del Mar site. Policy 3.4 promotes opportunities for live-in care or family members who can assist mobility-impaired or elderly residents. This remains relevant and should be carried forward. Other policies addressing the housing needs of seniors could be considered.

### **2.3.4 Progress on Goal 4: Fair Housing**

Goal 4 directs the city to “Promote housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, disability status, or national origin.” The importance of this goal has been elevated by AB 686, and it should be retained. There are four policies listed in the Fifth Cycle Element to implement this goal.

Policy 4.1 indicates the City should “affirm a positive action posture” and enforce all applicable laws and policies. This policy could potentially be simplified to focus on enforcement. Policy 4.2 specifically covers the needs of persons with disabilities. It should be carried forward. Policy 4.3 relates to making information on housing laws available to the community at City Hall. It is implemented on an ongoing basis but should be clarified to include information on the City's website as well as City Hall. Policy 4.4 expresses a commitment to investigate alleged violations of fair housing laws. This should be carried forward, with reference to the partner entities the

City works with on such investigations. Additional policies on fair housing related to economic inclusion and opportunities for lower income households should be considered.

### **2.3.5 Cumulative Evaluation of Effectiveness of Prior Element in Addressing Special Housing Needs**

The State Department of Housing and Community Development has requested that the City include an “a cumulative evaluation of the effectiveness of past goals, policies, and related actions in meeting the housing needs of special needs populations (e.g., elderly, persons with disabilities, large households, female-headed households, farmworkers, and persons experiencing homelessness).”

As a small city with only 640 households and a staff of six full-time employees, the City’s capacity for providing services to special needs populations is limited. The greatest emphasis has been on seniors, who are present in 56 percent of the city’s households and represent one-third of the population. The City’s 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element included a goal addressing the needs of seniors but it did not include a more generalized goal addressing special needs populations. This has been addressed in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Element by broadening the goal to address other special needs categories.

As noted on P. 2-3, Rolling Hills has worked effectively to meet the needs of seniors through its partnerships with the Rolling Hills Community Association (and their Senior Committee), its support for shared housing and ADU programs, and its code provisions allowing live-in care providers throughout the city. Many older Rolling Hills residents have been able to age in place, retrofit their homes, and continue living in the city as a result of these policies and programs. The 2014-2021 Element also included a policy related to unhoused residents (Policy 1.6) and a policy related to persons with disabilities (Policy 6.2). As noted in Chapter 3, there are no unhoused residents in the city according to the annual “point in time” count, but Rolling Hills continues to participate in intergovernmental meetings, forums, and councils of government activities that recognize the regional nature of homelessness and the importance of regional solutions. The City has also amended its codes to allow emergency shelter by right in at least one zoning district. The City also has adopted a Reasonable Accommodation ordinance for persons with disabilities and supports home improvements to facilitate aging in place and access for residents with disabilities. On a cumulative basis, these measures have contributed to the health, safety, and welfare of all Rolling Hills residents and to the quality of life and condition of housing in the city.

Both the 2014-2021 Needs Assessment and the 2021-2029 Needs Assessment determined that there were not significant housing needs associated with large households, female-headed households, or farmworkers in the city.

## 2.4 Implementation Status of Prior Housing Element Programs

The 2014-2021 Housing Element included 24 implementation programs. Table 2-1 below indicates the status of each program as of October 2021. The table indicates whether the program has been accomplished or should be carried forward, revised, or deleted.

**Table 2-1: Implementation Status of 2014-2021 Housing Element Programs**

Prog.	Description	Status
1	Prepare an annual housing progress report	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> The City filed its annual Housing Progress Report for 2021 on March 29, 2022 and should continue to do so in future years.
2	Amend the Land Use Element to permit a variety of housing types	<i>ACCOMPLISHED.</i> This program may be removed from the Housing Element, as it was accomplished in March 2021. The City amended its General Plan to permit by-right multi-family development, emergency shelter, and single room occupancy housing in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone.
3	Create an Affordable Housing Overlay Zone (AHOZ)	<i>ACCOMPLISHED.</i> This program may be removed from the Housing Element or merged with the program to periodically evaluate the Overlay Zone and determine if changes are needed (See Program 13). The City adopted a 31-acre Overlay in February 2021 (known as the Rancho Del Mar Overlay zone), allowing for by-right development of up to 16 units of affordable multi-family housing (20 units per acre) on the Rancho Del Mar site on Crest Road West.
4	Determine next steps for PVUSD housing opportunity	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> The City Manager meets with the PVUSD Superintendent regularly to discuss issues of concern, including the future of the PVUSD property. Other aspects of Program 4, including meeting with developers and providing input to parties interested in this site, should be retained and implemented on an ongoing basis.
5	Adopt zoning for emergency shelter.	<i>ACCOMPLISHED.</i> This action was completed in February 2021. The City permits emergency shelter up to 12 beds by right in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zoning district. A replacement program should be included, identifying ongoing measures the City will take to address the needs of unhoused residents.

Prog.	Description	Status
<b>6</b>	Adopt zoning for single room occupancy (SRO) units.	<b>ACCOMPLISHED.</b> This action was completed in February 2021. The City permits SROs of 6-8 units as a conditional use in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zoning district, subject to objective operational and performance standards.
<b>7</b>	Adopt a Reasonable Accommodation Policy	<b>ACCOMPLISHED.</b> The City of Rolling Hills adopted a Reasonable Accommodation policy in October 2020. The policy establishes a formal procedure through which a person with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation in order to have equal access to housing. This program may be replaced with other actions to assist residents with disabilities.
<b>8</b>	Add definitions of Transitional/Supportive Housing and Employee Housing to Municipal Code	<b>CARRY FORWARD.</b> This program has not yet been implemented. The 2014-2021 Housing Element clarifies that supportive and transitional housing may not be subject to requirements or standards other than those that apply to similar dwelling unit types in the same zones. However, the program must still be codified through a Municipal Code amendment.
<b>9</b>	Adopt density bonus requirements	<b>CARRY FORWARD.</b> This program has not yet been implemented. Any project including units eligible for a density bonus would be subject to State density bonus rules. The City should amend its Municipal Code for consistency with these rules, and expressly identify opportunities and rules for density bonuses.
<b>10</b>	Adopt and periodically update accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations	<b>REVISE.</b> The City adopted ADU regulations in 2018 and amended these regulations in January 2020 to incorporate new State laws. This action should be replaced with one or more new actions related to ADUs, including incentives to promote their use as affordable housing.
<b>11</b>	Implement ADU education, outreach, and community engagement measures	<b>REVISE.</b> The City has provided information on ADUs to the community since 2018 and should continue to do so in the future. Newsletter articles and web-based information have been provided and a citywide survey on ADUs was administered in 2020. Potential outreach measures are listed in the 2014-2021 Element and should be carried forward. Staff time should be allocated to these activities to ensure they are implemented. This includes coordination with Rolling Hills Community Association to ensure that design review practices do not constrain ADU production or add to their cost. Future activities could include prototype floor plans and designs, FAQs, community workshops, and tenant matching services.

Prog.	Description	Status
12	Develop incentives to encourage ADU production	<i>REVISE.</i> This program suggested reaching out to at least five cities and two non-profits to develop a suite of best practices for incentivizing ADUs. Based on the findings, the program recommended incentives such as fee reductions, streamlined permitting, and funding for septic system expansion to make it easier and more affordable to add ADUs. The City has begun implementing this program by participating in a South Bay Cities Council of Governments collaborative that helps residents calculate cost and revenue for adding an ADU (see <a href="https://southbaycities.aducalculator.org/">https://southbaycities.aducalculator.org/</a> ). Additional measures will be considered in the future.
13	Monitor the effectiveness of the Affordable Housing Overlay Zone (AHOZ) and consider future multi-family housing opportunities	<i>REVISE.</i> There are two parts to this program. The first is monitoring the effectiveness of the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone to determine if it is achieving its intended purpose. This should be retained. The second part of the program is to evaluate other multi-family housing opportunities. This is occurring through preparation of the Sixth Cycle Element and should continue through 2029.
14	Assist Extremely Low Income (ELI) households	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> This program is implemented by facilitating housing for family members, caregivers and domestic employees, and by assisting elder Rolling Hills homeowners on fixed incomes with home maintenance, home sharing, ADU construction, and other actions that reduce housing cost burdens. The program should be carried forward.
15	Facilitate communication with affordable housing service providers, developers, and advocates	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> The program recommends coordinating with affordable housing organizations to facilitate housing assistance and production for lower income households. The City implements this program on an on-going basis and should continue to do so in the future.
16	Provide public information on home sharing programs	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> This program references a number of home sharing programs in Los Angeles County and suggests that Rolling Hills provide information about these programs on its website and at City Hall. This is a relatively low-cost measure that can help seniors, young adults, and local employees find housing options in the city. It should be retained.

Prog.	Description	Status
17	Provide information about reverse mortgages	<i>DELETE.</i> While reverse mortgages may be helpful for some households, there may also be downsides associated with high closing costs, fees, and unfavorable repayment terms. There is also a risk of fraud. The City may not wish to take an advocacy position promoting reverse mortgages due to the risks involved. Local homeowners may still consider this option should they choose to do so. The program could also be revised to focus on consumer protection issues related to reverse mortgages.
18	Undertake sewer feasibility and design studies	<i>REVISE.</i> This program should be updated to reflect the current status of sewer feasibility and design studies. A feasibility study was initiated in 2020 and design plans are nearing completion. The updated Housing Element program should reflect the findings of these studies, as well as Council direction.
19	Implement Best Management Practices to improve stormwater	<i>REVISE.</i> The City has continued to implement municipal storm water management measures to reduce urban runoff pollution. It will continue to do so in the future as conditions and requirements change. This program could potentially be deleted or combined with Program 18.
20	Maintain code enforcement procedures	<i>REVISE.</i> This program called for hiring a full-time Code Enforcement Officer, which was accomplished in 2019. There is an ongoing need for enforcement of planning and building codes in order to conserve housing quality and correct structural deficiencies. Violations have been consistently abated in order to maintain public safety and community standards. The program should be updated and retained.
21	Encourage energy conservation	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> This program continues to be relevant and informs City actions relating to weatherization, solar installations, and other steps to reduce home energy costs and promote clean energy. The program references various links on the City's website to energy conservation programs, and financial assistance for home energy costs. It should be carried forward.
22	Facilitate new construction and remodels	<i>CARRY FORWARD.</i> This is a general program that encourages the City to work with applicants, builders, property owners, and others to produce new market rate housing and to facilitate permits for home improvements. It supports permit streamlining and efficiency, and transparency in the planning and building processes. It should be carried forward.

Prog.	Description	Status
<b>23</b>	Explore solutions to ground stability and landslide problems	CARRY FORWARD. The City implements this program on an ongoing basis through requirements for soils and geology reports, as well as grading standards and grading permit requirements. It continues to allow and support repair work on landslide damaged homes and unstable hillsides. Given past damage caused by landslides and the vulnerability of parts of the city to future damage, this program should be retained. Reference could also be made to programs that reduce wildfire risk and promote defensible space.
<b>24</b>	Make Fair Housing information available to the public	REVISE. This program reflects the City's ongoing commitment to making fair housing information available to the public. Given HCD's guidelines for implementing AB 686 (Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing), additional fair housing programs should be developed.



# **3.0 Housing Needs Assessment**

## **3.1 Introduction**

Each community's housing plan must be based on an analysis of local housing needs. This analysis is expressly required by the State Government Code (Section 65583(a)), and includes a comprehensive evaluation of local demographics, housing conditions, and market conditions. The analysis includes an assessment of household characteristics in the city, including household type, tenure (rent vs own), overcrowding, and percent of income spent on housing. It also evaluates the special housing needs of older adults, persons with disabilities, large families, and persons in need of emergency shelter.

The needs assessment helps ensure that the city is not only planning for its "fair share" of the *region's* housing needs, but also responding to its own *local* needs. Where appropriate, local conditions are compared to regional conditions or conditions in nearby cities to provide appropriate context. Rolling Hills is a very unique community and it is important to recognize that when planning for housing conservation and production.

Most of the data presented in this chapter is from the American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing survey performed by the US Census to gauge population and housing conditions in between the decennial censuses. Because most 2020 Census data was not available at the time this report was prepared, the ACS data provides the most accurate information on local demographics. ACS data for Rolling Hills in 2021 is based a five-year average covering 2015-2019. However, the ACS is based on a sample of the population, so there is a margin of error in some of the tables. Other data sources include the California Department of Finance, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Rolling Hills. In addition, SCAG provided a "pre-HCD certified" data profile for each city in the Los Angeles region in 2019. This is referenced as appropriate throughout this chapter.

The Needs Assessment is broken into five sections as follows:

- Section 3.2 covers population characteristics, such as age, race, and total rate of growth
- Section 3.3 covers household characteristics, such as presence of children and home ownership
- Section 3.4 addresses special housing needs
- Section 3.5 covers housing stock characteristics
- Section 3.6 covers growth forecasts and the RHNA for the 2021-2029 period

The Needs Assessment is supplemented by Appendix "A", which looks specifically at the recent State mandate to "affirmatively further fair housing" through the Housing Element. Appendix A focuses on regional patterns of segregation and inequity in order to inform local fair housing policies.

## 3.2 Population Characteristics

### 3.2.1 Total Population

Table 3.1 shows population data for Rolling Hills over a 50-year period. The City's population was 2,050 in 1970 and has declined by more than 300 residents since then. Between 1980 and 1990, Rolling Hills lost nearly 9 percent of its population. The decline was the result of several factors, including smaller households, fewer children, and the loss of homes due to wildfire and landslides. Change between 1990 and 2010 was minimal. There were 1,871 residents in 1990 and 1,860 residents in 2010. The August 12, 2021 US Census data release reported a population of 1,739 residents, a 6.5 percent drop relative to 2010. The Census figure is substantially lower than the Department of Finance estimate of 1,866, which was made on January 1, 2021.

**Table 3.1: Rolling Hills Population, 1970-2021<sup>1</sup>**

	Population	Percent Change
1970	2,050	--
1980	2,049	0
1990	1,871	-8.7%
2000	1,871	0
2010	1,860	-0.6%
2021 (DOF)	1,866	0.3%
2020 (Census)	1,739	-6.5%

Sources: US Decennial Census, 1970-2010. California Dept. of Finance, 1/1/21 estimate, 2020 Census (8/12/21 release)

Table 3.2 compares population change in Rolling Hills with the region, the County, and the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula using data from the California Department of Finance. The six-county Los Angeles region grew 14.4 percent between 2000 and 2021, from 16.5 million residents to nearly 19 million residents. Los Angeles County grew by 5.2 percent, reflecting its more urbanized character and larger population base. By contrast, the rate of growth on the Palos Verdes Peninsula during this 21-year period was just 1.1 percent. While Rolling Hills Estates grew by 5.5 percent, the other three cities have roughly the same number of residents today as they did 20 years ago. The Peninsula communities are mature, with limited vacant and re-developable land, high land costs, and environmental constraints that limit population growth.

<sup>1</sup> The ACS data sets for Rolling Hills for 2015-2019 show a citywide population of 1,513 residents. This is 15 percent below the actual population, which was reported to be 1,739 residents in the 2020 Census data released on August 12, 2021. In addition, SCAG reported the population at 1,939 residents (in 2018), while the State Department of Finance reported 1,866 residents. These discrepancies are due to sampling errors resulting from the small size of Rolling Hills' population. As a result, charts are used (rather than tables) for some of the variables discussed below. This allows the analysis to focus on change over time rather than total values.

**Table 3.2: Comparison of Rolling Hills Growth with Nearby Cities and Region, 2000-2021**

	Population		Percent Change
	2000	2021	
Rolling Hills	1,871	1,866(*)	-0.3
Rolling Hills Estates	7,676	8,098	5.5
Rancho Palos Verdes	41,145	41,541	0.9
Palos Verdes Estates	13,340	13,286	-0.4
Los Angeles County	9,542,000	10,044,458	5.3
SCAG Region	16,547,000	18,954,083	14.4

Sources: US Decennial Census, 2000. California Dept. of Finance, 1/1/21 estimate

(\*) August 12, 2021 Census data release shows 1,739 residents, which is a 7.1 decrease since 2000

### 3.2.2 Age

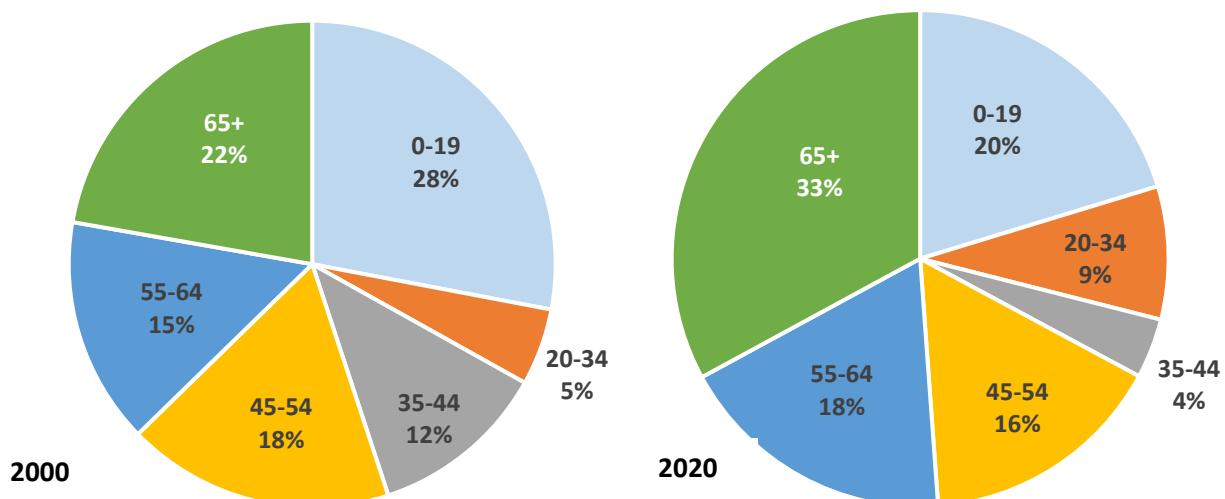
The age structure of the population has a strong influence on housing needs. For example, if a city is experiencing an outmigration of young adults (ages 25-34), it often indicates a shortage of rental housing or entry-level housing opportunities. If a city has a high percentage of residents over 75, it often indicates a need for special housing types, such as assisted living or single-story homes---or programs to assist with home rehabilitation.

Chart 3.1 shows the age distribution of Rolling Hills residents in 2000 and 2020. The chart illustrates significant shifts, including a decrease in the number of children (from 28% of the population in 2000 to 20% in 2020) and an increase in the number of persons over 65 (from 22% of the population in 2000 to 33% in 2020). The percentage of residents aged 20-34 nearly doubled over the 20-year period, likely as a result of adult children moving back home or delaying entry into the housing market due to high housing costs. The percent of residents 35-44 dropped significantly, likely because of limited local housing options for young families and mid-career adults.

The median age in Rolling Hills has steadily increased over the last 40 years. In 1980, it was 38.2. It increased to 45.5 in 1990, 48 in 2000, and in 52 in 2010. By 2020, the median age was 55.3, meaning that half of all residents are older than 55 and half are 55 or younger. By contrast, the median age in Los Angeles County is 36.5. Rolling Hills also has a higher median age than the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (Rolling Hills Estates: 50.1; Palos Verdes Estates: 52.2; Rancho Palos Verdes: 50.0).

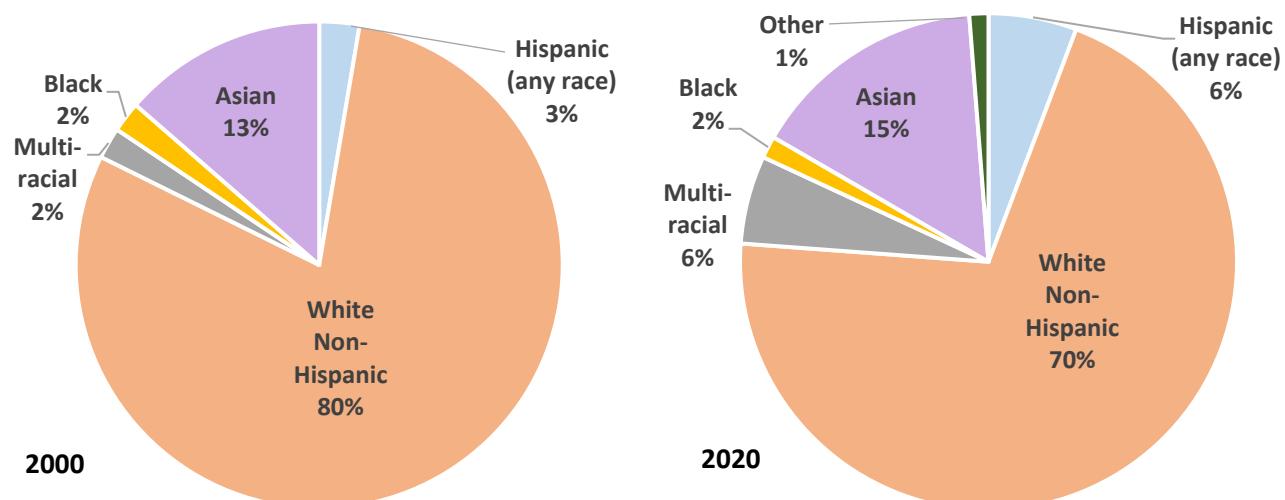
Census data indicates that one-third of Rolling Hills' residents over 65 are 80 or older. This cohort represents more than 10 percent of the City's population, a substantially higher share than in most communities in California.

**Chart 3.1: Age Distribution of Rolling Hills Residents, 2000 and 2020**



Source: US Census, 2000. ACS, 2021 (for 2015-2019 sample period)

**Chart 3.2: Racial Distribution of Rolling Hills Residents, 2000 and 2020**



Source: US Census, 2000 and ACS, 2021 (for 2015-2019 sample period)

### 3.2.3 Race and Ethnicity

Racial and ethnic composition may affect housing needs due to the cultural preferences of certain groups (including extended families, multi-generational families, etc). In addition, certain groups have historically faced discrimination due to the lending policies of financial institutions, former covenants and ownership restrictions, and past racial bias.

Chart 3.2 shows the racial distribution of Rolling Hills residents in 2000 and 2020. The city has become more diverse over time, with the Non-Hispanic White population declining from 80 percent to 70 percent of the total. The Hispanic population (any race) roughly doubled over the 20-year period, although relative to the total population, the numbers are still small. Approximately 6 percent of the City's residents are Hispanic.

The percentage of African-American residents remained at about 2 percent of the population between 2000 and 2020. During this same period, the number of residents of Asian or Pacific Island descent increased from 13 percent to 16 percent of the city's total. According to the Census, the largest Asian ethnic groups in the city are Chinese (6.5 percent) and Korean (5.1 percent). The number of residents indicating they were more than one race more than doubled between 2000 and 2020, with multi-racial residents representing about 6 percent of the 2020 population.

Relative to the County of Los Angeles and the State of California, Rolling Hills and the four cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula have a substantially higher White Non-Hispanic population. Table 3.3 compares race and ethnicity in Rolling Hills, the Peninsula cities, Los Angeles County, and the State as a whole. Nearly half of the County's residents, and more than one-third of the State's residents, are Hispanic. By contrast, less than 10 percent of the residents in the Peninsula cities are Hispanic. The Peninsula cities tend to have higher percentages of Asian and Pacific Islander residents, and more multi-racial residents.

**Table 3.3: Race and Ethnicity in Rolling Hills, Peninsula Cities, Los Angeles County, and State, 2020**

	Percent of Total			
	Rolling Hills	Palos Verdes Peninsula*	Los Angeles County	State of California
Non-Hispanic White	71.3%	54.4%	26.2%	37.2%
Hispanic (all races)	5.8%	9.7%	48.5%	39.0%
Black/ African American	1.5%	1.6%	7.8%	5.5%
Native American/Alaskan	N/A	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Asian	15.6%	28.8%	14.4%	14.3%
Pacific Islander/Hawaiian	N/A	0.6%	0.2%	0.4%
Other	N/A	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Multi-Racial	5.8%	4.7%	2.3%	3.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Sources: US Decennial Census, 2020.

(\*) Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates

The August 2021 release of 2020 Census data shows that the ACS may have underestimated the diversity of Rolling Hills' population. The 2020 Census indicated that 66 percent of the city's residents are White, 20.5 percent are Asian, 10.4 percent are more than one race, 1.3 percent are Black, and 1.9 percent are Other. The Census further indicated that 7.0 percent of the city's residents were Hispanic (includes all races).

### **3.2.4 Language**

Based on ACS data for 2015-2019, 79 percent of the City's residents speak only English at home.<sup>2</sup> Of the roughly 300 Rolling Hills residents speaking a language other than English at home, 18 percent speak Spanish, 56 percent speak an Asian language, and 26 percent speak another Indo-European language. Most of these residents are bilingual and are fluent in English. About 66 percent of those speaking a foreign language at home indicated they also spoke English "very well." Of the remaining 34 percent, about half spoke an Asian language. Korean and Chinese were the most commonly spoken languages in those households.

Relative to other cities in Los Angeles County and the region, the percentage of "linguistically isolated" persons (i.e., those with limited English) is very low in Rolling Hills. Whereas about 6 percent of Rolling Hills' population is linguistically isolated, the percentage in Los Angeles County is about 24 percent.

### **3.2.5 Educational Attainment**

Rolling Hills residents are highly educated. Among residents 25 or older, 97.6 percent have a high school degree. More than 70 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher, and 39 percent have a graduate or professional degree. These percentages are substantially higher than in the County as a whole.

### **3.2.6 Health Indicators**

Health can impact housing needs both by limiting the income earning potential of residents and by creating the need for supportive services or special housing design. Based on data provided to the City by the Southern California Association of Governments, Rolling Hills health indicators are consistently better than the County as a whole. The City's obesity rate is 16.5 percent, compared to a countywide average of 28.2 percent. Its asthma rate is 10.1 percent, compared to the countywide average of 15.1 percent and its diabetes rate is 8.3 percent, compared to 12.1 percent countywide. On the other hand, Rolling Hills has a higher rate of heart disease than the County as a whole, with 9.7 percent of the population diagnosed with a heart ailment compared to 6.6 percent countywide. This is likely due to the higher percentage of older residents in the city.

---

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey 2015-2019, based on residents 5 years of age or older.

### 3.2.7 Employment

Employment affects the demand for housing and the dynamics of the housing market. In most cities, the types of jobs that are present affect the wages paid and the ability of the local workforce to pay for housing in the city. Rolling Hills is unique in this regard, as it has no major employers or land zoned for employment uses. In 2018, the Southern California Association of Governments estimated that there were only 110 jobs in the city.<sup>3</sup> Employers include the City, the School District, Rolling Hills Community Association, the County Fire Department, and the Palos Verdes Transit Authority. The figure excludes construction workers, landscapers, housekeepers, child care providers, care givers, delivery workers, and others who travel to the city intermittently for work.

Data from SCAG collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic indicates that a majority of employed residents in Rolling Hills commuted to jobs elsewhere in Los Angeles County. The largest percentages of residents commuted to Los Angeles (28.2%), Torrance (8.3%), and Long Beach (5.0%). Beyond Los Angeles County, the next largest commute destination was Orange County, including Anaheim (1.5%) and Huntington Beach (1.5%).

A relatively large percentage of Rolling Hills residents work from home. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, census data reported that about 18 percent of the city's employed residents worked from their homes. While data after March 2020 is not available, the percentage likely increased dramatically during the second quarter of 2020 and remained high for the rest of the year. The long-term effects of the pandemic on commute patterns are still unknown. However, the relatively large home sizes in Rolling Hills and the high percentage of the workforce in professional-sector jobs suggests that a substantial number of workers will continue to work remotely in the future.

Recent data from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) indicates there are 600 Rolling Hills residents in the labor force. EDD indicates an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent in June 2021, compared to a countywide average of 10.5 percent. The average annual unemployment rate in Rolling Hills was reported as 4.0 percent in 2019, when the countywide average was 4.4 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Tables 3.4 and 3.5 provides an overview of the Rolling Hills labor force, based on census data. The first table identifies the occupation of residents in the city by category, and the second classifies employed residents by industry.

A majority of the city's residents are in higher-wage professional and management occupations. Approximately 18 percent work in health care. About 13 percent work in education, legal services, arts, and media. Only a small percentage work in the service sector, and even smaller percentages work in the construction, maintenance, and transportation sectors. The largest economic sectors associated with the Rolling Hills workforce are finance, insurance, real estate, health care, and professional, scientific, and management services. The percentage of residents employed in retail sales, wholesaling, and manufacturing is much smaller than in the county as a whole.

<sup>3</sup> Based on data from the California Employment Development Department

<sup>4</sup> California EDD "Labor Force and Unemployment Rate for Cities and Census Designated Places" accessed July 2021

**Table 3.4: Rolling Hills Employed Residents by Occupation**

	<b>Number of Residents Employed</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Management, business, and financial services occupations	185	32.9%
Computer, engineering, and science occupations	39	6.9%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations	72	12.8%
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	104	18.5%
Service occupations	24	4.3%
Sales and office occupations	115	20.4%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	22	3.9%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	2	0.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Sources: American Community Survey, 2021 (2015-2019 characteristics)

**Table 3.5: Rolling Hills Employed Residents by Industry**

	<b>Number of Residents Employed</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Construction	24	4.3%
Manufacturing	29	5.2%
Wholesale trade	43	7.6%
Retail trade	30	5.3%
Transport/ warehousing/ utilities	4	0.7%
Information	12	2.1%
Finance/ insurance/ real estate	132	23.4%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	85	15.1%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	146	25.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	39	6.9%
Other services, except public administration	12	2.1%
Public Administration	7	1.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Sources: American Community Survey, 2021 (2015-2019 characteristics)

There are approximately six times more employed residents in Rolling Hills than jobs in Rolling Hills. The City is not expected to become an employment center in the future. Rolling Hills is currently a housing “reservoir” in that it provides far more housing than employment relative to other cities in Los Angeles County. Nearby communities with large employment bases rely on Rolling Hills to some extent to meet their housing needs, particularly at the upper range of the housing market.

### **3.3 Household Characteristics**

The Bureau of the Census defines a "household" as "all persons who occupy a housing unit. This may include persons living alone, families related through marriage or blood, and unrelated individuals living together. Persons living in retirement or convalescent homes, dormitories, or other group living situations are classified as living in "group quarters" and are not considered households. On the other hand, a property with an occupied accessory dwelling unit may be considered to consist of two households."

Household characteristics provide important indicators of housing needs. These characteristics include household structure (families with and without children, single persons, persons sharing homes, etc.), household size (number of persons per household), tenure (renter vs owner), and household income and poverty status. Again, the US Census 2021 American Community Survey (providing sample data for 2015-2019) is regarded as the definitive source for household data and is referenced in the tables and narrative below. At the time this report was prepared, 2020 Census data for households (other than total number of households) was not yet available.

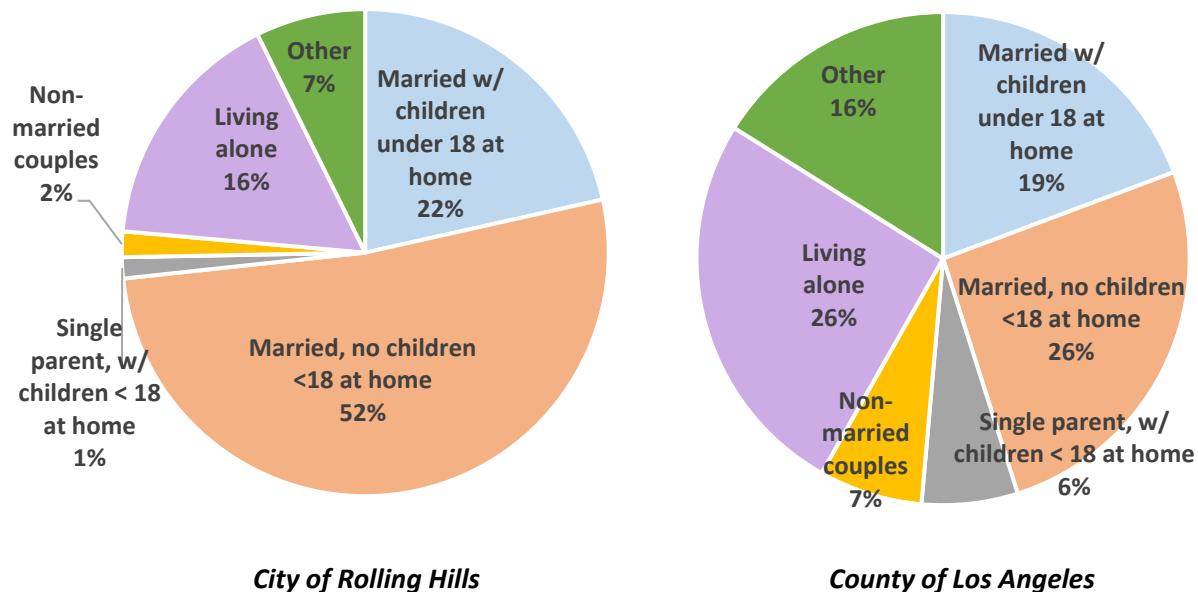
#### **3.3.1 Household Type**

Census data for Rolling Hills indicates that there is no group quarters population in the city and that all residents reside in households. Data from the California Department of Finance for January 1, 2021 indicates that there were 667 households in Rolling Hills, an increase of four households from the 2010 Census. The August 2021 release of US 2020 Census data indicates that there are 639 households in the city, which is a decrease of 24 households from 2010. The US Census data is considered more accurate, as it is based on an actual count and not an estimate.

Just over 81 percent of all households in Rolling Hills are classified as families. This percentage remained constant between 2010 and 2020. Non-family households include persons living alone and unrelated persons living in shared homes.

Chart 3.3 shows the distribution of households by category for Rolling Hills and the County of Los Angeles. Relative to the County, Rolling Hills has a much higher percentage of married couple families (74% of all households compared to 45% countywide). The City has smaller percentages of single parent households and non-married couple households than the County and the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. A much smaller share of Rolling Hills' residents live alone than in the County as a whole.

**Chart 3.3: Household Type in Rolling Hills and Los Angeles County, 2021**



Source: American Community Survey, 2021 (2015-2019 data)

The data for Rolling Hills reflects the community's single family housing stock. For decades, the city has attracted families with children. Couples tend to keep their homes when their children are grown, resulting in a significant number of homes (more than half) occupied by older couples with adult children and empty nesters. In fact, the Census indicates that 60 percent of the married couple households in Rolling Hills include at one person over 60 years old, compared to 38 percent in the county as a whole.

Household type in Rolling Hills has changed over the last 20 years. The percentage of people living alone has been increasing, growing from 12 percent of the population in 2000 to 16 percent in 2020. The percentage of households with children living at home has been decreasing. It was 33 percent in 2000 and 23 percent in 2020.

### 3.3.2 Household Size

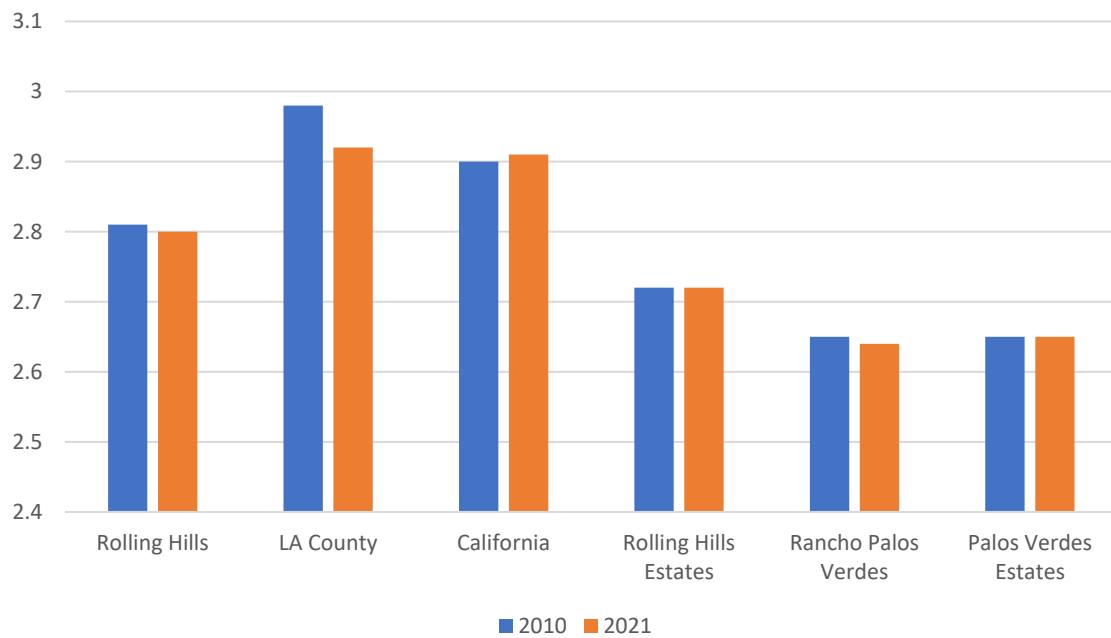
In 2020, the State Department of Finance reported the average household size in Rolling Hills as 2.80 persons. This is almost the same as it was in 2010, when average household size was reported at 2.81 persons. In general, average household size has been falling over time. It was 2.90 in 2000 and was reported as being 3.2 in the Rolling Hills General Plan (1989). Preliminary releases from the US Census (August 2021) show actual household size has fallen even further, and is now 2.72.

ACS data indicates that 16 percent of all households in the City are comprised of one person, 52 percent have two people, 10 percent have three people, and 21 percent have four or more people. By contrast, in Los Angeles County as a whole, 26 percent are comprised of one person, 28 percent of two persons, 17 percent of three persons, and 29 percent of four or more

persons. Rolling Hills has a much higher share of two-person households and smaller shares of one-person households and large households.

Chart 3.4 compares average household size in Rolling Hills, the County, the State and the other three cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Data is shown for 2010 and 2021 for each city, based on California Department of Finance statistics.

**Chart 3.4: Household Size in Rolling Hills and Other Jurisdictions, 2010 and 2021**



Source: California Department of Finance, Table E-5, 2021

### 3.3.3 Overcrowding

Overcrowding may result when high housing costs prevent households from buying or renting homes that provide sufficient space for their needs. The Census defines overcrowded households as those with more than 1.01 persons per room, excluding bathrooms, hallways, and porches. Households are considered to be “severely” overcrowded if they have more than 1.51 persons per room.

Although Rolling Hills has a higher number of persons per household than the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, it does not experience overcrowding. ACS data for 2015-2019 indicate that 98.9 percent of the homes in the city have 1.0 persons per room or less. There are no households with more than 1.51 persons per room. By contrast, in the county at large, 11.3 percent of the households have more than 1.01 persons per room and 4.7 percent have more than 1.51 persons per room. Homes in Rolling Hills are generally large and owner-occupied, reducing the likelihood of future overcrowding.

### 3.3.4 Tenure

Tenure refers to a household's status as an owner or renter. ACS data for 2015-2019 indicate that 95.3 percent of Rolling Hills' households are homeowners and 4.7 percent are renters. This percentage has remained relatively constant over the last two decades. The 2010 Census indicated that 95.7 percent of the city's households were homeowners and that 4.3 percent were renters. This equated to 28 renter households in the entire city. Because there are no multi-family units at this time, these households are presumed to be renting single family homes.

Renter households in the city are slightly larger than owner-occupied households. The ACS data for 2015-2019 indicates an average household size of 3.07 for renters and 2.60 for owners.

### 3.3.5 Household Income

Income is the single most important factor in determining housing affordability. While upper income households have more discretionary income to spend on housing, lower income households are more constrained in what they can afford. The State and federal government have developed metrics for classifying households into income categories. These metrics are used to quantify what is considered an "affordable" housing unit and to determine eligibility for housing subsidies and assistance programs. All metrics are benchmarked against the areawide median income, or AMI.

#### *State-Defined Income Categories*

The commonly used income categories are as follows:

- Extremely low income                    0-30% of AMI
- Very low income                        30% to 50% of AMI
- Low income                              50% to 80% of AMI
- Moderate income                        80% to 120% of AMI
- Above Moderate income                More than 120% of AMI

"Affordable housing cost" is defined by State law as being not more than 30 percent of gross household income. "Housing cost" in this context includes rent or mortgage payments, utilities, property taxes, and homeowners (or renters) insurance. The income limits are updated annually by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

For each income category, a sliding scale is used based on the number of persons per household. This recognizes that larger households must dedicate greater shares of their income for food, health care, transportation, and other expenses. The income categories are calculated by county, resulting in different median incomes from place to place within California.

Table 3.6 shows income categories for Los Angeles County that became effective in April 2021. A two-person household earning less than \$75,700 a year would be considered low income. The same household would be considered *very low* income if it earned less than \$47,300 a year. For a household of four people, the threshold is \$94,600 for low income and \$59,100 for very low income.

**Table 3.6: Income Limits for Los Angeles County, 2021<sup>5</sup>**

Income Category	Household Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Extremely Low Income	\$24,850	\$28,400	\$31,950	\$35,450	\$38,300	\$41,150	\$44,000	\$46,800
Very Low Income	\$41,400	\$47,300	\$53,200	\$59,100	\$63,850	\$68,600	\$73,300	\$78,050
Low Income	\$66,250	\$75,700	\$85,150	\$94,600	\$102,200	\$109,750	\$117,350	\$124,900
Moderate Income	\$67,200	\$76,800	\$86,400	\$96,000	\$103,700	\$111,350	\$119,050	\$126,700

Source: California Department of Housing and Community Development, 2021

Table 3.7 indicates the monthly housing cost that would be considered “affordable” for households of different sizes in each income category. Using the state’s definition of affordability, a low income household of four would be able to afford a monthly housing cost of \$2,365. A very low income household of four could afford a monthly housing cost of \$1,478. If these households are pay in excess of this amount, they are considered to be “cost-burdened.” In a high-priced market like the Palos Verdes Peninsula, many low income households pay significantly more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent or mortgages. Those employed in low-wage professions in the area may commute long distances from areas with more affordable housing.

**Table 3.7: Affordable Monthly Housing Costs Based on 2021 Income Limits**

Income Category	Household Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Extremely Low Income	\$621	\$710	\$799	\$886	\$958	\$1,029	\$1,100	\$1,170
Very Low Income	\$1,035	\$1,183	\$1,330	\$1,478	\$1,596	\$1,715	\$1,833	\$1,951
Low Income	\$1,656	\$1,893	\$2,129	\$2,365	\$2,555	\$2,744	\$2,934	\$3,123
Moderate Income	\$1,680	\$1,920	\$2,160	\$2,400	\$2,593	\$2,784	\$2,976	\$3,168

Source: Barry Miller Consulting, 2021. Based on 30% of monthly income for each household

Market-rate ownership housing in the Los Angeles area is generally not affordable to households who are moderate income or below. With an income of \$100,000, a household of four could potentially spend \$2,500 a month on their housing cost without experiencing a cost-burden. Assuming a 10 percent down-payment and 3 percent interest rate, an “affordable” home would be about \$360,000. While there are a few condominiums at this price point in the region’s larger cities (Long Beach, Los Angeles, etc.), there is no housing on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in this range. Consequently, “below market” housing programs typically focus on rental housing for low and very low income households, and a mix of subsidized ownership housing and rental housing for moderate income households.

<sup>5</sup> Income limits for low, very low, and extremely low income are set by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, income limits for moderate income households are set by HCD based on mathematical averages of County income. Consequently, the moderate income numbers are only marginally different from the low income numbers in Los Angeles County. This is not the case in all counties.

Some market-rate rental units are “affordable by design”—meaning they are not subsidized but have rental prices that fall within the affordability ranges of low and moderate income households. For example, a one-bedroom apartment renting for \$1,700 a month would be considered affordable to a two-person low-income household. While the supply of such units is limited on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, there are opportunities for market-rate accessory dwellings and small apartments to fill some of this need.

#### *Household Income in Rolling Hills*

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) receives custom tabulations of Census data each year to evaluate housing needs for lower income households. The data is referred to as “CHAS” (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) data and includes documentation of the current number of owner and renter households in each HUD income category for each jurisdiction. At the time the 2021-2029 Housing Element was prepared the CHAS data set was based on 2013-2017 conditions. Table 3.8 provides CHAS data for the City of Rolling Hills.

**Table 3.8: Rolling Hills Households by HUD Income Category**

Income Category	Owners	Renters	Total (*)
Extremely Low	25	0	<b>25</b>
Very Low	35	10	<b>45</b>
Low	45	0	<b>45</b>
Moderate	25	0	<b>25</b>
Above Moderate	465	15	<b>480</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>620</b>

Source: HUD User Portal CHAS data, based on 2013-2017 ACS. Accessed July 2021

(\*) Total number of households does not match Census and DOF totals due to sampling methods. CHAS data is also rounded to the nearest “five” by HUD.

Table 3.8 indicates that 77 percent of the households in Rolling Hills are “above moderate” income (more than 120% of Areawide Median Income). There are 25 “extremely low” income households and 45 “very low” income households in the city, representing four percent and seven percent of total households respectively. Another seven percent meet “low” income criteria.

Table 3.9 provides additional data on income in Rolling Hills, using 2015-2019 American Community Survey data rather than CHAS data. Rolling Hills is among the most affluent cities in California, with a median income exceeding \$250,000 a year, and a mean household income of \$434,685. The Census indicates that 57.5 percent of the city’s households have annual incomes exceeding \$200,000, compared to 37.8 percent for all of the Palos Verdes Peninsula cities and 10.2 percent for Los Angeles County.

**Table 3.9: Household Income in Rolling Hills, Peninsula Cities, and Los Angeles County**

Income Category	Percent of Households in Income Category		
	Rolling Hills	Palos Verdes Peninsula Cities	Los Angeles County
Less than \$10,000	1.2%	3.0%	5.6%
\$10,000-\$14,999	2.6%	1.6%	4.8%
\$15,000-\$24,999	2.6%	3.4%	8.4%
\$25,000-\$34,999	1.2%	3.4%	8.1%
\$35,000-\$49,999	6.1%	4.7%	11.2%
\$50,000-\$74,999	3.8%	9.2%	15.9%
\$75,000-\$99,999	4.2%	9.0%	12.3%
\$100,000-\$149,999	12.7%	15.5%	15.8%
\$150,000-\$199,999	8.1%	12.6%	7.8%
\$200,000 or more	57.5%	37.8%	10.2%
<b>Median Income</b>	<b>\$250,000+</b>	<b>\$154,165</b>	<b>\$68,044</b>
<b>Mean Income</b>	<b>\$434,685</b>	<b>\$210,231</b>	<b>\$99,133</b>

Source: American Community Survey, 2021 (for 2015-2019)

Data for Palos Verdes Peninsula cities represents weighted average of Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Palos Verdes Estates

While a majority of households are “above moderate” income, the ACS data indicates that 6.4 percent of Rolling Hills’ households (or approximately 42 households) have annual incomes of less than \$25,000 a year. This compares to 8.0 percent for the Palos Verdes Peninsula and 18.8 percent for Los Angeles County. Approximately 7.3 percent of Rolling Hills’ households have incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a year, compared to 8.1 percent on the Peninsula and 19.3 percent countywide.

The Census also disaggregates household income data by family households, married couples, and non-family households. Non-family households include persons living alone and unrelated individuals in shared homes. Family and married couple household incomes in Rolling Hills are higher than non-family households. Census data indicate that 27 percent of the non-family households in the city (or about 30 households) have annual incomes below \$35,000 compared to just 3.1 percent for families and married couples.

An important qualifier about the Census income data is that it does not account for accumulated wealth or savings and is based only on annual income. Given the high cost of housing in Rolling Hills, the very high rate of owner-occupancy (95 percent), and the large number of retired adults in the city, it is likely that most of the lower income households in the city are seniors on fixed incomes. In fact, 68 of the 108 non-family households in the city are comprised of persons over 65 living alone. Many of these households have no mortgage and their housing costs are primarily associated with property taxes, insurance, maintenance, and utilities. Despite accumulated wealth and home equity, a subset of the population on fixed incomes may lack the resources to meet these expenses without financial hardship.

### 3.3.6 Overpayment

Overpayment refers to the incidence of households spending more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing costs. As noted earlier, this includes monthly utility bills, taxes, HOA dues, and insurance as well as mortgage or rent payments. Overpayment occurs in all income categories but is more challenging for lower income households given the limited resources to pay for other household expenses. As previously indicated, such households are defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as being “cost-burdened.”

ACS data indicates that 30.6 percent of all homeowners in Rolling Hills and 32 percent of all renters are paying more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing. About 18 percent of Rolling Hills homeowners are paying more than 50 percent of their incomes on housing. This compares to 16 percent in the county as a whole. Table 3.10 compares rates of overpayment in Rolling Hills with those of Los Angeles County as a whole. At the countywide level, the rate of overpayment is somewhat higher for homeowners and substantially higher for renters. In Los Angeles County, approximately 35.7 percent of all homeowners and 57.6 percent of all renters pay more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing.

**Table 3.10: Percent of Income Spent on Housing in Rolling Hills and Los Angeles County**

Percent of Income Spent on Housing	Homeowners with no Mortgage		Homeowners with a Mortgage		Renters	
	Rolling Hills	LA County	Rolling Hills	LA County	Rolling Hills	LA County
<b>Less than 20 %</b>	64.3%	73.4%	37.1%	30.0%	54.5%	19.7%
<b>20-24.9 %</b>	10.5%	6.4%	10.1%	14.5%	0	11.5%
<b>25-29.9%</b>	5.0%	4.2%	14.0%	12.1%	13.6%	11.2%
<b>30-34.9%</b>	0.8%	3.0%	7.8%	9.1%	0	9.5%
<b>More than 35%</b>	19.3%	12.9%	30.9%	34.4%	31.8%	48.1%

Source: American Community Survey, 2021 (for 2015-2019)

Not surprisingly, the incidence of overpayment is much greater for homeowners with a mortgage than for those without a mortgage. In Rolling Hills, approximately 44 percent of all homeowners have paid off their mortgages, while 56 percent have a mortgage. For those without mortgages, 20.1 percent pay more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing. For those with mortgages, the figure is 38.6 percent.

Even homeowners without mortgages may still face a cost burden associated with taxes, maintenance, and other home expenses. The ACS reports that 93 percent of Rolling Hills' homeowners with no mortgage payments still have monthly housing costs exceeding \$1,000 a month. The median monthly cost for homeowners without mortgages in the city is over \$1,500 a month. The comparable figures for Los Angeles County are just 20.3 percent and \$608 a month. The data suggests that Rolling Hills seniors on fixed incomes may be particularly cost-burdened due to limited income, monthly HOA fees, and the high cost of maintaining a home in the city.

For homeowners with mortgages, monthly costs are substantially higher. ACS data shows that 89.9 percent of the city's homeowners with mortgages spend over \$3,000 a month on housing, with a median well above \$4,000 a month (the maximum reported by the Census). This compares to 34.2 percent in Los Angeles County, with monthly median of \$2,498.

Data on the City's renter households indicates that a majority are above moderate income households spending more than \$3,000 a month on housing. However, the ACS indicates seven renter households paying \$1,000 to \$1,499 a month, which indicates that at least a few renters in the city occupy guest houses or unregistered accessory dwelling units.

Table 3.11 shows the incidence of overpayment among owners and renters in Rolling Hills who are lower income. Among lower income homeowners, 78 out of 90 are considered cost-burdened, while among the city's 10 lower income renters, eight are considered cost-burdened. About two-thirds of the city's lower income owners are severely cost-burdened, paying more than half of their incomes on housing. While the income data does not fully account for savings and accrued wealth, it does suggest that some of these households might benefit from assistance with home maintenance and monthly housing expenses (for example, through home sharing and ADUs).

**Table 3.11: Overpayment among Lower Income Households in Rolling Hills**

	Total Households	Number Paying More than 30% of Income on Housing	Number Paying More than 50% of Income on Housing
<b>Homeowners</b>			
Income Under 80% of Areawide Median	90	78	60
Income Under 30% of Areawide Median	25	19	15
<b>Renters</b>			
Income Under 80% of Areawide Median	10	8	4
Income Under 30% of Areawide Median	0	0	0

Source: HUD User CHAS data, 2014-2018

### 3.4 Populations with Special Needs

The California Government Code recognizes that some segments of the population have more difficulty finding decent, affordable housing than others due to their circumstances. Populations with special needs include older adults, persons with disabilities, large families, farmworkers, families with female heads of households, and persons experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness. These groups are more likely than the population at large to spend a disproportionate amount of their incomes on housing. They are also more likely to face discrimination based on their specific needs or circumstances.

### 3.4.1 Older Adults

The special needs of older households result from limited income, higher rates of physical disability and health care costs, and changing life circumstances which may require assistance from others. This is the single largest special needs group in Rolling Hills, and it is growing rapidly as the population ages. Table 3.12 compares the number of older adults in Rolling Hills with the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, along with Los Angeles County.

**Table 3.12: Older Adults in Rolling Hills and Nearby Jurisdictions**

Jurisdiction	Percent of all Residents over 65	Percent of all Residents over 75	Percent of households with at least one member over 65
Rolling Hills	32.9%	18.4%	56.0%
Rolling Hills Estates	25.2%	13.9%	46.5%
Palos Verdes Estates	27.0%	13.3%	46.8%
Rancho Palos Verdes	15.5%	13.6%	44.7%
Los Angeles County	13.3%	5.7%	29.7%
California	14.0%	5.9%	30.8%

*Source: American Community Survey, 2021 (for 2015-2019)*

The percentage of residents over 65 in Rolling Hills was 22 percent in 2000, 28 percent in 2010, and 33 percent in 2020. Moreover, 56 percent of the households in Rolling Hills include at least one person who is 65 years or older. This is almost double the rate for Los Angeles County as a whole. The percentage of Rolling Hills residents over 85 has doubled in the last 20 years, with this cohort representing 4.7 percent of the population in 2020.

The percentage of older residents is likely to continue increasing in the next decade. Nearly one in five Rolling Hills residents is in the 55-64 age cohort (compared to one in nine countywide), and most of this cohort will reach retirement age during the timeframe of this Housing Element. Some of these residents, as well as those already over 65, may seek to “downsize” or adapt their homes to meet changing mobility needs and financial resources.

Older adults in Rolling Hills are more likely to live alone, have one or more disabilities, and be cost-burdened by housing than the population at large. Census data indicates that there are 68 households, representing roughly 10 percent of all households in Rolling Hills, comprised of a person over 65 living alone. About 70 percent are female-headed households and 30 percent are male-headed. There may be opportunities among these households for home sharing and accessory dwelling unit (ADU) development. This can provide financial benefits, social benefits, and an added sense of security, as well as housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income workers or other retirees in the community.

At the same time, the City should anticipate an increase in homeowners seeking to adapt their homes to facilitate aging in place. This would include addition of ramps, handrails, kitchen and bath retrofits, and interior changes that improve access for wheelchairs and walkers. The Rolling Hills housing stock is well suited for these improvements, as it is limited to single story

construction. Demand for on-site caregiver quarters, and living space for other domestic employees, will likely increase. At the same time, the substantial cost and demand associated with maintaining a large home and property may compel some residents to seek living arrangements that are not currently available in Rolling Hills, such as condominiums and townhomes. Some of these residents will relocate out of Rolling Hills due to diminished mobility (capacity to drive) or the need for higher levels of care.

Because of resource limitations and the city's small size, the City of Rolling Hills does not provide direct services to seniors. It works with other agencies, non-profits, and the private sector to address the housing needs of local seniors, and to connect residents with service providers. This includes maintaining a comprehensive list of facilities and service providers at City Hall, and a dedicated page on the City's website listing available services for seniors. Rolling Hills has partnered with other Peninsula cities and local non-profits to produce a Senior Resources Guide for the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Nearby local services include:

- Palos Verdes Peninsula Village, located in Rolling Hills Estates, provides social and educational activities, transportation, and advocacy for seniors in the vicinity. They provide trained volunteers to assist with routine home maintenance activities, computer troubleshooting and set-up, and other day to day activities.
- PV Peninsula Transit Authority Dial-A-Ride, which provides services for persons 62 or older on the Peninsula, and free taxis for medical appointments in the South Bay area.
- Peninsula Seniors, a non-profit 501(c)(3) that has served the four cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (including Rolling Hills) since 1982. They primarily provide social activities, health and wellness programs, special events, and educational programs.
- Volunteer block captains within Rolling Hills, providing wellness checks for seniors as well as emergency preparedness and response.
- Homeshare South Bay matches seniors and others in the community with local housing opportunities. Homeshare South Bay is a project of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, which includes Rolling Hills.
- HELP (Health Care and Elder Law Programs) is a Torrance-based organization that provides counseling to area seniors on elder care, finance, law, and consumer protection. The organization is dedicated to empowering older adults and their families.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Library District and the Peninsula Center Library (in Rolling Hills Estates) provides programs and resources for seniors.
- There are senior centers in the nearby communities of Torrance, Carson, Wilmington, Harbor City, San Pedro, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Hawthorne, and El Segundo.

In addition, the Rolling Hills Community Association (RHCA) created a “Needs of Seniors” Committee in 2014 to address the needs of aging Rolling Hills residents. The Committee collects information and makes recommendations to the RHCA Board. Their recent efforts have focused on transportation, health and wellness, home improvement and maintenance, and social events.

### **3.4.2 Persons with Disabilities**

The number of disabled residents is increasing nationwide due to increased longevity and the aging of the population. Physical and mental disabilities can hinder access to housing as well as the income needed to pay for housing. Those with disabilities often have special housing needs related to their limited earning capacity, higher health care costs, mobility or self-care limitations, or need for supportive services.

The Census recognizes six disability types in its data tabulation: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living. These categories are not mutually exclusive and disabled residents may have more than one of these conditions. Current ACS data (2015-2019) for Rolling Hills indicates that 10.6 percent of the City’s population has one or more disabilities. This compares to 8.1 percent in the 2000 Census, with the increase attributable to the greater number of older adults. Rolling Hills has a slightly higher percentage of disabled residents than the county as a whole, with the ACS reporting that 9.9 percent of Los Angeles County’s residents were disabled in 2020.

The city’s older residents are more likely to be disabled than its younger residents. ACS data shows 23 percent of all residents over 65 have one or more disabilities, whereas only 5.5 percent of those aged 18-64 have one or more disabilities and only 1.4 percent of those under 18 have disabilities. The “over 75” population has the greatest incidence of disability, with 33.8 percent affected.

Table 3.13 shows the incidence of disabilities among persons in different age groups in Rolling Hills. The most common disabilities are ambulatory (movement), with older adults most impacted. There were 103 residents reporting an ambulatory difficulty, 66 of whom were over 75. There were 56 residents reporting a hearing difficulty, 46 of whom were over 75. Cognitive difficulties were more likely to affect the younger population (particularly 18-34). This was the only category where rates among older adults were lower than among younger age cohorts.

**Table 3.13: Percent of Rolling Hills’ Residents with a Disability**

<b>Disability Type</b>	<b>Under 18</b>	<b>18-64</b>	<b>Over 65</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hearing Difficulty	0	1.0%	10.0%	3.7%
Vision Difficulty	0	1.0%	2.6%	1.3%
Cognitive Difficulty	1.5%	2.3%	2.0%	2.1%
Ambulatory Difficulty	0	2.9%	16.5%	6.9%
Self-care Difficulty	0	0.5%	6.0%	2.3%
Independent Living Difficulty	N/A	2.3%	8.8%	5.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 2021 (for 2015-2019)

There were 61 residents, including 34 residents over 75 and another 11 aged 65-74, who indicated an independent living difficulty. This represents roughly 5 percent of the City's population and is comparable to the countywide average of 5.4 percent. These residents may require daily assistance from caregivers or family members.

There is an ongoing need to adapt housing to meet the needs of those with disabilities, and to design new homes so they are accessible for all people. This may require widened doorways and hallways, access ramps, larger bathrooms, lowered countertops, grab bars, walk-in baths and showers, and other design changes. It is important that planning and building codes support such changes, and accommodate the needs of those who are disabled or become disabled while living in the homes they currently occupy. Barrier free design is particularly important in any multi-family housing that may be constructed in the future.

In 2020, the City of Rolling Hills amended its municipal code to provide "reasonable accommodation" for persons with disabilities. This complies with state and federal laws and enables those with disabilities to request modifications from standard practices or codes to meet their housing needs.

### **3.4.3 Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

SB 812 requires that each jurisdiction's housing element include an analysis of housing needs for persons with developmental disabilities. This is defined by federal law as a "severe, chronic disability" that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- Is manifested before the individual attains age 18
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
  - Self-care
  - Receptive and expressive language
  - Learning
  - Mobility
  - Self-direction
  - Capacity of independent living
  - Economic self-sufficiency
- Reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized support, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Examples of developmental disabilities include cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. Many developmentally disabled persons can live and work independently. More severely disabled individuals may require a group living environment with training and supportive services. The most severely disabled individuals may require an institutional environment where medical services and physical therapy are provided. Because developmental disabilities exist in childhood, the transition from living with one's family to living independently is an important consideration in meeting local housing needs.

Data on the number of persons with developmental disabilities is maintained by the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). DDS coordinates the efforts of a network of 21 non-profit regional centers around the state and provides funding for a variety of programs and services. Rolling Hills is served by the Harbor Regional Center, which is located in Torrance. The Harbor Center serves over 15,000 people with developmental disabilities, with a service area that includes Long Beach, the South Bay, the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and other parts of southern Los Angeles County. About half are children and half are adults.

Data from the DDS is provided by ZIP code. Rolling Hills city represents 7.4 percent of the 25,061 residents in ZIP code 90274. The last available report posted by DDS on their website (June 2017) indicates 154 clients served in 90274, including 65 under age 18 and 89 over age 18. If Rolling Hills' share of the total is pro-rated, this would be equivalent to 12 clients, including five children and seven adults. ZIP code data is also disaggregated by the type of housing occupied by clients. The data indicates that 149 clients in ZIP Code 90274 live with their families or guardians and "fewer than 11" clients live in supported living, care facility, or foster home environments. Overall, about 87 percent of the Harbor Center's clients live with their families.

The Harbor Regional Center is an important resource for those with developmental disabilities, and their families. It provides health assessments, advocacy, family support and training, individual case management and support, early intervention and prevention services, and assistance in finding stable and secure independent living arrangements. Additional resources in the area include the Disability Community Resource Center in Torrance and Southern California Resources Services for Independent Living.

### **3.4.4 Female-Headed Households with Children**

Single-parent households require special consideration and assistance because of their greater needs for day care, health care, and other facilities. In particular, female-headed households with children tend to have lower incomes, thus limiting housing affordability for this group. In most communities, female-headed households are considered to be at greater risk of displacement, poverty, and housing overpayment.

The 2019 ACS indicates that there were five single parent female households with children in Rolling Hills, representing less than one percent of the City's households. The comparable figure for Los Angeles County was 5.1 percent, as the composition of households is substantially more diverse at the countywide level.

ACS data for the small number of female-headed households with children in Rolling Hills may not be entirely reliable due to the small sample size. Nonetheless, the data indicate that these households were above the poverty level, and did not receive supplemental security income, SNAP/food stamps, or other public assistance income in the past 12 months.

Because the very small number of female-headed households in Rolling Hills, as well as their income characteristics, they are not expected to have special housing needs that require City programs.

### 3.4.5 Large Households

Large households are defined as those with five or more members. Such households are identified in State housing law as a group with special housing needs based on the limited availability of adequately sized, affordable housing units. In instances where large households have lower incomes, they may be more likely to live in overcrowded dwelling units or in units that are substandard. The problem is more acute for large households who are renters, who may face the added risk of eviction or displacement.

Table 3.14 shows data on household size in Rolling Hills. The data is broken down for family and non-family households. About 12.3 percent of all households in Rolling Hills have five or more members, including 2.6 percent with seven or more members. All of these households are families. Countywide, 14.3 percent of all households have five or more members and 2.8 percent have seven or more members.

The average number of rooms per unit in a Rolling Hills home is 8.3, compared to 4.6 for Los Angeles County. ACS data indicates the median annual income for large households in Rolling Hills exceeds \$250,000. Given the large home sizes in Rolling Hills, the low incidence of overcrowding, and the relatively small percentage of large households, this is not a priority special needs group within the city. Larger households will continue to be housed in the city's larger single family homes.

**Table 3.14: Number of Persons in Family and Non-Family Households**

Household Size	Family	Percentage	Non-Family	Percentage	Total	Percentage
1	N/A	N/A	94	87.0%	94	16.3%
2	287	61.2%	14	13.0%	301	52.2%
3	59	12.6%	0	0	59	10.2%
4	52	11.1%	0	0	52	9.0%
5	51	10.9%	0	0	51	8.8%
6	8	1.7%	0	0	8	1.4%
7 or more	12	2.6%	0	0	12	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: American Community Survey, 2021 (for 2015-2019)

### **3.4.6 Residents Living in Poverty or With Extremely Low Incomes**

Census data indicates that 1.7 percent of Rolling Hills' population—or about 25 residents—are below the federal poverty line. This compares to 14.9 percent for the county as a whole.

According to the 2015-2019 ACS, Rolling Hills residents living below the poverty include 14 people aged 18-59 and 11 people over 60. There are no children under 18 below the poverty line in the city. The data further indicates that the 25 residents include 12 white non-Hispanic persons, four Asian persons, and nine Latino persons.<sup>6</sup>

Census data indicates that only five of the residents below the poverty line are in the labor force, suggesting that some of those tallied by the Census have other sources of income not reported here. Census data indicates that a majority of the adults below the poverty level in Rolling Hills are 18-34 year olds—this likely represents adult children not in the labor force who are living at home. This is further supported by the even lower poverty rate for family households in Rolling Hills—reported at 0.4 percent by the ACS, which is equivalent to three households.

Although Rolling Hills has a very small number of households in poverty, and some of its extremely low income residents have supplemental sources of income, the city is located in a region with significant very low income housing needs. In February 2021, the City amended its zoning regulations to create the Rancho Del Mar Overlay District. Affordable housing and emergency shelter are both permitted by right in this district, subject to specific development standards. Single room occupancy hotels are conditionally permitted. The City also permits home sharing, room rentals, and accessory dwelling units, all of which are beneficial to meeting extremely low income housing needs.

### **3.4.7 Farmworkers**

The special housing needs of farmworkers are a result of low wages and the seasonal nature of agricultural employment. Migrant farmworkers face particular challenges, including severe overcrowding. Farmworker needs are difficult to quantify due to fear of job loss, language barriers, and the documentation status of the farmworker labor force.

The 2015-2019 ACS data indicates that there are no Rolling Hills residents employed in “Farming, Fishing, and Forestry” occupations. This data further indicates that there are no residents in the city employed in the “Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining” sector. There are also no farmworker jobs in the city, as there is no agricultural land. As a result, the City does not have active programs or policies to address farmworker housing needs.

---

<sup>6</sup> As noted earlier, the ACS is based on a sample of the population (roughly 15% for the five-year period). In a small city such as Rolling Hills, the margin of error is high, particularly for the breakdown of poverty status by age, race and ethnicity.

### **3.4.8 Homelessness**

Homelessness has become an increasing problem throughout California and the entire United States. In Southern California, factors contributing to the rise in homelessness include the lack of housing affordable to low- and very low-income persons, loss of employment and benefits—particularly for low wage workers, health care costs and related personal disabilities, reductions in public subsidies, increasing rates of addiction and substance abuse, and a lack of mental health services.

State law requires that cities address the special needs of unhoused residents within their jurisdictional boundaries. For this purpose, homelessness is defined as including individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, as well as individuals living in shelters and in places not designed for sleeping. The definition does not include those living in substandard or overcrowded housing or persons who are temporarily staying with family and friends. Such individuals are considered to be “at risk” of homelessness.

A “point in time” count of homeless residents in Greater Los Angeles is conducted annually by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). In January 2020, the count identified 54,291 persons experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. This is an increase of about 10 percent from 2019, when the count was 49,521. It is an increase of 37 percent from 2016, when the count was 39,587. The 2020 figures precede the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on homelessness.

Data provided by the LAHSA indicates the 2020 count for the city of Rolling Hills was zero. The count for all prior years in the survey (2016-2019) also counted no unsheltered residents in the city. The nature of homelessness and the method of data reporting make it difficult to evaluate the full extent of the challenge of adequately housing the entire population. While there are no unsheltered residents in Rolling Hills, there may be residents who are temporarily staying with friends or relatives because they lack the resources or have underlying conditions which make it difficult to find permanent housing.

There are no emergency shelters in Rolling Hills. The closest facilities are in San Pedro and Wilmington and are less than five miles away. Harbor Rose Lodge (San Pedro) provides homeless support services for individuals and families in Los Angeles County, with no geographic restrictions. It assists with temporary housing and provides support services and referrals. Harbor Interfaith (San Pedro) provides a 90-day emergency shelter and an 18-month transitional housing program. Also in San Pedro, Shawl House and House of Hope provide shelter, transitional housing, counseling specifically for women. The Doors of Hope Shelter in Wilmington also serves single women. The Beacon Light Mission in Wilmington provides a 10-bed men’s shelter, as well as food, clothing, and supportive services to men, women, and children.

In February 2021, the City of Rolling Hills amended its zoning regulations to allow emergency shelter “by right” in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone. The 31-acre site overlay zone includes multiple areas of underutilized land that provide opportunities for emergency shelter or supportive service facilities.

The City is committed to coordinating with supportive service providers and meeting the needs of local unhoused residents. A list of nearby social service agencies and shelters is maintained by the City Clerk.

## 3.5 Housing Stock Characteristics

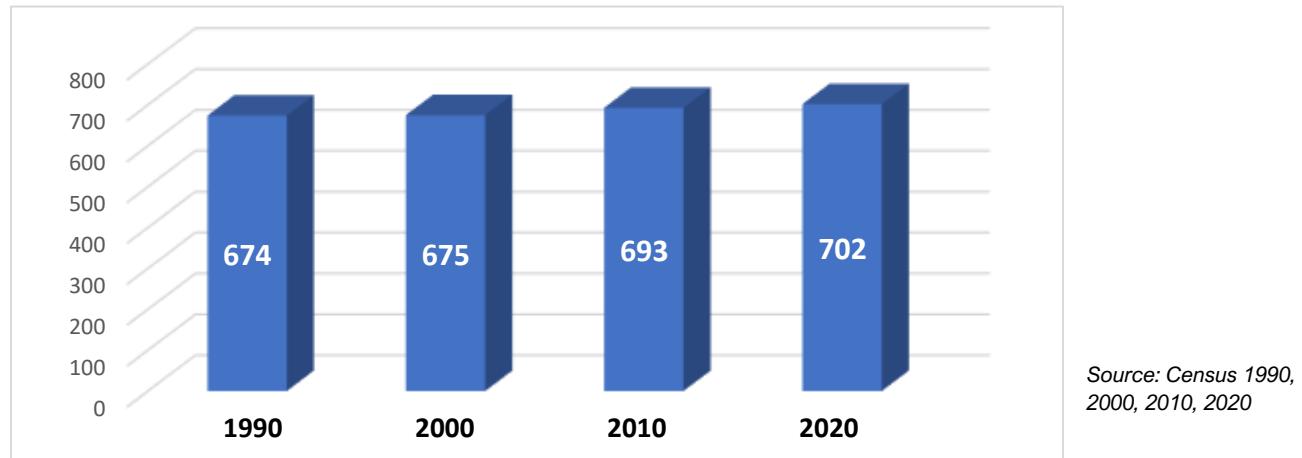
Government Code Section 65583(a) requires the Housing Element to describe the characteristics of the local housing stock, including structural condition. This section of the Element provides an overview of Rolling Hills' housing stock, including the age of structures, the types of structures, the number of bedrooms, and vacancy characteristics. It also includes information on home values and rents.

### 3.5.1 Housing Unit Count

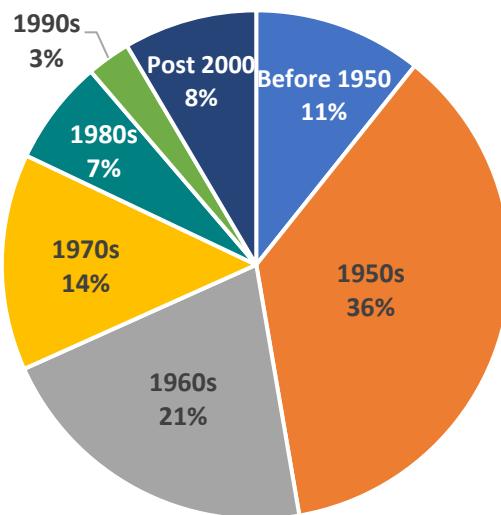
The US Census reported 674 housing units in the city in 1990, 675 units in 2000, and 693 units in 2010 (see Chart 3.5). The California Department of Finance estimated 719 units in the city as of 2021. However, the August 12, 2021 data release from the 2020 Census indicates the total unit count is 702, which is more consistent with City records. The net number of housing units in the city has increased at a rate of about one unit a year for the last 30 years.

While the increase in units has been nominal, additional residential development has been occurring through the replacement and expansion of existing single family homes. Much of Rolling Hills was developed in the 1950s and was typified by 2,000 to 4,000 square-foot ranch style homes. As in many desirable older communities, the original housing stock is gradually being replaced with much larger units. These units average 6,000 to 9,000 square feet in size, according to City building permit records. This trend of residential recycling can be expected to continue and potentially increase as less vacant land is available for development.

**Chart 3.5: Total Number of Housing Units in Rolling Hills, 1990-2020**



**Chart 3.6: Year of Construction for Rolling Hills Homes**



Source: American Community Survey 2021

### 3.5.2 Age and Condition of Housing Stock

Chart 3.6 shows the age of the housing stock in Rolling Hills. About half of the housing stock in the community is more than 60 years old. About 35 percent was built in the 1960s and 70s and the remainder has been built in the last 40 years. About 8 percent of the city's housing stock is less than 20 years old—however, most of these homes are “replacements” and were built on previously developed lots.

The older housing stock in the city is in excellent condition. Census data indicates there are no units in the city without plumbing or kitchen facilities. The City strongly encourages reinvestment in the existing housing stock, and homeowners take pride in their homes and properties. Common repairs include new roofs, new siding, plaster and stucco repair, upgraded electrical systems, and plumbing improvements. Home additions, kitchen and bathroom upgrades, and solar energy installations are also common.

No significant code enforcement or housing problems have been observed in the city. The city has a Code Enforcement Officer who makes complaint-based site visits. In the event a violation is identified, the City works with the property owner to resolve the issue.

The City estimates that five units, or 0.8 percent of its housing stock, is in need of rehabilitation or replacement. These properties include:<sup>7</sup>

- A home that has been red tagged and in need of foundation repair
- A home in a landslide area with a stop work order due to work being done without permits

<sup>7</sup> Addresses can be provided to HCD upon request but are not disclosed here.

- An older home where the owner is seeking approval to demolish and rebuild
- A home with an approved application to demolish and rebuild
- A home with an approval for a major remodel and addition

In any given year, the City also receives “tear down and rebuild” applications for one to two older homes as well as dozens of applications to modernize, expand and update older homes. In almost all cases, these homes are habitable, but they are outdated and do not provide the amenities expected in high-end construction.

### **3.5.3 Housing Type**

Rolling Hills is comprised entirely of single family homes. The 2021 ACS indicates there are no multi-family units in the city. ACS data further indicates seven units that are “single family attached” which presumably are accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or other separate living quarters that are ancillary to a primary residence.

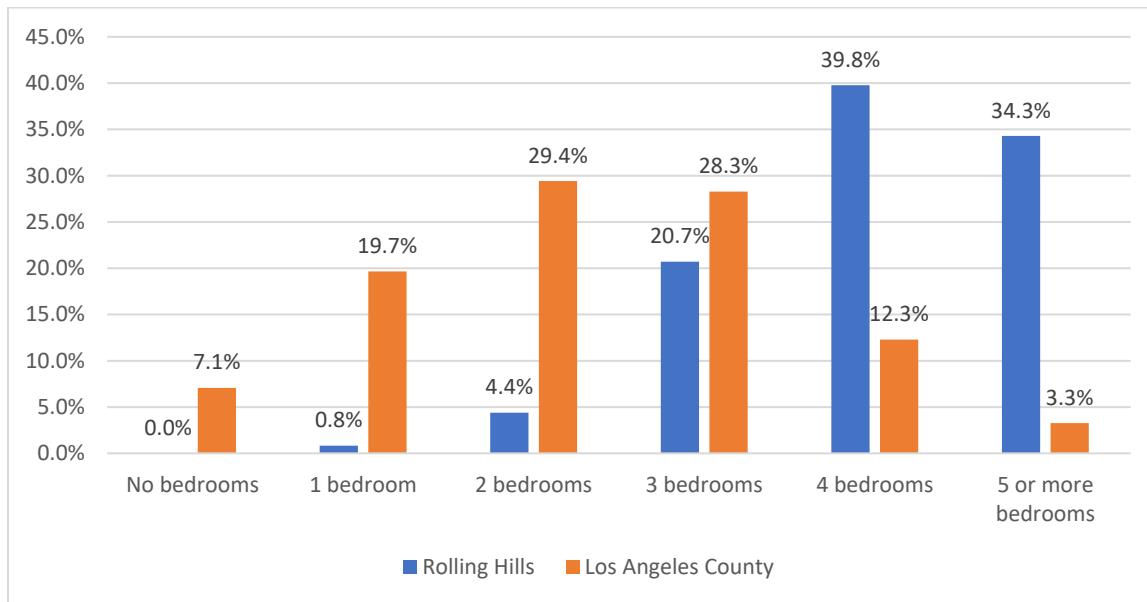
Census data does not typically classify “guest houses” as dwelling units unless they have been legally permitted as separate residences. Rolling Hills classifies guest houses differently than ADUs; the latter are permitted by right to be independent dwellings provided they meet certain adopted zoning standards. By contrast, occupancy of guest houses is limited to persons employed on the premises, the family of the occupants of the main residence, or the temporary guests of the occupants of the main residence. Guest houses may not be used as rental housing, but an owner may apply for a permit to convert a guest house to an ADU, which can then be rented.

### **3.5.4 House Size**

Homes in Rolling Hills are large. Chart 3.7 below shows the distribution by number of bedrooms. About 74 percent of the homes in the city have four or more bedrooms. Another 21 percent have three bedrooms and only five percent have two bedrooms or fewer. By contrast, among homes in Los Angeles County as a whole, 16 percent of all housing units have four or more bedrooms and 56 percent have two bedrooms or fewer.

Data for total house size shows a similar difference between Rolling Hills and the County as a whole. Countywide, the median number of rooms per home is 4.5. In Rolling Hills, it is 8.3. Only 4.7 percent of the homes in Los Angeles County have nine or more rooms. In Rolling Hills, 46 percent of the homes have nine or more rooms.

**Chart 3.7: Percent of Housing Units by Number of Bedrooms, Rolling Hills and Los Angeles County**



Source: American Community Survey 2021 (for 2015-2019)

### **3.5.5 Vacancy Characteristics**

The August 12, 2021 data release from the US Census indicates that 63 of the city's 702 homes were vacant at the time of the 2020 Census. This is a nine percent vacancy rate. By contrast, 2020 Census data indicates that the vacancy rate for the Palos Verdes Peninsula as a whole was about five percent. Countywide, ACS data indicates that six percent of the housing stock in Los Angeles County is vacant.

ACS data provides an indication of the characteristics of vacant units in Rolling Hills. The ACS reports that 30 percent of the vacant units in the city were for sale, 26 percent were used seasonally (and were not occupied at the time of the census), and five percent were for rent. The remainder were classified as "other." ACS data further indicates that the vacancy rate among for-rent units was three times higher than the vacancy rate among for-sale units, although the sample size is very small.

In 2010, the Census reported that 5 percent of the homes in the city were vacant, indicating a significant increase between 2010 and 2020. The higher vacancy may be a result of changes in the housing market, including significantly higher home prices, and an increase in the number of homes that are used seasonally. The city's housing market serves a unique market niche.

### **3.5.6 Home Values and Prices**

A variety of sources were used to analyze housing market prices and trends in Rolling Hills, including on-line real estate data vendors, current real estate listings, and the US Census.

According to on-line real estate service Zillow.com, the median value of a home in Rolling Hills is \$3,733,468. Rolling Hills home values have gone up 19.7% over the past year. Chart 3.8 compares the local median home value with values in the three other Palos Verdes Peninsula cities and with Los Angeles County as a whole. Homes in Rolling Hills are valued at 50 percent higher than those in Palos Verdes Estates (\$2.45 M), 126 percent higher than those in Rancho Palos Verdes (\$1.65M), and over four times higher than the countywide median (\$790,000).

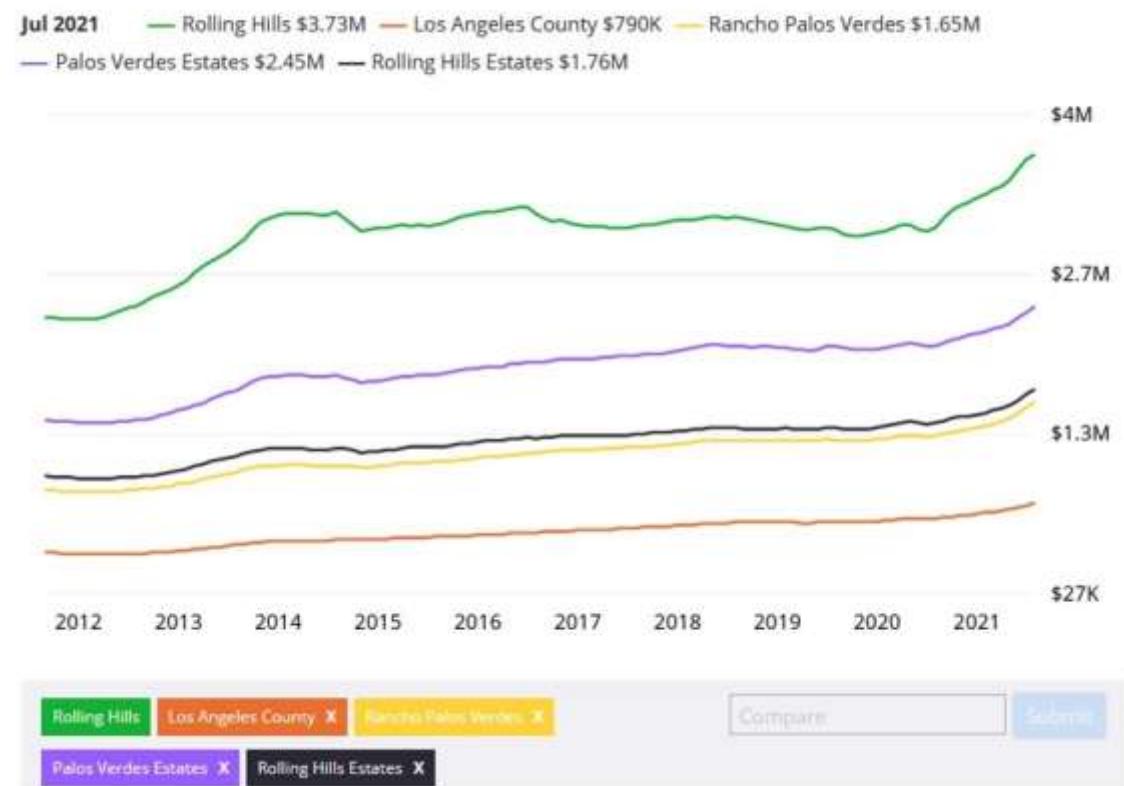
The ACS 2021 data indicates that 95 percent of all homes in Rolling Hills have a value of over \$1,000,000. The Census-reported median is over \$2 million, which is the highest interval on the Census scale. The ACS shows the median in Los Angeles County at \$583,200. This is substantially lower than the Zillow data, which is only based on homes recently sold.

The website realtor.com indicates that the average time on the market for a home in Rolling Hills in July 2021 was 120 days. However, the sample size is small, and similar data for earlier in the year indicates a median sale time of 45 days (December 2020 and January 2021). Realtor.com indicates that homes in the city sold for 4.98 percent below asking price in July 2021. This figure is highly variable depending on market listings at any given time.

In July 2021, there were 14 homes for sale in Rolling Hills (including properties with pending offers). These ranged in size from a 1,467 square foot home to a 13,000 square foot home. Prices ranged from \$2,499,000 to \$15,975,000. The median price was \$5.02 million and the mean was \$6.15 million. This is substantially higher than the average for surrounding cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and in Los Angeles County. The higher priced homes were typically new construction, while the two lowest priced homes were built in 1954 and 1957.

Data on rentals in the city is more difficult to characterize because the number of available properties is so small. In July 2021, there was only one home being advertised for rent in the city. The asking monthly rent was \$16,000. The property has five bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and is 5,035 square feet. Zillow also reported a 2-bedroom, 1-bath detached 1,000 square foot accessory dwelling unit for rent for \$3,950. In addition, two ADUs were being advertised on Craigslist (listed as Rolling Hills but likely in Rolling Hills Estates or Rancho Palos Verdes). One was a 500 square foot studio for \$1,250 and the other was a 400 square foot guest house for \$1,800. The Census indicates that seven of the renter households in the City pay less than \$1,500 a month in rent, and the remainder pay more than \$3,000 a month.

**Chart 3.8: Home Prices in Rolling Hills, Peninsula Cities, and Los Angeles County, 2012-2021**



Source: Zillow.com, 2021

**Table 3.15: Homes for Sale in Rolling Hills, July 2021**

Asking Price	Square Footage	Cost per Square Foot	Year Constructed
\$15,975,000	7,136	\$ 2,239	2016
\$11,100,000	13,000	\$ 854	2007
\$8,765,000	5,100	\$ 1,719	1951
\$7,750,000	4,000	\$ 1,938	1968
\$7,499,000	8,000	\$ 937	2002
\$5,800,000	4,453	\$ 1,302	1986
\$5,795,000	5,884	\$ 985	1956
\$4,250,000	4,101	\$ 1,036	1941
\$4,200,000	3,527	\$ 1,191	1940
\$3,950,000	5,560	\$ 710	1989
\$3,495,000	3,414	\$ 1,024	1947
\$2,630,000	3,444	\$ 764	1974
\$2,500,000	1,467	\$ 1,704	1957
\$2,499,000	1,752	\$ 1,426	1954
MEAN: \$6,150,000		\$1,273	
MEDIAN: \$5,020,000		\$1,030	

Source: Realtor.com, Trulia, Zillow, 2021

Table 3.15 indicates the cost per square foot of those homes currently for sale in Rolling Hills, along with the asking price, square footage and year of construction. The median cost per square foot is \$1,030, which is substantially higher than the statewide median of \$438 per square foot. Cost per square foot ranged from \$710 to \$2,239.

### 3.5.7 Units at Risk of Conversion from Affordable to Market Rate

State law requires the City to identify, analyze and propose programs to preserve any deed-restricted lower-income housing that could be lost as these deed restrictions expire. However, there are presently no low-income or income-restricted units in Rolling Hills. As a result, there is no housing at risk of losing its subsidized status.

## 3.6 Future Housing Needs

### 3.6.1 2021-2029 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

The eight-year housing need for the six-county Southern California region is calculated by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This need was determined to be 1,341,827 units for the 2021-2029 Sixth Cycle planning period. The total regional need represents a 225 percent increase over the need calculated for the 2013-2021 Fifth Cycle.

The total regional need is disaggregated to the six counties and 191 cities in the region by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) through a process known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). About 60 percent of the regional need was assigned to Los Angeles County, which had 53 percent of the region's population in 2020. Concentrating the RHNA in Los Angeles County is a response to the greater availability of transit, urban services, and housing need within the core of the region. If the 1.3 million unit need was fully constructed, it would represent a 20 percent increase in the region's housing unit count in eight years.

The City of Rolling Hills was allocated 45 units of the countywide total, or about .006 percent. Allocations for nearby cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula were 191 for Rolling Hills Estates, 199 for Palos Verdes Estates, and 639 for Rancho Palos Verdes. As shown in Table 3.16, these allocations are significantly higher than they were in the Fifth Cycle, particularly when compared to the county and region. This represents a shift in the methodology used to allocate units, with less consideration given to growth potential as defined by local governments and more consideration given to population, proximity to job centers, and equity factors. Despite the large increases compared to the last cycle, the RHNA targets for the four Peninsula cities combined represent one-tenth of one percent of the countywide allocation. The RHNA for each of the four cities is equal to between four and six percent of each city's existing housing stock, compared to 20 percent for the region.

**Table 3.16: RHNA by City and Comparison to Fifth Cycle**

Jurisdiction	5 <sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA	6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA	Percent Increase, 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle	Existing (2021) Housing Units	6 <sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA as percentage of existing inventory
Rolling Hills	6(*)	45	650%	702	6%
Rolling Hills Estates	5	191	3720%	3,157	6%
Palos Verdes Estates	16	199	1144%	5,303	4%
Rancho Palos Verdes	31	639	1961%	16,340	4%
Los Angeles County	179,881	812,060	351%	3,614,809	22%
SCAG Region	412,137	1,341,827	226%	6,679,283	20%

Source: SCAG 2012 and 2021, plus DOF Table E-5 and US Census 2020

(\*) In addition to planning for its 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle allocation, the 2015-2023 Rolling Hills Housing Element includes the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle allocation of 22 units, which was carried over. The 45-unit assignment is a 60 percent increase over the prior 28 unit two-cycle total.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle allocation by income group is shown in Table 3.17. In Rolling Hills, about 64 percent of the RHNA is for low and very low income households. The figure is comparable to the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (ranging from 62 to 65 percent). In Los Angeles County, only 42 percent of the assigned need is for low and very low income households, and regionally, it is 41 percent. The greater allocation of lower income housing to the Peninsula cities reflects the statewide and regional focus on encouraging fair housing and discouraging economic segregation.

**Table 3.17: Comparison of 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA by Income Category**

Jurisdiction	Very Low % of total	Low % of total	Moderate % of total	Above Moderate % of total
Rolling Hills	44%	20%	24%	11%
Rolling Hills Estates	43%	22%	20%	15%
Palos Verdes Estates	41%	22%	24%	13%
Rancho Palos Verdes	40%	22%	20%	19%
Los Angeles County	27%	15%	16%	42%
SCAG Region	26%	15%	17%	42%

Source: SCAG, 2020

The City’s “very low” income housing allocation for 2021-2029 is 20 units. The State Government Code requires that this total be further allocated between “extremely low” income households (earning less than 30% of areawide median income) and other “very low” income households (earning 30-50% of areawide median income). This distribution may be based on Census income data showing the current percentages of households in these two categories. According to the most recent HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data, there are 65 very low income households in Rolling Hills. CHAS indicates 25 are extremely low income and 40 are very low income. Applied to the 20 unit RHNA, these proportions equal roughly 7 extremely low income units and 13 other very low income units.

### 3.6.2 Growth Forecasts

As the regional planning agency for the Los Angeles region, SCAG is responsible for preparing jurisdiction-level forecasts for each city and county in the region. The latest forecasts were adopted in September 2020 and describe conditions in a base year (2016) and forecast year (2045). The six-county region as a whole is expected to grow from 6.012 million households (2016) to 7.633 million households (2045), an increase of over 1.3 million households in the 29-year period. Average household size is projected to decline from 3.1 to 2.9 during this period.

SCAG forecasts indicate that Rolling Hills growth will be flat during through 2045. The latest published forecasts (Connect SoCal Demographics and Growth Forecast, September 2020) show 700 households in 2016 and 700 households in 2045. However, the numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred and it is likely that some marginal change will occur. Population over the equivalent period is shown as increasing from 1,900 to 2,000, a growth rate of about 5 percent

over 29 years. As noted on page 3.1, the 2020 Census indicates the City lost over 100 residents between 2010 and 2020, so the SCAG forecasts will need to be adjusted in the future. An increase of 100 residents would bring the City closer to its 2010 total of 1,860 residents.

### **3.6.3 Locally Identified Needs**

While Rolling Hills is obligated by the Government Code to identify capacity for 29 low and very low income units and to develop programs to meet this need, the City also has an opportunity to tailor its housing programs to meet local needs. Based on the Assessment in this chapter, some of the key findings regarding local needs are:

- The City has a large and growing population of seniors. Some of these residents are on fixed or limited incomes and face relative high housing costs, including home maintenance, property taxes, HOA dues, utilities, etc. These residents could benefit from more senior housing options, ranging from fully independent to assisted living.
- Although there are very few people who list Rolling Hills as their permanent place of employment, the City supports a relatively large population of service workers, including caregivers, domestic employees, child care workers and au pairs, landscapers and gardeners, and others in construction and home maintenance. In addition, there are public sector workers, firefighters, and teachers/counselors (at Rancho Del Mar) employed within the city, with incomes that are far below what would be required to buy a home in Rolling Hills. A limited number of affordable rental units serving these workers could reduce commute lengths and vehicle miles traveled.
- Adult children of Rolling Hills residents (particularly those in the 18-30 age range) have limited housing options in the city, other than remaining at home. ADUs could provide additional options.
- The City's housing stock is well suited to ADUs and home sharing. More than two-thirds of the non-vacant housing units in the city have only one or two occupants, despite homes that are substantially larger than the regional average. There are also 300 fewer residents in Rolling Hills today than there were 50 years ago, despite larger homes and more square feet of living space. Additional residents would have a lower impact on infrastructure, services, and the environment if accommodated in the footprint of existing homes as opposed to new construction.
- Creating an ADU or deciding to share one's home is a personal choice and is entirely at the discretion of the homeowner. However, the City can create incentives that make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to consider this option.



# **4.0 Housing Opportunities and Resources**

## **4.1 Introduction**

This section of the Housing Element evaluates potential opportunities to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). It includes an inventory of potential housing sites in the city and an evaluation of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) and Junior ADU potential. The analysis in this section demonstrates that Rolling Hills has the capacity to accommodate its RHNA assignment of 45 additional housing units, including 29 units that are affordable to low and very income households.

Two other topic areas are covered in this chapter. As required by State law, this chapter discusses opportunities for energy conservation in the city. Reducing energy costs can reduce overall housing costs, contributing to affordability. This chapter also identifies potential financial resources to support the provision of affordable housing and the maintenance of existing housing in the city.

## **4.2 Approved or Pending Development**

There are 12 housing units in the city that are approved or pending and not yet constructed. All of these units are expected to become available for occupancy during the 2021-2029 period and therefore count toward meeting the RHNA. These units include three market-rate single family homes and nine ADUs. These units are listed in Table 4.1 below, including an assignment of each unit by income category.

**Table 4.1: Committed Development for the 2021-2029 RHNA period**

ID	Assessor's Parcel Number (APN)	Address	Description	Income Category
A	7567-011-020	23 Crest Road E	New SF home on vacant lot	Above Moderate
B	7567-001-018	1 Poppy Trail	New SF home on vacant lot	Above Moderate
C	7569-020-004	8 Middleridge Ln S.	New SF home on vacant lot	Above Moderate
D	7567-011-020	23 Crest Road E	ADU (1000 SF)	Above Moderate
E	7569-001-031	2950 Palos Verdes N	ADU (1000 SF)	Above Moderate
F	7569-026-008	13 Buggy Whip Dr.	ADU (997 SF)	Above Moderate
G	7569-023-006	33 Crest Road W	ADU (946 SF)	Above Moderate
H	7569-026-012	27 Buggy Whip Dr.	ADU (800 SF)	Moderate
I	7567-006-036	23 Chuckwagon	ADU (800 SF)	Moderate
J	7567-005-028	79 Eastfield Dr.	ADU (799 SF)	Moderate
K	7567-014-022	23 Georgeff Road	ADU (620 SF)	Low
L	7567-008-009	63 Crest Rd E	ADU (580 SF)	Low

Sources: US Decennial Census, 1970-2010. California Dept. of Finance, 1/1/21 estimate, 2020 Census (8/12/21 release)

The assignment of the ADUs by income category is based on the size of the unit. Units larger than 800 SF are presumed to be “above moderate”; units 650-800 SF are presumed to be “moderate”; units 500-650 SF are presumed to be “low”; and units smaller than 500 SF are presumed to be “very low.” This is based on local rental data for comparably sized ADUs (see Section 4.6 and the footnote below).<sup>1</sup>

### 4.3 Vacant Sites

Table 4.2 identifies vacant residentially zoned sites in Rolling Hills. These sites are shown graphically on Figure 4.1. For each site, the table indicates the theoretical number of units permitted by zoning (based on acreage and minimum lot size requirements) and the “realistic” number of units based on lot configuration, access, and terrain.<sup>2</sup> Some of the vacant parcels are characterized by physical constraints that preclude their development, including steep or unstable slopes or landslide hazards. A few are landlocked and have no access. The acreage data for each site is based on assessor parcel maps and subtracts out unbuildable easements such as flood hazard areas and roads.

There are 34 parcels identified totaling, 124.8 acres. All of these parcels are in private ownership. Twenty are estimated to be developable and 14 are severely constrained and presumed undevelopable for the 2021-2029 planning period. The constrained parcels include five lots that are landlocked with no street frontage and nine that are in the Flying Triangle Landslide Hazard Overlay area. Several of the lots in the landslide area had homes that were destroyed by earth movement in the 1980s and early 1990s.

For the 20 remaining vacant lots, Table 4.2 indicates the “realistic” potential for 20 single family homes. This excludes accessory dwelling units, which are addressed later in this chapter.

---

<sup>1</sup> The City is presuming that the two smallest ADUs listed in Table 4-1 will be affordable “by design” to lower income households. ADU permits were issued for these two units on October 27, 2020 and May 20, 2021 respectively. Both of these projects involve converting existing two-story stables (located on two separate parcels about a mile apart) into ADUs of approximately 600 square feet each. Neither of these units has a finalized building permit yet. Given the eight year timeframe of the Housing Element, both units are expected to be completed before 2029.

These are market rate units. The assumption that they will be affordable to low-income households is based on the size of the units and the fact that they are being created by repurposing existing space rather than building new space, which presumably would cost more. Current HCD income limits for Los Angeles County indicate that the upper end of the low-income range for a two-person household is \$75,700. At 30 percent of household income, monthly housing costs would need to be \$1,892 to be considered affordable. The City’s survey of comparable properties in 2021 found that ADUs of 400 to 600 square feet in the Palos Verdes Peninsula sub-market were renting for \$1,800 per month or less. The two new ADUs are presumed to rent at comparable rates. Moreover, SCAG’s ADU survey for Los Angeles County found that 60% of all ADUs in the region could be presumed affordable to lower income households. As these two ADUs are the smallest of the nine that are listed in the Housing Element (see Table 4-1), it is reasonable to presume they would fall in this range.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes additional units that could be permitted under SB 9.

**Table 4.2: Vacant Residentially Zoned Sites (sorted by APN)** (see note at end of table)

Site	APN	Address or Location	Zoning	General Plan	Acres (*)	Theoretical Unit Yield	Realistic Yield, excl. ADUs	Comments
1	7567-006-001	15 Chuckwagon Road	RAS-1	LDR	2.27	2	1	
2	7567-006-014	Behind 6 Chesterfield	RAS-1	LDR	1.22	1	0	Landlocked (no road access)
3	7567-009-007	5 Southfield Drive	RAS-1	LDR	1.61	1	1	
4	7567-010-013	East of 3 Packsaddle Rd W	RAS-1	LDR	1.24	1	1	
5	7567-010-015	North of 3 Packsaddle Rd W	RAS-1	LDR	1.49	1	0	Landlocked (no road access)
6	7567-011-017	54 Portuguese Bend Road	RAS-2	VLDR	2.67	1	0	Severely constrained - slide hazards
7	7567-012-019	SW of 56 Portuguese Bend	RAS-2	VLDR	0.96	1	0	In landslide hazard area
8	7567-012-020	53 Portuguese Bend Road	RAS-2	VLDR	1.46	1	0	In landslide hazard area
9	7567-012-026	4 Wrangler Road	RAS-2	VLDR	1.82	1	0	Severely constrained - slide hazards
10	7567-012-035	66 Portuguese Bend Road	RAS-2	VLDR	1.64	1	0	Severely constrained - slide hazards
11	7567-012-036	64 Portuguese Bend Road	RAS-2	VLDR	1.71	1	0	Severely constrained - slide hazards
12	7567-012-038	62 Portuguese Bend Road	RAS-2	VLDR	1.84	1	0	Severely constrained - slide hazards
13	7567-013-005	End of Portuguese Bend Rd	RAS-2	VLDR	19.81	1	0	Flying Triangle Landslide
14	7567-013-007	2 Running Brand	RAS-2	VLDR	7.09	1	0	Severely constrained - slide hazards
15	7567-014-005	West of 5 El Concho Ln	RAS-1	LDR	2.12	2	0	Landlocked (no road access)/ canyon
16	7567-014-011	West of 24 Georgeff Rd	RAS-1	LDR	1.66	1	0	Landlocked (no road access)/ canyon
17	7567-014-013	North of 27 Georgeff Rd	RAS-2	VLDR	3.79	1	0	Landlocked (no road access)/ canyon
18	7567-014-031	Access b/w 1 and 3 Poppy Tr.	RAS-2	VLDR	6.85	3	1	Rear of 8 Reata Lane
19	7567-015-036	North of 1 Georgeff	RAS-2	VLDR	4.56	2	1	
20	7567-017-017	Between 4 and 5 Ranchero	RAS-2	VLDR	3.52	2	1	Access at end of Ranchero cul-de-sac

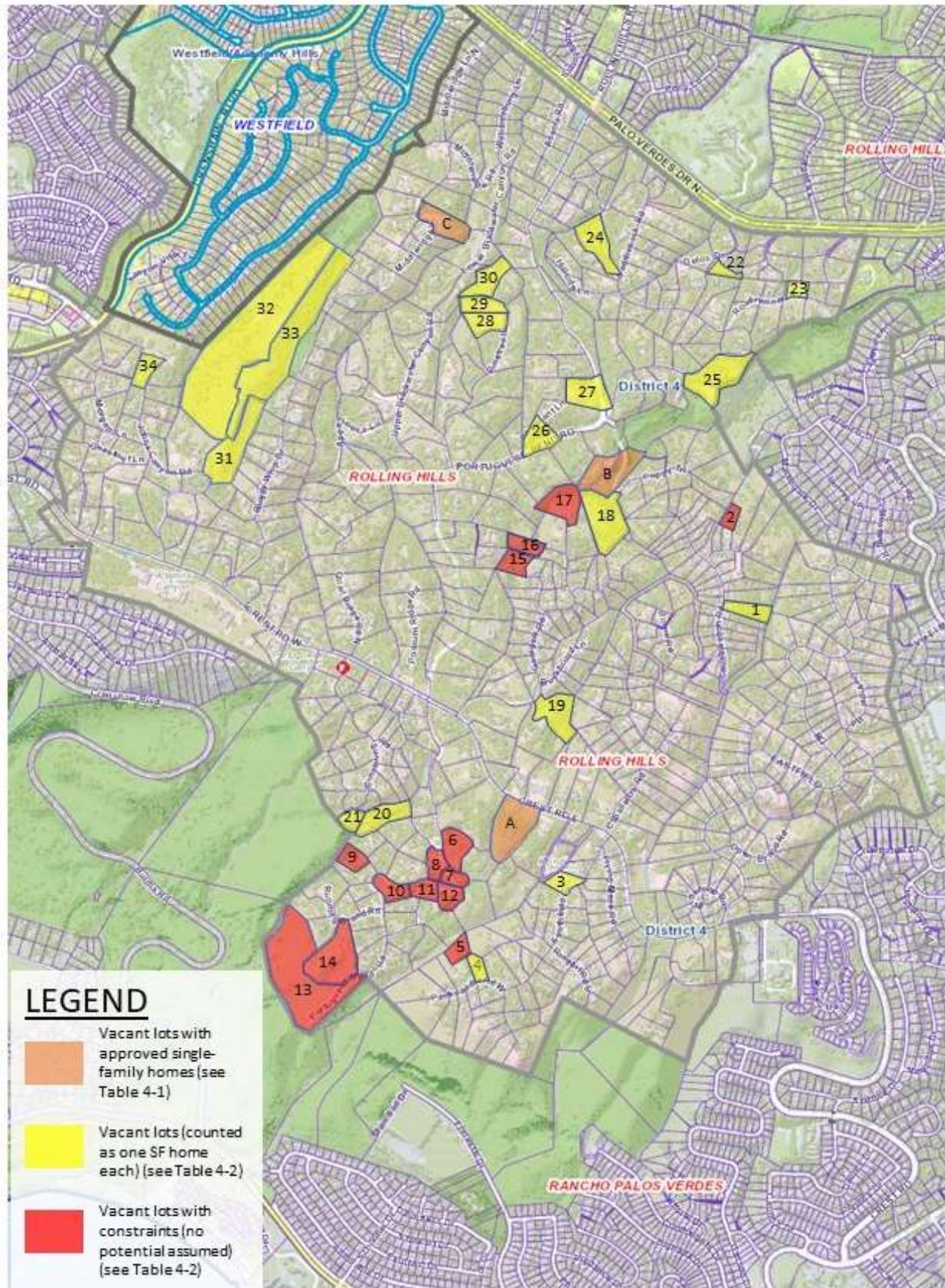
**Table 4.2, continued**

Site	APN	Address or Location	Zoning	General Plan	Acres (*)	Theoretical Unit Yield	Realistic Yield, excl. ADUs	Comments
21	7567-017-045	17 Cinchring Rd	RAS-1	VLDR	1.52	1	1	Driveway access b/w 15 and 20 Cinchring
22	7569-001-020	B/w 2954 and 2958 PV Dr N	RAS-1	LDR	1.03	1	1	
23	7569-001-036	B/w 6 and 14 Roadrunner	RAS-1	LDR	1.00	1	1	
24	7569-004-026	B/w 35 and 45 Saddleback	RAS-1	LDR	3.39	3	1	
25	7569-005-008	80 Saddleback	RAS-1	LDR	6.52	6	1	This parcel is currently for sale
26	7569-012-022	W of 25 Portuguese Bend	RAS-2	VLDR	2.30	1	1	
27	7569-012-025	N of 25 Portuguese Bend	RAS-2	VLDR	3.51	1	1	
28	7569-013-017	North of 10 Pine Tree Lane	RAS-2	VLDR	2.41	1	1	One of three adj. vacant lots
29	7569-013-018	South of 18 Pine Tree Lane	RAS-2	VLDR	2.20	1	1	One of three adj. vacant lots
30	7569-013-020	18 Pine Tree Lane	RAS-2	VLDR	2.13	1	1	One of three adj. vacant lots
31	7570-024-019	Storm Hill Lane, Parcel 1	RAS-2	VLDR	6.04	3	1	7.6 ac parcel with 1.6 acres of easements
32	7570-024-020	Storm Hill Lane, Parcel 2	RAS-2	VLDR	11.64	5	1	34.7 ac parcel with 23 acres of easements
33	7570-024-021	Storm Hill Lane, Parcel 3	RAS-2	VLDR	10.10	5	1	17.3 ac parcel with 7.2 acres of easements
34	7570-025-022	N/ end of Johns Canyon Road	RAS-2	VLDR	1.68	1	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>					124.8	57	20	

Sources: Barry Miller Consulting, 2021; LA County GIS Portal, 2021

(\*) Acreages generally exclude unbuildable easements

*Note: This is a roster of existing vacant residentially zoned land in Rolling Hills. No changes to the zoning of these parcels is proposed, and no specific projects are proposed on these sites. Future development applications on these properties would be subject to environmental review or applicable exemptions, consistent with the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act.*



**Figure 4.1: Vacant Residentially Zoned Sites**

Several of the sites, such as those on Storm Hill Lane, are quite large and could potentially be subdivided. However, the “realistic” estimates are intended to be conservative and do not presume subdivision of any of the sites. These estimates also reflect the absence of sewer services on these sites, their very steep topography, and the severe risk of wildfire.

The vacant lots have the potential to completely meet the regional need for above moderate income units assigned to Rolling Hills. As noted, this need is five units for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle. Since three new single family homes are already in the pipeline (see Sec 4.2), the remaining need is two units. Several of the vacant sites are currently for sale, making it likely that the City will exceed its above moderate income allocation for 2021-2029.

Table 4.2 indicates the General Plan and zoning designations for each vacant site. Of the developable parcels, eight are in the RAS-1 zone (one acre minimum) and 12 are in the RAS-2 zone (two-acre minimum). No zoning changes are proposed or required to meet the above moderate income or moderate income allocations.

## **4.4 Lot Splits**

There are a number of parcels in Rolling Hills with lot sizes that are more than double the minimum acreage required by zoning. Some of these parcels could theoretically be subdivided into two or more lots. Moreover, SB 9 (effective January 1, 2022) includes provisions to allow single family lots to be divided to allow new homes.

The potential for lot splits in Rolling Hills is very limited due to the configuration of the lots as well as environmental hazards, evacuation constraints, and the lack of a sewer system. Many of the city’s larger lots have limited street frontage and irregular dimensions that would make it difficult to divide them. Moreover, the platting pattern responds to topography, and the larger lots are often steep and geologically constrained, making them difficult to subdivide. Their division could result in lots with no buildable area, street frontage, or access.

Although a limited number of new homes could conceivably occur as a result of future lot splits, a capacity estimate has not been made due to the constraints inherent in the community’s topography and hazards. In addition, the reliance on septic tanks makes subdivision infeasible from a public health perspective, even on many larger lots. The supply of vacant lots is sufficient to meet the above moderate income RHNA without relying on lot splits.

## **4.5 Non-Vacant Sites**

While Rolling Hills’ above moderate income (or “market rate”) RHNA can be met on vacant residentially-zoned land, the City’s moderate, low, and very low income RHNA will need to be accommodated through a combination of development on non-vacant sites and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The text below addresses non-vacant sites. ADUs and Junior ADUs (JADUs) are discussed in Section 4.6.

The sites described below provide the potential for 16 units of low- and very low-income housing. This potential is associated with the 31-acre Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) site, where an overlay zone was created in 2021 to facilitate affordable housing. Other non-vacant properties addressed here are the City Hall complex, the Tennis Court Facilities, the Los Angeles County Fire Station, and the Daughters of Mary and Joseph Retreat Center parking lot. These properties have been determined to not be viable as potential housing sites. Non-vacant housing sites are shown in Figure 4.2.

#### **4.5.1 PVPUSD Site/ Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone (APN 7569-022-900)**

In March 2021, the City of Rolling Hills adopted the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone on the 31-acre Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) property located at 38 Crest Road. Although the site is technically non-vacant, roughly three-quarters of the property (23 acres) is open space. The remaining areas are underutilized and could be repurposed.

Appendix B of this Housing Element provides a detailed evaluation of the site, demonstrating that it is the most suitable location for multi-family housing in Rolling Hills. The site also provides the City's best opportunity to meet its requirements for low- and very low-income units. It is located outside the jurisdiction of the Rolling Hills Community Association, outside the Rolling Hills security gates, and is one of the largest properties in the city. It includes multiple areas that are vacant and underutilized, relatively flat, and well buffered from adjacent uses. The site is also one of the only properties in Rolling Hills that is served by a public sewer system. This substantially reduces multi-family development costs and addresses an infrastructure constraint that makes affordable housing cost-prohibitive in almost all of the city. The site is also ½ mile from the corner of Crenshaw and Crest Roads in Palos Verdes Estates, which is served by four bus lines.

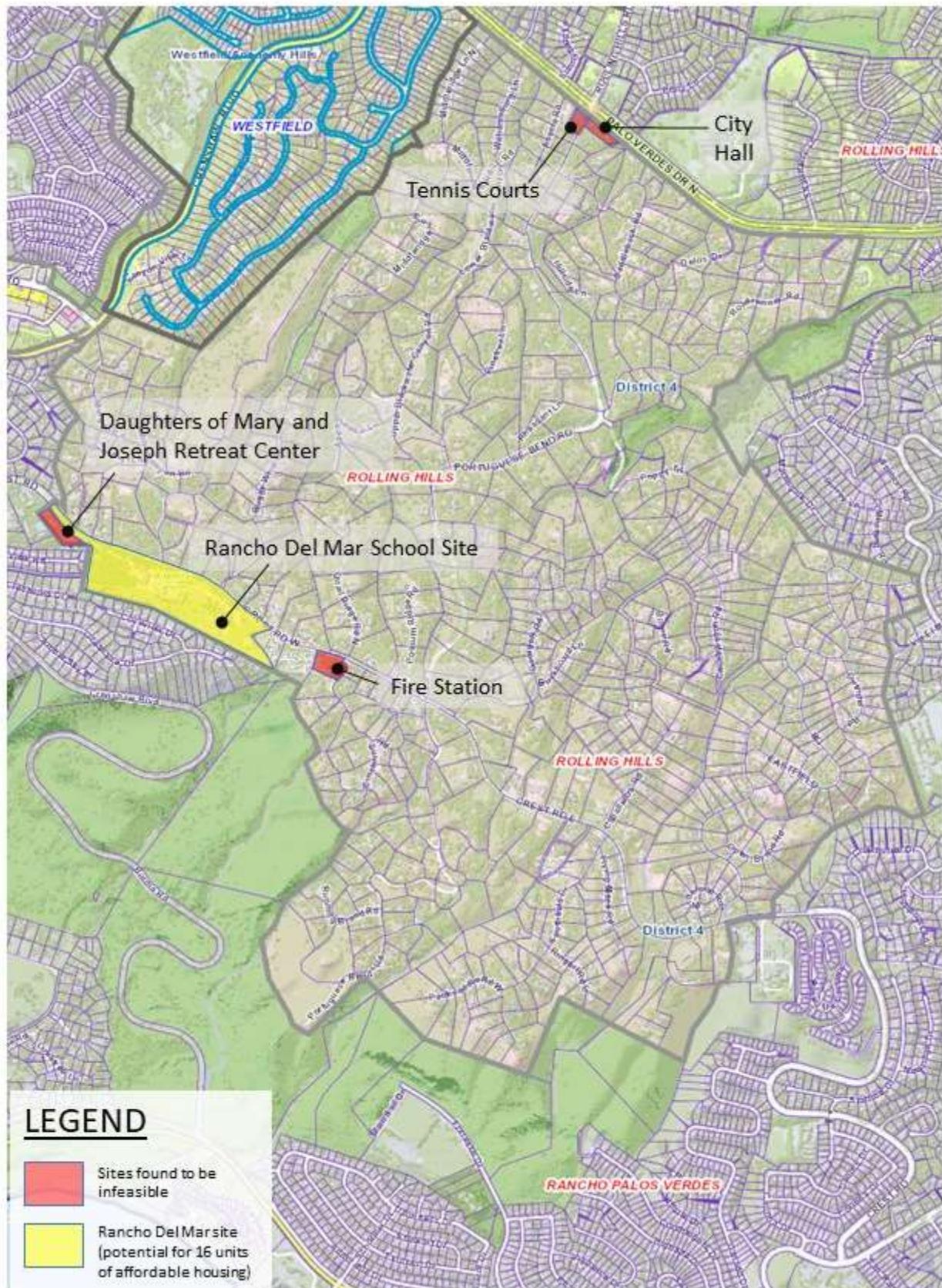
Existing uses on the PVPUSD site include Rancho Del Mar Continuation High School and a maintenance facility leased to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Transit Authority (PVPTA). Each of these activities is discussed below.

Rancho Del Mar School was initially developed as an elementary school in 1960. The school closed in 1980 and was repurposed as a continuation school in 1986. The continuation school was initially intended as a temporary use but has been in place for 35 years. The possibility of residential development on the site has been considered in the past. Enrollment at Rancho Del Mar has been steadily declining and was just 32 students in the 2020-2021 school year (California Department of Education, DataQuest). Enrollment has declined every year since 2014 and is now less than half of what it was just five years ago.<sup>3</sup>

The Beach Cities Learning (BCL) Center uses four classrooms in the school building. BCL serves students aged 11-22 with emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities that cannot be addressed in public school settings. Students participate in individual and group counseling run by licensed therapists on-site. Total enrollment in 2019-20 was 17 students, with two teachers on-site (School Accountability Report Card, 2021).

---

<sup>3</sup> California Department of Education indicates the following enrollment figures: 2020-21 (32 students); 2019-20 (46 students); 2018-19 (47 students); 2017-18 (58 students); 2016-17 (69 students); 2015-16 (72 students); 2014-15 (79 students)



**Figure 4.2: Non-Vacant Sites Evaluated**

The school building is adjoined by a lawn, playing fields, and school parking lot. The complex serves only a fraction of the number of students for which it was designed. Moreover it occupies just 1.9 percent of the 31-acre site. Sale of the school property could generate significant revenue for the School District.

The only other active use on the property is the PVPTA maintenance facility, which occupies 4.5 acres. The PVPTA facilities include maintenance buildings and administrative offices and are self-contained in the west central part of the site. While PVPTA has no immediate plans to relocate, the site could be sold in the future or repurposed by the School District. In any event, the facilities occupy only 15 percent of the 31-acre site and have co-existed with the nearby school and adjacent residential uses for many years.

Roughly 75 percent of the PVUSD site is vacant, and at least five developable areas have been identified on the campus. These include the school itself (in the event it is closed), the ballfield east of the school, the large lawn adjacent to the school, a vacant area between the school and the PVPTA facility, and the undeveloped area west of the PVPTA facility. Each of these areas is at least one acre in size. The area west of the PVPTA facility is the largest of the five areas and the one deemed most viable as a multi-family housing site. It is the closest location to Crest Road and could easily be developed without affecting activities at either the school or the transit facility. Accordingly, the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone identifies this area as the location for future affordable housing.

The entire Rancho Del Mar site has a General Plan designation of Very Low Density Residential and an underlying zoning designation of RAS-2. The designation permits 16 units on the site, based on the site area of 31 acres and the density of one unit per two acres ( $31/2 = 15.5$ , rounded up to 16). However, the General Plan (as amended in 2021) requires that the allowable density for this site be transferred to a single location on the property where a density standard of 20-24 units per acre applies. This is reinforced and codified by the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone (RDMO). The RDMO effectively takes the 16 units of housing and transfers it to a single location on the west side of the parcel. The RDMO further mandates that any housing built on the site be 100% affordable to very low and/or low income households. Such development is permitted by right, provided that the development complies with the objective development and design standards contained in the RDMO.

The RDMO also provides opportunities for emergency shelter and single room occupancy (SRO) hotels. Emergency shelter is permitted by right, subject to objective development standards that have been adopted by the City. SROs require a conditional use permit and are also subject to objective design standards. These provisions create opportunities for extremely low income households as well as low and very low income households.

Creation of the RDMO occurred collaboratively with the School District. District staff confirmed that there are no prohibitions on the application of this zoning overlay or the use of the property for affordable housing. Moreover, the District has expressed interest in developing housing for teachers in the past; such units would likely meet income criteria for lower income housing. Programs in this Housing Element support active communication with the School District regarding the disposition of the area west of the PVPTA for affordable housing.

The PVUSD site also meets the “carry-over” criteria established by the State for sites that were counted in the prior cycle Element. It is zoned with a minimum density of 20 units per acre and permits “by right” development of affordable housing, subject to objective design and development standards. The current zoning was put in place just six months before the end of the Fifth Cycle planning period and was principally intended to provide a housing opportunity for the Sixth Cycle.

For the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the capacity figure of 16 lower income units is being used for the site. Under State Density Bonus law, a 100% affordable project would be eligible for an 80 percent density bonus. This could potentially result in 29 units of lower income housing, which is equal to the total number of units assigned to the City under the Sixth Cycle RHNA. However, State law precludes the City from counting potential density bonus units when determining its RHNA capacity. As explained in Section 4.6, the remaining 13 units will be met through Accessory Dwelling Units.

As indicated in Appendix B, the PVUSD site is large enough to accommodate multi-family housing, emergency shelter, and an SRO on the same property, either in the same sub-area or independently in different parts of the site. Neither the shelter beds nor the SRO rooms would be counted as independent “dwelling units” so they could be accommodated under existing General Plan densities. Moreover, all three of these uses are permitted by right, provided they meet the Municipal Code objective standards (which were previously reviewed by HCD in 2020). As noted above, the preferred location for the multi-family housing is in the western part of the property, near the access drive and closest to public transit and other urban services (see Figure 4 on Page B-8 in the Housing Element Appendix—this is labeled Area 5). This area is four acres. Only about one acre would be required for multi-family housing, leaving three vacant acres for the SRO and/or emergency shelter if all three uses are located in this area.

An SRO or emergency shelter could also locate in areas 1, 2, 3, or 4, as shown in Figure 4 in Appendix B, page B-8. As the map and text indicate, Area 1 is a 1.6-acre site that is flat and vacant. Area 2 is a 1.0-acre site that is flat and vacant. Area 3 is a 1.75-acre former school building that is mostly vacant and underutilized. Portions of this building could be easily be converted to group residential uses. Area 4 includes a ballfield and parking lot which collectively occupy 2.5 acres. There are no limitations in the housing overlay ordinance that limit where shelters or SROs can locate within the 31 acres. Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 all have adequate space for these uses.

#### **4.5.2 Rolling Hills City Hall (APN 7569-003-904)**

This site is located at the southeast corner of Palos Verdes Drive North and Portuguese Bend Road. Palos Verdes Drive North is a major thoroughfare and provides access from Rolling Hills to surrounding communities and the regional roadway network. Portuguese Bend Drive is a local street but the primary north-south route through the city, connecting to Crest Drive. This is one of the only sites in Rolling Hills that is located outside the security gates, and adjacent to a transit line. An elementary school and park are nearby in the City of Rolling Hills Estates.

The property is 1.22 acres and is roughly rectangular in shape. It has a General Plan designation of Civic Center and a zoning designation of Public Facilities (PF). Neither of these

designations permits housing, so a General Plan amendment would be required to enable its development. The site is owned by the City of Rolling Hills.

The parcel currently contains three structures: City Hall, the Rolling Hills Community Association Administration Building, and an accessory structure that houses an emergency generator. The site is relatively flat, although it is adjoined by a steep canyon to the east. There is a single family residence located to the south. To the west, there is a guardhouse in the median of Portuguese Bend Road, and a public tennis court on the west side of the road. Site ingress and egress is from Portuguese Bend Road. Direct access to Palos Verdes Drive North is not feasible due to high speeds and volumes and the existing traffic signal at the corner of Portuguese Bend.

Given the existing uses on the site and its function as the only civic building in Rolling Hills, the site is not a practical location for multi-family housing. Its rezoning is not recommended at this time.

#### **4.5.3 Rolling Hills Tennis Court Facility (APN 7569-015-900)**

This site is located immediately west of City Hall on the southwest corner of Palos Verdes Drive North and Portuguese Bend Road. It is adjoined by a residence and horse stables on the west and south and by street frontage on the north and east. The site is 0.86 acres and is one of the few properties located outside the City security gates. It is currently in use as a community tennis facility, with three tennis courts in total.

Like City Hall, the property has a General Plan designation of Civic Center and a zoning designation of Public Facilities (PF). Neither of these designations permits housing, so a General Plan amendment would be required to facilitate residential development. The site is owned by the City of Rolling Hills. Parking for the tennis courts is provided on the City Hall property to the east.

The site could potentially be converted to housing. At a density of 20 units per acre, it would yield 17 units. However, the community would lose parkland, which is already in short supply, as well as a well-used recreational amenity and gathering place. As a result, no rezoning is recommended.

#### **4.5.4 Los Angeles County Fire Station (APN 7567-017-900)**

This is a 2.2-acre site owned by the County of Los Angeles located at 12 Crest Road East. It is currently developed with Battalion 14 Fire Station 56, which provides fire and rescue services for Rolling Hills and nearby communities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. While much of the parcel is open space, it occupies a steep downslope and would require costly grading and construction. Moreover, the Fire Station is an essential community asset and long-term use. This site is also located in an area that is far from services and amenities, not served by transit, and under the oversight of the Rolling Hills Community Association. Rezoning to allow housing is not recommended.

#### **4.5.5 Daughters of Mary and Joseph Retreat Center (APN 7569-022-006)**

The parcel is located on the western edge of the City, immediately west of the Rancho Del Mar (PVPUSD) site. It is outside the western City gatehouse at 5300 Crest Road and forms part of the 8-acre Daughters of Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, which straddles the border between Rolling Hills and Rancho Palos Verdes. The Retreat Center consists of two parcels—a 5.95-acre parcel located entirely in Rancho Palos Verdes that contains the buildings, gardens, and a portion of the parking lot, and a 1.96-acre parcel located entirely in Rolling Hills that contains parking, landscaping, and unimproved property.

The parcel has a General Plan designation of Very Low Density Residential and is zoned RAS-2. These designations would allow a single dwelling unit on the site. A General Plan Amendment and rezoning could be considered to allow multi-family housing on the property, or on a portion of the property. The unimproved portion of the site is about 0.67 acres, which could hypothetically support 13 units if developed at a density of 20 units per acre. This area has a 15-30 percent slope and would require grading to support multi-family construction. The flatter portion of the site (i.e., the parking lot) is larger and would be easier to develop but is currently in active use.

The City has had prior conversations with the Retreat owners regarding the possibility of housing on this site. While there are no plans to redevelop the property, it remains a potential long-term opportunity.

#### **4.5.6 Conclusions**

Based on the analysis above, only the Rancho Del Mar site is considered a viable housing site at this time. Consistent with the General Plan and Zoning amendments completed in 2021, the site is viable for 16 units of low/very income housing.

### **4.6 Accessory Dwellings**

The City of Rolling Hills has estimated the potential for 40 ADUs and JADUs over the eight-year planning period, or approximately five (5) ADUs per year. This projection is based on the permitting of nine ADUs in 2021 alone, and the implementation of Housing Element program that encourage ADUs in the coming years. It is further based on a citywide survey conducted in October 2020 (with a 30 percent response rate) indicating that:

- 25 percent of the survey respondents indicated they had a secondary building on their property with a kitchen, bath, and sleeping area. Another 25 percent indicated their home had two kitchens or an area that could be “easily converted” into an ADU.
- 24 percent of the survey respondents indicated they would consider developing an ADU on their property now, with another 15 percent indicating they would consider this at some point in the future.
- 8 percent of the survey respondents indicated they would rent their ADU to a tenant while 24 percent said they would use it for a caregiver or employee and 31 percent said they would use it for a family member.

Extrapolating these results to the citywide total of 639 households, the results suggest that:<sup>4</sup>

- An estimated 153 households might be interested in developing an ADU on their properties, with another 95 potentially interested at some future date.
- An estimated 51 households would rent their ADU to a tenant, 153 would be interested in using their ADUs for a caregiver or domestic employee, and 198 would consider using an ADU for a family member.

The survey, combined with physical characteristics of the City's large lots and building stock, indicate significant potential for ADU development. ADUs could be created through new construction, conversion of existing guest houses and barns, and reconfiguration of interior spaces in primary residences. The latter category includes Junior ADUs (JADUs), which are often affordable to very low income tenants "by design" given their small size.

A majority of the 2020 survey respondents indicated they would use their ADU for a family member, caregiver, or other domestic employee. A substantial number of these households would likely pay reduced rent, or no rent at all. Some would likely meet HCD criteria for extremely low income households.

In order to demonstrate the suitability of ADUs and JADUs to satisfy the RHNA, the City must estimate the affordability of ADUs by income category. This requires data on occupancy and rents. The 2020 ADU survey conducted by the City identified 12 ADU tenants, including two extremely low income, two very low income, one low income, and seven who were moderate or above moderate income (see Appendix C). This is based on data provided by survey respondents and the HUD income categories by household size for Los Angeles County. The City's 2020 ADU survey produced only two data points for rents—one unit renting for \$950 and another for \$1,500. Both of these were market-rate units with no deed restrictions.

In addition, weekly scans of Craigslist ads in 2021 identified two ADUs in Rolling Hills and two in Rolling Hills Estates, with rents of \$895 for a "basement apartment", \$1,200 (for a JADU at an unidentified address), \$1,800 (for a one-bedroom one bath "guest house"), and \$3,950 for a two-bedroom one bath, 1,000 square foot guest house. Assuming a household size of two, the rents for these six units correspond to two very low-income units, three low income units, and one above moderate income unit. This is a limited sample size, however, and it excludes units that may be occupied "rent free" or without advertising.

In 2020, the Southern California Association of Governments conducted a survey of ADU rents in multiple jurisdictions across the region. The stated purpose of the survey was to "provide local governments with assumptions for ADU affordability that can be used to assign ADUs to income categories for the purpose of Sixth Cycle Housing Elements."<sup>5</sup> The SCAG study was organized by geographic sub-area, including one sub-area corresponding to Coastal Los Angeles County. The survey included an estimate of the percentage of ADUs that would be affordable to "Extremely Low Income" households, which included units that were available for

---

<sup>4</sup> The numbers in the three bullets below this sentence have been developed by applying the percentages from the survey to the total citywide housing stock. This assumes that the 192 households who responded are representative of the 639 households that live in Rolling Hills.

<sup>5</sup> SCAG Regional Accessory Dwelling Unit Affordability Analysis, published by SCAG in 2020

little or no rent and were not advertised (for instance, a detached in-law unit occupied by the elder parents of the homeowner).

The distribution identified in the SCAG survey (for Coastal LA County) was as follows:

Extremely Low:	15%
Very Low:	2%
Low:	43%
Moderate:	6%
Above Moderate:	34%

This distribution is roughly consistent with the sample taken by the City of Rolling Hills and the survey data collected in 2020. Applied to the City's projection of 40 units, the allocation using SCAG's methodology would be:

Extremely Low:	6 units
Very Low:	1 unit
Low:	17 units
Moderate:	2 units
Above Moderate:	14 units

This is equivalent to 24 lower income units and 16 moderate and above moderate units. All of the ADUs permitted to date have been "full" ADUs, meaning they are at least 500 square feet in size. Among the City's Housing Element programs is an initiative to create at least five JADUs. Given the small size of these units and the fact that they are created by repurposing existing space, they are more likely to be affordable to very low income households, thus shifting the distribution shown above so that more "very low" income units are produced.

In addition, based on actual production of ADUs in 2021, the City anticipates a smaller share of "Low" income units and a larger share of "Moderate" income units. Moderate income units represented one-third of the production in 2021, which suggests something closer to the following distribution for 2022-2029:

Extremely Low:	7 units (occupied rent-free or at minimal charge)
Very Low:	5 units
Low:	6 units
Moderate:	15 units
Above Moderate:	7 units

Housing Element programs have been developed to ensure that the City reaches its very low/extremely low income ADU targets.

## 4.7 Summary of Ability to Meet RHNA

As shown in Table 4.3 below, the combination of recently approved housing units (expected to be occupied in 2022), future affordable units on the Rancho Del Mar site, and new ADUs can accommodate the RHNA allocation in all income categories. The table illustrates a surplus capacity of seven lower income units based on projected ADU production over the planning period.

**Table 4.3: Summary of Housing Opportunities, 2021-2029**

	Income Category				<b>TOTAL</b>
	<i>Extremely Low/ Very Low</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Above Moderate</i>	
Approved Development	--	2	3	7(*)	<b>12</b>
Vacant Residential Lots	--	--	--	20	<b>20</b>
Rancho Del Mar site (**)	8	8	--	--	<b>16</b>
Accessory Dwelling Units	12	6	15	7	<b>40</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	20	16	18	34	<b>88</b>
RHNA	20	9	11	5	<b>45</b>
<b>Surplus/ Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>+29</b>	<b>+43</b>
Adequate Sites?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Source: Barry Miller Consulting, 2021

(\*) includes 3 new homes and 4 large ADUs, see Table 4.1.

(\*\*) excludes potential density bonus units

## **4.8 Opportunities for Energy Conservation**

Home energy costs, including electric and natural gas utility bills, are considered part of monthly housing expenses. The large floor area of many Rolling Hills homes suggests that this may be an important consideration in the city. Home energy bills can be substantial, particularly for senior households on fixed incomes. Government Code Section 65583(a)(7) requires the Housing Element to include an analysis of opportunities for residential energy conservation and reduced energy costs.

The US Department of Health and Human Services provides funding for a program known as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). In California, the program is administered by the Department of Community Services and Development. LIHEAP is aimed at assisting low-income households that pay a high portion of their incomes to meet their energy needs. This is achieved through one-time financial assistance grants covering the utility bills of eligible households, an energy crisis intervention program to help low-income households in danger of having their utilities turned off, free weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades to qualifying households, and energy education and budget counseling. Low income customers are also eligible for reduced rates through the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) programs.

Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Southern California Gas Company offer energy conservation and assistance programs. These include home energy audits, rebates on energy-efficient appliances, and weatherization assistance to qualified low-income companies. SCE has an energy management assistance program for qualifying households.

While the measures above are aimed at meeting day to day utility bills, there are also more systemic long-term ways to reduce home energy costs. Nearly half of the homes in Rolling Hills were built before 1960, many without consideration given to the cost and availability of energy. Weatherization and insulation can provide significant reductions in home energy use and reduce monthly utility bills. Replacement of older appliances can likewise provide significant long-term savings. A variety of rebates and other financial incentives are available for homeowners.

In addition, all new construction in California is subject to State building code and energy standards, including Title 24. These requirements apply to most remodeling projects, creating opportunities to retrofit older homes. The standards are periodically updated to reflect new technology and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The latest standards incorporate the California Green Building Code, including energy-saving design standards for walls, ceilings, and floor installations, as well as heating and cooling equipment and systems, gas cooling devices, window glazing, and the use of renewable energy sources such as solar energy. These standards are incorporated in Title 15 of the Rolling Hills Municipal Code (the Building Code).

The City also encourages the use of solar panels to maximize energy efficiency, as well as the application of passive solar design principles that reduce heating and cooling costs. These measures include home orientation and siting, landscaping to reduce direct sunlight, placement of windows to support home heating and cooling, the use of skylights, and incorporation of overhangs and shade structures. In addition, home energy costs can be reduced by incorporating some or all of the measures listed below:

- Solar heating for swimming pools
- Flow restrictors on hot water faucets and showerheads (to reduce natural gas use)
- Tankless water heaters
- Attic ventilation systems that reduce attic temperatures during summer months.
- Insulation, caulking, and weatherstripping to guard against heat gain in the summer and prevent heat loss in the winter. These measures can reduce energy use for air-conditioning up to 55 percent and for heating as much as 40 percent.
- Proper maintenance and use of stoves, ovens, clothes dryers, washing machines, dishwashers, and refrigerators.
- Purchase of air-conditioning units and refrigerators on the basis of efficiency ratings (the State prepares a list of air-conditioning and refrigerator models that detail the energy efficiency ratings of the product)

Indoor and outdoor lighting also impacts home energy costs. The City has adopted standards for outdoor lighting through its Municipal Code (Section 17.16.190(E)). Energy efficient lighting is required in most cases, and outdoor lighting is prohibited in many instances to retain dark skies and the community's rural character. For interior spaces, the costs of lighting can be reduced through purchase of light bulbs which produce the most lumens per watt, avoidance of multi-bulb mixtures, and use of long-life bulbs and clock timers.

As a member of SCAG, the City also participates in the Regional Comprehensive Plan to achieve a sustainable future. The City also has joined ICLEI, which is a membership association of local governments committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. Rolling Hills also is a participant in the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Environmental Services Center. The Center serves as a clearinghouse for information on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability. It assists residents, businesses, and public agencies with incorporating energy-saving practices in their daily lives and operations.

Water conservation provides another opportunity to reduce home utility costs. The City has adopted a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Chapter 13.18 of the Municipal Code), and encourages the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures and products to reduce water use.

## **4.9 Financial Resources**

This section of the Housing Element summarizes financial resources for affordable housing in Rolling Hills. An overview of federal and State programs, as well as tax credit programs, is provided below.

### **4.9.1 Federal Programs**

A major source of housing assistance in many communities is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program (including the Los Angeles County Urban County CDBG program, which provides federal funds to about 50 participating small cities). Rolling Hills no longer participates in this program, as the cost of its administration made it infeasible. When the City did participate, it received approximately \$6,000 per year. The City transferred these funds to Rancho Palos Verdes, an adjacent city which has a population roughly 25 times larger than Rolling Hills.

Opportunities for funding through other federal programs is limited. For example, the federal Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program is designed to increase home ownership and affordable housing opportunities for low and very low-income Americans. The funds are distributed to jurisdictions based on need. They support programs such as loans to assist low-income families with down payments to purchase homes, tenant-based rental assistance, rehabilitation of affordable housing, and relocation assistance for low-income tenants. The high cost of land and construction, limited opportunities for home ownership, absence of a sewer system, and very high incomes in Rolling Hills, make the City non-competitive for these applications.

Likewise, HUD's Section 202 program provides funding for construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of structures for supportive housing for very low-income seniors. It offers interest-free capital advances, as well as rental assistance funds. The funds are provided to private and non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives and are highly competitive. Use of these funds in Rolling Hills is constrained by the community's natural hazards, lack of infrastructure, and high land costs. The use of project-based federal Section 8 funding for new affordable housing and substantial rehabilitation of existing housing is infeasible in Rolling Hills for these same reasons.

The federal government also operates the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. This program assists very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled in securing housing in the private market. Participants may choose any housing that meet the requirements of the program. A housing subsidy is paid directly to the property owner, and the tenant pays the difference between the actual rent charged and the amount subsidized by the program. Housing choice vouchers could potentially be used on ADUs, but this is rarely done in practice.

HUD also operates the Section 203(k) program, which facilitates the rehabilitation and repair of single-family residential properties by insuring homeowner loans for purchase or refinancing. It can enable homebuyers to purchase homes that need significant repairs and can also be used for a variety of other improvements. These funds can also be used to enhance accessibility for people with disabilities, and to eliminate health and safety hazards. Eligibility for this program in Rolling Hills is limited due to the factors cited earlier.

Other HUD programs include Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (interest-free capital advances, operating subsidies, and/or project rental assistance for eligible projects developing affordable housing for persons with disabilities) and the Federal Housing Finance Agency's Affordable Housing Program (AHP). These programs are most viable in areas with lower land and development costs, as well as available infrastructure and services.

#### **4.9.2 State Programs**

The State of California provides resources for affordable housing construction, rehabilitation, and assistance. Many of these programs are oriented toward populations in need of assistance or housing stock requiring repair or rehabilitation. The absence of these populations, coupled with the cost of land and construction in Rolling Hills and the excellent quality of the City's housing stock, render the City ineligible for many types of assistance. The only site where State financial resources could likely be feasible is the PVUSD site, given that it is publicly owned and has infrastructure and public street access.

In 2017, the State approved SB 2, which established a \$75 recording fee on real estate documents to increase the supply of affordable homes in California. The State subsequently established the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grant program which provides funding for local planning activities aimed at supporting housing production. In 2020, the City of Rolling Hills received a \$65,000 LEAP grant, which was used to fund preparation of the Housing Element. The City may be eligible for future planning grants and other SB 2 funds that facilitate housing affordability and promote projects and programs to implement the Housing Element.

The California Housing Finance Agency (CHFA) provides loans for construction of affordable housing projects and could be a source of revenue for future affordable housing development in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone. The State provides a pre-development loan program for low-income housing projects, and low-interest long-term deferred payment loans through the Multi-Family Housing Program. These sources could potentially be used on the PVPUSD site. CHFA also provides financing for rehabilitation of housing by low- and moderate-income households, which would generally not be viable in Rolling Hills due to housing conditions, costs, and local income levels.

The State Department of Housing and Community Development provides funding for a variety of programs to prevent homelessness and assist those who are unhoused. These programs can fund construction of shelters and provide direct subsidies to individuals. HCD programs also help support supportive and transitional housing.

#### **4.9.3 Resources for the Private and Non-Profit Sectors**

The primary affordable housing financing resources for the private and non-profit sectors are tax credits and mortgage revenue bonds. Developers can also take advantage of various state regulatory tools, such as density bonuses and reduced parking requirements for projects incorporating affordable units.

The federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program was created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to provide an alternate method of funding affordable housing. Each state receives

a tax credit based on its population—that credit is then used to leverage private capital into new construction or acquisition and rehabilitation projects. The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) competitively administers credits to projects based on priorities they set each year. Once constructed, a specific percentage of the units must remain rent-restricted, and occupancy of those units is limited to people meeting specific income criteria.

The California Public Finance Agency administers an Affordable Housing Bond program, which provides developers with access to tax-exempt bonds to finance lower-income multi-family and senior projects. A qualified developer can finance a project at a lower interest rate because the interest paid to bond holders is exempt from federal income tax. This program is often done in tandem with tax credits.

Individual home buyers may also be eligible for Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCC), working through a lender and the Los Angeles County Development Authority. This program provides a federal tax credit for income-qualified homebuyers equivalent to 15 percent of annual mortgage interest. Generally, the tax savings are calculated as income to help buyers qualify to purchase a home. Buyers in Rolling Hills would generally be ineligible due to the very high income required to purchase a home in the city.

#### **4.9.4 Summary of Prospective Financing Sources**

Due to the City's small population, low density, very high fire hazards, and lack of infrastructure, government resources for housing are extremely limited. The City's residents are generally ineligible for State and federal housing assistance based on income and home ownership status. The City does not have a housing department, and has no regular local, state, or federal revenue source for housing. The use of traditional approaches to financing affordable housing are also limited by the relatively small number of units that would be contained in an individual development project in the city.

Despite these constraints, the City is amenable to exploring future funding sources and supporting applications that would facilitate housing rehabilitation and development. Given the absence of a sewer system in the city, one of the most important financial resources potentially available to the City is State and federal funding for sanitary sewer and storm drainage improvements. The City is continuing to pursue grants to extend sewer service and improve water quality; this could potentially create future housing opportunities on sites that are not viable today.

Low-income housing tax credits could be considered to facilitate housing on the PVPUSD site. Eligible projects on this site could also use State density bonus provisions, thereby increasing the potential number of units. Other programs that could be considered include those that assist lower income seniors with energy conservation, septic system improvements, and minor home repair.

# **5.0 Constraints to Housing Production**

## **5.1 Introduction**

Government Code Sections 65583(a)(5) and (6) require the Housing Element to contain an analysis of governmental and non-governmental constraints on the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing for all income levels. Governmental constraints include land use controls, building codes and code enforcement practices, site improvement requirements, fees and other exactions required of developers, local processing and permit procedures, and any locally adopted ordinances that directly impact the cost and supply of residential development. Non-governmental constraints include the availability of financing, the price of land, the cost of construction, requests to develop at densities below what is allowed by zoning, community opposition, and similar factors.

In each case, the Housing Element is required to demonstrate local efforts to remove constraints that are identified, thus improving the City's ability to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation. The extent to which these constraints are affecting the supply and affordability of housing in Rolling Hills is discussed below, along with past (or proposed future) efforts to eliminate those constraints.

## **5.2 Governmental Constraints**

Governmental constraints include activities imposed by local government on the development of housing. These activities may impact the price and availability of housing, the ability to build particular types of housing, and the time it takes to get housing approved and constructed. While these requirements are intended to improve housing quality and protect public safety, they may have unintended consequences.

### **5.2.1 Rolling Hills General Plan**

Every city and county in California is required to adopt a General Plan for its long-term development. This Housing Element is actually part of the General Plan but it stands on its own as a separate document since it is updated on a schedule set by the State of California. The other elements of the General Plan are updated as needed. Most cities update their plans every 15 to 20 years.

Most of the Rolling Hills General Plan was drafted in 1990. In addition to the Housing Element, the Plan includes a Land Use Element, a Circulation Element, an Open Space/ Conservation Element, a Safety Element, and a Noise Element. An update to the Safety Element was prepared concurrently with the Housing Element, in response to recent State requirements.

The Rolling Hills Land Use Element includes a Land Use Policy Map illustrating the types of uses permitted throughout the city. When the Map was adopted in 1990, it reinforced existing parcel patterns and responded to the infrastructure, geologic, wildfire, and environmental constraints in

the city. Four categories are shown: Very Low Density Residential (2 acres per unit), Low Density Residential (1 acre per unit), Civic Center, and Publicly-owned Open Space. Prior to 2020, the City did not allow development at densities greater than one unit per acre and had no General Plan provisions for multi-family housing. As part of 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element implementation, the City amended its Land Use Element to add the Rancho Del Mar Housing Opportunity Overlay designation to the Map (corresponding to the 31-acre Rancho Del Mar school site). At the same time, the City adopted new Land Use Element standards and policies allowing multi-family housing in the Overlay area, along with policies allowing a diverse mix of housing units, as required by state law.

The Land Use Element recognizes Rolling Hills' heritage as an equestrian community comprised of large lots on steep terrain. Its policies call for buffering between uses, preservation of views, and minimizing exposure to landslides, wildfires, and other hazards. These policies remain appropriate given the safety hazards in the community. The Element specifically discusses the 150-acre Flying Triangle landslide hazard area, noting that the area is subject to a moratorium due to unstable geologic conditions. It also notes that many existing parcels are constrained by steep slopes and have only small areas that are suitable for building pads and construction.

Recent amendments to the Safety Element further emphasize environmental hazards in the city, as well as constraints associated with evacuation, water supply, and emergency vehicle access. These constraints make most of Rolling Hills poorly suited for additional development or zoning changes that would result in increased density and population.

As it currently stands, the General Plan is not a development constraint.

## 5.2.2 Zoning Standards

The Rolling Hills Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 17 of the Municipal Code) implements the General Plan and provides objective development standards for all parcels in the City. There are three zoning districts in the City:

- Residential Agricultural Suburban 1 (RAS-1), which has a one-acre minimum lot size
- Residential Agricultural Suburban 2 (RAS-2), which has a two-acre minimum lot size
- Public Facilities (PF)

The RAS-1 zone roughly corresponds to the "Low Density Residential" General Plan designation. The RAS-2 zone roughly corresponds to the "Very Low Density Residential" General Plan designation.<sup>1</sup> The PF zone corresponds to the "Civic Center" General Plan designation. Parcels with a General Plan designation of "Publicly-owned Open Space" are zoned RAS-1 or RAS-2, whichever is prevalent on private parcels in the vicinity.

There are also two overlay districts. Overlays are mapped "on top" of one of the three base zones listed above and apply additional regulations specific to subareas of the city. The first overlay district (OZD-1) provides more lenient setback standards in an area of the city

---

<sup>1</sup> Parcels along Spur Lane and Cinchring Road have a General Plan designation of Very Low Density Residential but a zoning designation of RAS-1.

characterized by smaller lots. Roughly 70 lots along Middleridge Lane, Williamsburg Lane, Chesterfield Road and Chuckwagon Road, are covered. The second overlay district (RDMO) is the Rancho Del Mar Overlay, which is mapped on the Rancho Del Mar School site in the RAS-2 district. The RDMO requires the transfer of General Plan density for the property as a whole (which yields 16 units) to a single location in order to facilitate the production of multi-family housing. This overlay also includes objective standards for multi-family housing and emergency shelter, which are permitted by right.

The zoning ordinance includes definitions of terms (Chapter 17.12). At this time there are no definitions of transitional and supportive housing, both of which must be permitted in every residential district under state law. An action program in this Element has been included to make that Code amendment. The definitions expressly acknowledge manufactured and mobile homes as being the same as detached single family dwellings, provided they are located on a foundation.

The zoning regulations indicate permitted and prohibited uses in each zoning district. Single family residences and accessory dwelling units are permitted “by right” in RAS-1 and RAS-2. The only expressly prohibited uses are short-term rentals (less than 30 days), commercial cannabis activities and cannabis dispensaries. Numerous types of accessory structures are permitted by right, including stables, pools, sheds, and small (under 200 SF) cabanas, guest houses, pool houses, garages, greenhouses, and similar structures. Such structures generally require conditional use permits when they exceed 200 SF (accessory dwelling units are excluded from this requirement). Other conditional uses include schools, fire stations, and similar public buildings and utilities. Site plans are required when development is proposed.

Table 5.1 summarizes the development standards in the RAS-1 and RAS-2 zones, starting with the minimum lot size requirements of one acre and two acres. The Code states that existing parcels of record that are smaller than the minimum lot size requirements are considered to be conforming. Minimum dimensional standards are established for new lots, including the ratio of width to depth and a requirement for a minimum width of 150 feet. There are also standards for minimum street frontage, keeping in mind that most streets are private and contained within easements. These standards are more flexible on cul-de-sacs, depending on turning radius.

As indicated in Table 5.1, building coverage is limited to 20 percent of the net lot area in both the RAS-1 and RAS-2 zones. Total impervious surface coverage (structures and hardscape) is limited to 35 percent of the net lot area; maximum disturbed area is limited to 40 percent of the net lot area; and building height is restricted to one story. The code identifies 2:1 (50%) as the maximum buildable slope. A minimum dwelling size of 1,300 square feet is established for the primary unit on the site. The Code includes setback standards of 50' for front and rear yards, and 20' for side yards in RAS-1 and 35' for side yards in RAS-2. Lower standards apply in the OZD-1 overlay zone and exceptions are provided for lots along street easements.<sup>2</sup>

The zoning code affirms the one-story construction requirement established by the Rolling Hills Community Association (the RDM Overlay area is subject to a two-story requirement). The finished floor of structures must be no more than five feet above grade. Basements are

---

<sup>2</sup> The City is currently developing standards to implement SB 9, which allows the division of existing lots into two parcels and the construction of two dwellings on each parcel, subject to specific objective standards and other considerations.

permitted and storage areas may be located above or below a story. The code also provides standards for graded building pads and requirements for stables and corral sites.

**Table 5.1: Summary of Rolling Hills Zoning Standards<sup>(1)</sup>**

	RAS-1	RAS-2	OZD overlay
Minimum Lot Size	1 acre	2 acres	N/A
<b>Setbacks</b>			
Front		50' from front easement line <sup>(2)</sup>	30 feet from front roadway easement
Side	35 feet <sup>(3)</sup>	20 feet <sup>(3)</sup>	20 feet, reduced to 10' for street side yards
Rear	50 feet		
Structure Coverage <sup>(4)</sup>	20%		
Impervious Surface Coverage	35%		
Building Pad Coverage	30%		
Maximum Disturbed Area	40% of net lot area (excl. easements)		
Maximum Height	One-story		

(1) Standards for the RDM Overlay Zone and standards for ADUs are addressed in Section 5.3.2 of the Housing Element.

(2) Most property in Rolling Hills is subject to easements varying in width around each property boundary and road easements, granted by the property owner to the RHCA, a private corporation, or another person or entity for the purpose of construction and/or maintenance and use of streets, driveways, trails, utility lines, drainage facilities, open space, and/or a combination of these uses. The RHCA requires that all easements must be kept free of buildings, fences, plantings or other obstructions.

(3) Reduced to 20' in RAS-2 and 10' in RAS-1 and OZD if there is a private street along the side property line.

(4) The percentage figures in Table 5.1 apply to the "net lot area" on each parcel, which excludes these easements.

Additional standards in the Zoning Code prohibit reflective outdoor siding, limit outdoor lighting (to maintain dark skies), and require Class "A" roofing. Conditions are established for specific accessory uses, such as greenhouses, pools, and playgrounds. This includes a requirement that guest houses (which are different from ADUs) may not exceed 800 square feet. Whereas guest houses may not be rented and typically require a conditional use permit, ADUs are permitted by right and subject to different standards (see P. 5-5).

A minimum of two garage parking spaces are required for each single family dwelling unit. An additional space is required for homes with guest houses (as noted above, guest houses are treated differently than ADUs). Homes are also required to have driveways, which are generally limited to 20 feet in width and one per lot, though exceptions apply. The parking requirement is not a development constraint and is appropriate given the size of parcels, the high number of automobiles per household<sup>3</sup>, and the fact that the streets lack sidewalks and are too narrow to permit on-street parking. There is also no public transit service in the city.

<sup>3</sup> The 2015-2019 US Census American Community Survey indicates that 63% of all households in Rolling Hills own three or more vehicles.

The development standards in Table 5.1 do not present constraints to the construction of single family homes. Even a “small” substandard lot of 200’ x 200’ (40,000) square feet would be allowed 16,000 square feet of buildable area after required setbacks are subtracted. The allowable structure coverage on such a lot would be 8,000 square feet, providing more than enough space for a residence and detached accessory structures. The requirement for single-story construction has not constrained single family construction, given the ample building footprint accommodated on each site. In fact, single-story construction has enabled many older adults in Rolling Hills to age in place.

State law also requires the Housing Element to include an analysis of requests to develop housing at densities below those anticipated in the sites inventory. No such requests have been received in Rolling Hills, as development typically occurs on existing lots rather than through subdivision or multi-unit construction.

### **5.2.3 Standards for Different Housing Types**

Section 65583 and 65583.2 of the Government Code require cities to plan for a “variety of types of housing, including multi-family rental housing, factory-built housing, mobile homes, housing for agricultural employees, supportive housing, single room occupancy units, emergency shelters, and transitional housing.” Accordingly, the Rolling Hills Housing Element includes provisions for each of these housing types in the city, with the exception of housing explicitly reserved for agricultural employees, since this was not identified as being a need in the city.

#### **Accessory Dwelling Units<sup>4</sup>**

An Accessory Dwelling Unit—or ADU—is an attached or detached dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary residence. ADUs are commonly known as in-law units, second units, or granny flats. A “Junior” Accessory Dwelling Unit (or JADU) is an ADU that it is no more than 500 square feet in size, contained entirely within the footprint of an existing or proposed single family dwelling, and has an efficiency kitchen. JADUs often have their own bathrooms but they may also share bathrooms with the primary residence. State law now requires that all cities and counties permit ADUs and JADUs meeting certain standards “by right”—in other words, without a public hearing or discretionary approval.

Prior to 2018, ADUs and JADUs were not permitted in Rolling Hills. However, the zoning regulations allowed the construction of non-rentable guest houses for family members, visitors, and domestic employees on all residential properties. The large size and high value of properties in Rolling Hills has supported the development of guest houses in the past, resulting in a large inventory of structures that could potentially be converted from guest houses to ADUs in the future. The city also has a large number of accessory structures such as barns, pool cabanas, studios and workshops that could be converted to ADUs. Because of the single story

---

<sup>4</sup> This text was prepared in December 2021. Subsequent to its initial publication, the City coordinated with HCD to adopt amendments to its ADU ordinance to ensure that it is fully compliant with State law. These amendments were approved in August 2022.

construction requirement, there are also a substantial number of homes with floor plans conducive to Junior ADUs, as many homes have wings, additions, or rooms that could easily be partitioned as independent living units.

In January 2018, the City Amended Chapter 17.28 of the Municipal Code to allow for the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs and JADUs). Consistent with State law (Government Code 65852.2 and 65852.22), the City allows ADUs and JADUs ministerially (e.g., without a discretionary public hearing) provided the units meet specific standards and design criteria established in the zoning code. The City has also created a discretionary review path for projects that do not meet these standards.

Chapter 17.28 establishes that an ADU and JADU may be allowed with a simple building permit if it is within the space of an existing single family dwelling or accessory structure, including an allowance for up to 150 additional square feet for ingress and egress. The unit must also have exterior access independent of the single family dwelling and side and rear setbacks that meet building and fire codes. In addition, detached ADUs are permitted with a building permit (and no additional permit) if they are 800 square feet or less, no more than 16 feet tall, and have side and rear setbacks of at least four feet.

A second permitting path has been created for units that are between 800 and 1,000 square feet. Such units require an ADU Permit, which like the building permit is issued ministerially, with no discretionary review. These units are subject to a size limit of 850 square feet for a studio or one bedroom and 1,000 square feet for a two-bedroom unit. If attached to the primary dwelling, the unit is subject to a requirement that it may not exceed 50 percent of the floor area of the existing primary dwelling. The ADU may not cause the lot coverage on the property to exceed 50 percent or cause the FAR to exceed 0.45. Setback standards also apply.

The City's ADU ordinance incorporates State standards for parking, which waive parking requirements for JADUs and units created by converting habitable accessory structures. Parking is also waived for units near public transit stops or car-share vehicles. This is generally not applicable in Rolling Hills, since the community is not served by transit or car-share services. Per State law, the Code allows for carports and garages to be converted to ADUs without replacement parking. Where this situation does not apply, one space is required for each ADU, and tandem parking is permitted.

ADUs are subject to general requirements, such as fire sprinklers (if the unit is in the primary residence) and a prohibition on short-term rentals (less than 30 days). They are also subject to permit streamlining requirements, including a requirement to act on the application within 60 days after it is deemed complete. This time period may be extended at the applicant's request, or if the ADU is located within a new single family dwelling on the lot. The City allows both the ADU and the primary residence to be rented, although there are limitations on renting JADUs if the primary residence is not owner occupied.<sup>5</sup> The City's Ordinance also prohibits the sale of an ADU separately from the lot and primary dwelling.

ADUs are also subject to basic architectural standards, including compatibility with the design of the primary dwelling. This is objectively quantified, for instance by specifying that the roof pitch

---

<sup>5</sup> JADUs (units created within the floorplan of an existing home) are subject to an owner-occupancy requirement unless the property is owned by a government agency, land trust, or housing organization.

must match the primary dwelling, and that the entry be on the side or rear elevation. The ADU is also subject to a minimum length and width standard of 10 feet, and a minimum ceiling height of seven feet. Landscape screening requirements apply to units that are near adjacent parcels. If the ADU changes the building exterior or involves a new structure, it is subject to design review by the Rolling Hills Community Association Architectural Committee (see next section for further discussion).

ADUs smaller than 750 square feet are exempt from all impact fees. Units larger than 750 square feet may only be charged impact fees that are proportionally related to the square footage of the unit. The Code also includes waivers for utility connection fees for most ADUs, thereby reducing construction and operating costs. Moreover, the Code provides the option for a conditional use permit for ADUs that do not conform to the basic development standards of Chapter 17.28.

Overall, these requirements do not constrain or inhibit ADU or JADU construction. The regulations reflect State regulations and create ample opportunities for homeowners to earn extra income while providing a new dwelling unit for a tenant, employee, caregiver or family member. Given the large lot sizes in the city, the setback standards, FAR standards, and lot coverage limits still allow for generous ADU footprints. Likewise, the single story requirement is consistent with the requirement for single family homes. The “bonus” 150 square feet for JADU ingress/egress creates an incentive for such units. The requirement to provide a parking space is consistent with State law, since there is no transit in Rolling Hills—and is not a constraint given the large lot sizes and substantial driveway space available on most lots.

While no constraints have been identified, there are opportunities to provide incentives for ADUs that have yet to be realized. Because of recent changes to State law, there are opportunities for ADUs to be conveyed separately or operated by non-profits and/or affordable housing providers. As noted in Chapter 6, the City will pursue future programs to encourage ADU construction, including ADUs for very low and low income households. This includes creating a roster of ADUs and an inventory of units that meet “extremely low income” needs by providing housing for family members, domestic employees, or other long-term occupants.

Additionally, State law for ADUs was amended in 2020 and 2021. Several provisions in the City’s regulations must be updated for consistency. This includes eliminating the prohibition on ADUs with more than two bedrooms, and adding a provision that completed applications be deemed approved if they are not acted upon within 60 days. The City will work with the State Housing and Community Development Department to determine if there are other provisions of the ordinance that require updating. Program 6.10 in Chapter 6 identifies this as a high priority action, to be completed by October 15, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## Multi-Family Housing

In February 2021, the City amended its General Plan and zoning regulations to allow multi-family housing within the City limits. This was a key implementation measure in the Fifth Cycle Housing Element. New policies in the General Plan Land Use Element expressly support a range of housing types in the city, including multi-family housing. Chapter 17.19 of the

---

<sup>6</sup> These changes were made and this action was completed in August 2022.

Municipal Code creates the Rancho Del Mar Overlay (RDMO) Opportunity Overlay Zone, which has the following objectives:

- Create “by right” opportunities for multi-family housing
- Implement state laws that require cities to demonstrate available land capacity and zoning to accommodate the City’s current and projected need for housing
- Facilitate well-designed development projects
- Encourage development that provides attractive features that integrate the public realm with development on adjacent private property.

The zone is mapped on the 31-acre Rancho Del Mar school site, which as noted in Chapter 4 and Appendix B, is the most viable location for multi-family housing in Rolling Hills. The zone allows 16 units of multi-family housing on the site (excluding potential density bonus units), with a requirement that this housing be constructed at a density of 20 to 24 units per acre. The 20 unit per acre minimum density requirement corresponds to the “default density” under AB 2348, while the 16-unit requirement is based on the number of units permitted by the underlying General Plan and RAS-2 zoning designations. It is also a threshold used by HCD to identify viable housing sites.

Affordable multi-family housing is permitted **by right** in this zone, provided it is affordable to low and very low-income households and meets objective design standards that are included in the zoning code. These include minimum dwelling unit sizes of 250 square feet for a studio, 400 square feet for a one-bedroom, 650 square feet for a two-bedroom, and 900 square feet for a three-bedroom. Higher minimums had been proposed initially but were lowered to the adopted standards based on direction from HCD that the above figures would not constrain development.

As noted above, the allowable density range for the Zone is 20-24 units per acre. Numerous projects—both market-rate and affordable—have been developed in this density range in Los Angeles County in recent years. The range can accommodate apartments, condominiums, townhomes, row houses, clustered units, manufactured homes, and small detached cottages. All of these housing types would be permitted under the regulations prescribed by the Overlay Zone.

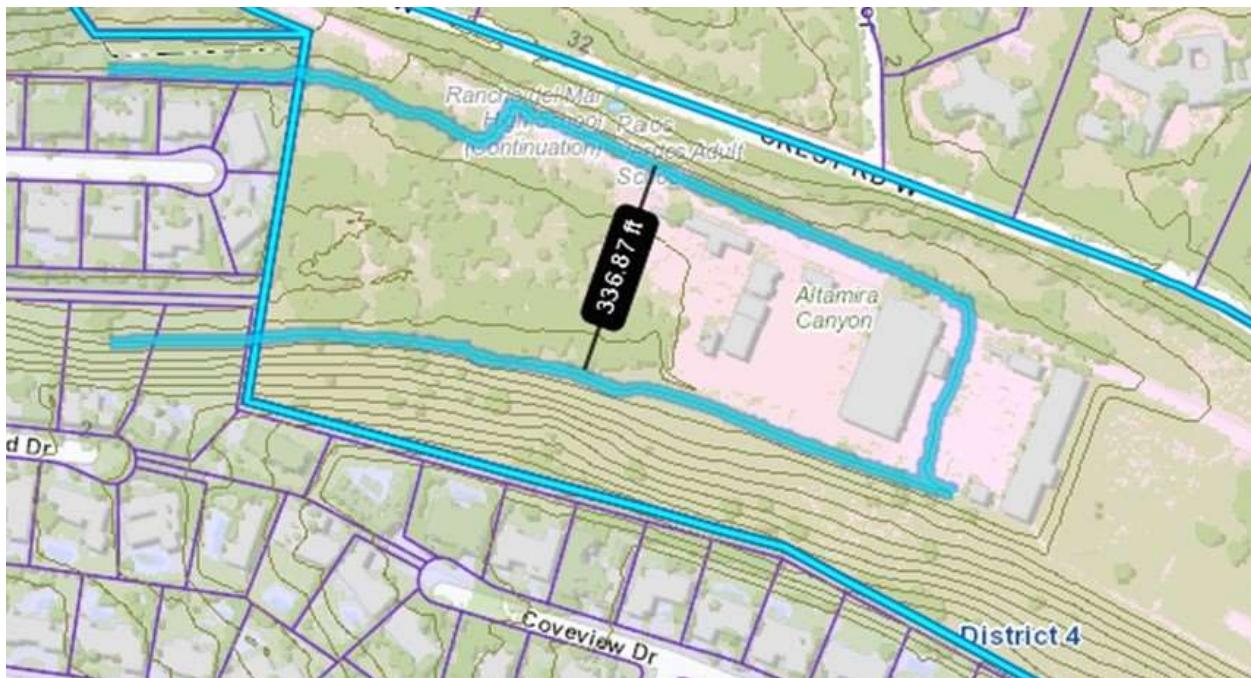
Development standards for multi-family housing within the Overlay Zone are conducive to higher density construction. These standards require 5-foot front and side setbacks and a 10-foot rear setback. Encroachments such as decks, balconies, awnings, porches, and stairways may extend into the setback areas, and architectural features such as eaves and cornices are also permitted in the setbacks. There are no lot coverage standards or Floor Area Ratio limits. A 28' height applies, allowing two-story construction. This is the only place in Rolling Hills where two-story construction is permitted.

Development is subject to a requirement that 100 square feet of common open space be provided for each dwelling unit. Thus a 16-unit project would be required to set aside 1,600 square feet of shared open space, which is equivalent to about 5 percent of the development site (assuming a density of 20 units per acre). When drafting the Ordinance, the City initially proposed a common open space standard of 150 square feet per unit, but this was reduced to 100 square feet during HCD’s review of the draft to eliminate the potential for a constraint.

One parking space per unit is required, plus one guest parking space for every 10 units. For senior housing, one space per unit is required for the first 10 units, and 0.5 spaces per unit are required for any additional units. The RDMO zone allows surface parking, with no requirements for garages or carports. At 180 square feet per parking space, the total area dedicated to parking in a 20 unit per acre project would be 3,240 square feet, or about nine percent of the site. Even with driveway lanes, the total area of the site required for parking would be small. Moreover, the ordinance includes provisions for reduced parking where certain conditions exist (shared parking agreements with nearby uses, available street parking, etc.).

No parking is permitted in the 20' front setback area (at the driveway location). This would not be a constraint given the large size of any parcel that would be created in the future to accommodate multi-family development. Moreover, the front yard setback for structures is only five feet, which creates more space for the building envelope and encourages parking to be placed to the rear or side of the parcel, potentially within the setback.

The development standards require that multi-family housing be located at least 50 feet from the toe of the slope associated with a hillside area within the Overlay District. Figure 5.1 shows the sloped area and indicates that the linear distance between the toe of the slope and the access road serving the multi-family development site is 337 feet. Thus the area where structures are acceptable extends 287 linear feet back from the access road (minus a 5-foot front setback). While the rear 50 feet may not include structures, it could include open space and other amenities, including parking and driveways. The 50' setback does not affect parcel width (i.e., the east-west dimension), and still leaves room for a substantial development site on the property.



**Figure 5.1: Slope Setbacks on PVUSD Site**

Because affordable multi-family housing is permitted by right in the Overlay Zone, the City has adopted objective design standards to ensure that new development is compatible with adjacent uses. These address residential frontages (facades, etc.), usable open space standards, public space amenity requirements, and operational standards. Such standards have the potential to create a development constraint if they are too onerous or add to the cost of housing.

The residential frontage standards require that the ground floor be no more than five feet above the ground surface. This is easily attained, since the site is relatively flat. The standards establish a 10' floor to floor height, which is consistent with the overall 28' height limit as well as typical residential construction standards and interior ceiling heights. Entrances and windows are required along the front façade, and entrances to individual units may either be direct to the exterior, or to an interior hallway. Stoops and porches may be located on the exterior, and projecting elements (bay windows, eaves, balconies) may extend into setback areas. Street tree, landscaping, and lighting requirements apply, but these do not constrain development.

The usable open space standards likewise do not represent a constraint. These requirements call for an amenity such as a children's playground or clubhouse in multi-family projects. The amenity may be indoors or outdoors and may not include parking areas, streets, or driveways. Projects are also expected to include amenities such as pedestrian walkways, landscaping, bike storage racks, and screened trash enclosures, and would need to comply with building code standards for interior noise. These are common requirements in California communities and do not represent a constraint.

### **Mobile and Manufactured Homes**

As required by State law, the City Zoning Ordinance allows for manufactured housing units to reduce residential construction costs. Section 17.12.130 of the Rolling Hills Municipal Code defines manufactured homes and mobile homes as "single family dwellings"; as such, they are subject to the same standards as wood-frame construction.

### **Emergency Shelters**

Every city in California is required to identify a zone where at least one year-round emergency shelter is permitted without a conditional use permit or other discretionary permit (Govt Code Section 65583(a)(4)(A)). The Government Code further requires that emergency shelters be subject to the same standards that apply to residential and commercial development in that zone, except that certain objective standards prescribed by the State may apply.

In February 2021, the City of Rolling Hills amended its zoning regulations to permit emergency shelters "by right" in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay (RDMO) Zone. Rolling Hills has adopted standards for shelters that meet the requirements of the Government Code and facilitate emergency shelter construction or conversion. The RDMO Zone encompasses over 31 acres of public property, most of which is underutilized. There are opportunities to create shelters by converting existing buildings, constructing new buildings, or using temporary facilities such as portables or tiny homes. This use is permitted by right, with no discretionary permit required by the City. There are no limitations on where shelters may locate within the boundary of the RDMO Zone. Since shelter beds do not constitute "dwelling units", an emergency shelter would

not be considered part of the 16 dwelling units permitted by the Overlay Zone and would not affect the number of allowable multi-family units in the Zone.

The City submitted preliminary standards to HCD for review in December 2020 and subsequently revised those standards to ensure that they are compliant with the Government Code and do not present a constraint to emergency shelter development. The adopted standards include:

- Shelters may be 300 feet apart, consistent with Government Code 65583(a)(4)(A)(v) One parking space for each staff person must be provided. There are no supplemental parking requirements based on the number of beds. The requirements are consistent with Government Code 65583(a)(4)(V)(A)(ii) and are no greater than those that apply to other land uses and activities in the RDMO zoning district.
- A maximum of 12 beds applies. This is comparable to the maximums that apply in nearby cities, including those with unsheltered populations.
- 50 square feet of personal living space is required for each occupant, excluding common areas.
- The standards allow, *but do not require*, shelters to include a dining room, commercial kitchen, laundry room, recreation room, child care facilities, and support services (the Code indicates these may be provided, but they are not mandatory)
- At least five percent of the shelter area must be dedicated for on-site waiting and intake, and an equivalent (or larger) area is required for exterior waiting
- Shelters must comply with building code, plumbing code, and trash enclosure requirements—the same standards that apply to other uses in the Overlay Zone and in the underlying base RAS-2 Zone.

Consistent with the Government Code, an application to operate an emergency shelter requires submittal of a management and operations plan that addresses hours of operation, staffing levels, maximum length of stay, and security procedures. The application would require approval by the City Administrator, based on satisfaction of the conditions listed above and review for compliance with Building, Fire, and other applicable regulations.

The regulations do not constrain emergency shelter development and are compliant with Government Code requirements. As they were just put into effect in 2021, the City will monitor their effectiveness over the 2021-2029 planning period to determine if changes are needed.

### **Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels**

In February 2021, the City of Rolling Hills amended its zoning regulations to allow Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing in the RDMO Zone. These are facilities with individual rooms or small efficiency apartments designed for very low-income persons. There are no limitations on where SROs may locate within the boundary of the RDMO Zone. A Conditional Use Permit is required.

In December 2020, the City submitted preliminary standards to HCD for review and subsequently revised those standards to ensure that they do not present a constraint to SRO development. The adopted standards include:

- A minimum of six units and a maximum of eight units
- Maximum occupancy of two persons per unit
- Floor area of 250-350 square feet per unit
- Each room must include a water closet (Toilet plus sink)
- Each room must include a kitchen sink with a disposal (but not necessarily a full kitchen)
- Each unit must have a closet
- Full kitchens (i.e., with range, refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.) and full bathrooms (with shower/bath) *may* be provided in each unit but are not required. If these facilities are not included in each unit, then shared facilities are required on each floor.
- 0.5 parking spaces are required per unit, plus one space for each employee on duty
- Occupancy is for 30 days or more

The City initially proposed including a requirement for 24-hour on-site management, and a requirement for elevators in the event the building was two stories. Both of these requirements were removed following HCD's feedback that they were potential constraints. Requiring 24-hour management requirement could be a constraint for a 6-8 unit facility. As a result, on-site management is not required on a 24-hour basis. Given that the building would only be two stories, the requirement for elevators was removed. Since SRO rooms would not be classified as independent "dwelling units", they would not be considered part of the 16 units permitted by the Overlay Zone and would not reduce the number of allowable multi-family units in the Zone.

### **Supportive, Transitional, and Employee Housing**

Supportive housing is a type of rental housing that includes on-site services such as medical assistance or treatment of chronic health conditions or disabilities. Transitional housing is a type of supportive housing but is specifically intended for unsheltered residents who are transitioning to permanent housing. Supportive and transitional housing is not associated with a specific structure type—single family homes can be used in this manner, and so can multi-family buildings.

Government Code Section 65583(a)(5) requires cities to treat transitional and supportive housing as residential uses that are only subject to those restrictions that apply to other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. In other words, a City cannot hold a single family home used as supportive housing to a different standard for parking, setbacks, floor area, etc. than a single family home occupied by a family or other type of household.

Public Health and Safety Code Section 17021.5 requires the City to treat employee housing for six or fewer people the same as other single family housing in each zoning district. For example, if a corporation in another city purchased a home in Rolling Hills and allowed its employees to live there, the use would be treated like any other single family home.

Rolling Hills presently has no Code language that limits transitional, supportive, or employee housing or imposes any special restrictions on such housing. However, these housing types are not expressly acknowledged in the Municipal Code. The 2021-2029 Housing Element includes an action item to add definitions of transitional, supportive, and employee housing to the Municipal Code within six months of Housing Element adoption, acknowledging that such

housing is permitted or conditionally permitted in the same manner as other residential dwellings of the same type in the same zone, as required by State law.<sup>7</sup>

### **Housing Constraints for Persons with Disabilities**

Government Code Sections 65583(a)(4) requires the Housing Element to include “an analysis of potential and actual governmental constraints upon the maintenance, improvement of development of housing...for persons with disabilities. AB 686 also requires the City to affirmatively further fair housing, which includes housing that meets the needs of persons with disabilities.

In November 2020, the City Council approved reasonable accommodation procedures, including application requirements, review procedures, findings, and provisions for noticing and advertising the opportunity. These procedures establish a process through which persons with disabilities can request reasonable accommodations (or modifications) to the City’s codes, rules, policies, practices or services so that they have an equal opportunity to enjoy or use a dwelling. The City has also adopted a resolution recognizing the Americans with Disabilities Act, including a commitment to assist disabled residents.

A request for reasonable accommodation may be made by any individual with a disability, his or her representative, or a developer or provider of housing for individuals with disabilities, when the application of a land use, zoning, or building regulation, policy, practice, or procedure acts as a barrier to fair housing opportunities. The City has posted notices at City Hall informing the public of its right to make such a request, including application forms for those making a request. Requests are generally made to the City Manager.

Once a completed application is received, the City Manager has 45 days to make a written determination. Additional information may be requested of the applicant in order to make an informed determination. An alternative solution to the one proposed by the applicant may be considered if it would reduce impacts and still achieve the intent of the request.

The request is granted, with or without conditions, if the City Manager finds that the housing will be occupied by an eligible individual, the requested accommodation is necessary to provide the individual with equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, the requested accommodation would not impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City, or fundamentally alter the City’s zoning or building laws or undermine the General Plan, and there are no other reasonable accommodation methods that would allow the applicant to enjoy the dwelling that would be less impactful on the surrounding area.

Conditions of approval may be replaced on the application. These may include periodic inspection to verify compliance, recordation of a deed restriction requiring removal of the improvements when it is no longer needed, time limits, measures to reduce off-site impacts, and measures that respond to the unique physical attributes of the property. Decisions may be appealed.

Rolling Hills has adopted the Los Angeles County Building Code. As long as construction is consistent with the Building Code, residents are permitted to provide any disabled access or

---

<sup>7</sup> This action was completed in August 2022 and the City is now fully compliant.

amenity improvements necessary to reduce barriers. Access to homes via ramps is permitted. One-story construction throughout the community removes a major barrier for persons with disabilities and facilitates access for persons with mobility limitations. Accessibility improvements, universal design changes, and other accommodations for persons with disabilities are processed administratively in conjunction with the building permit process and are permitted in both of the City's residential zones.

No constraints to housing for persons with disabilities were identified in this analysis. As noted in Chapter 3, the city's large population of older adults requires ongoing efforts to facilitate retrofitting of existing homes for residents with physical limitations, and their caregivers.

### **Residential Care Facilities and Definition of “Family”**

The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act requires that small licensed residential care facilities for six or fewer clients be treated as regular residential uses and permitted by right in all residential districts. Care facilities with seven or more clients (e.g., “large” residential care facilities) may be subject to additional requirements but must be treated the same as other residential uses in that zoning district. Cities that require conditional use permits for large residential care facilities are required to mitigate this constraint in their housing elements.

At this point in time, the Rolling Hills Zoning Code does not expressly mention or define residential care facilities, nor does it distinguish between “large” and “small” facilities. The Code should be amended to expressly indicate that this use is permitted by right in all zones where housing is allowed, and is subject to the same standards, fees, and procedures as other residential uses in those zones. This is required by State law. As required by California Health and Safety Code Section 1566.2, the City does not collect business taxes, registration fees, or other fees for small residential care facilities.

The Rolling Hills Municipal Code includes a definition of “family” in its zoning regulations. Overly restrictive definitions may pose a housing constraint, but in this instance the definition is broad and inclusive. According to the Rolling Hills Municipal Code, “family” means:

“one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit, as distinguished from a group occupying a boarding, rooming or lodging house, hotel or club. Family may include domestic servants.”

#### **5.2.4 Cumulative Impacts of Land Use Controls**

State law requires the City to consider not only the impact of individual development standards, but also the cumulative effects of these standards on the cost and supply of housing. For example, it is possible that a particular setback requirement may appear reasonable on its own but may limit development opportunities when combined with height and lot coverage limits. Sometimes, the combined effect of different development controls can require more expensive construction or result in frequent zoning variances.

Because of the very large lot sizes in Rolling Hills, the zoning standards do not create an adverse cumulative impact on development costs or the housing supply. As previously noted (pages 5-2

and 5-4), a special zoning overlay (OZD-1) was created in 2012 to recognize that some parts of the city have prevailing lot sizes that are smaller than the one-acre minimum required by the RAS-1 district. Roughly 10 percent of the City's parcels are covered by this zone, which allows reduced setbacks in order to avoid the need for zoning variances.

As noted earlier, the combination of front, rear, and side yard setbacks on a rectangular one-acre lot would still allow for a buildable area of over 16,000 square feet. Most parcels are considerably larger than one acre and have buildable areas that exceed 20,000 square feet. FAR and lot coverage limits likewise allow ample structure coverage, and homes larger than 10,000 square feet can be built without Variances on most lots. The one-story height limit tends to produce building footprints that are quite large—but still within the 20% structure coverage requirement. Each residence is required to have two covered parking spaces (three, if an ADU or guest quarters are on-site). This requirement is modest given the typically large home size and does not constrain building construction.

The land use controls also do not present a cumulative constraint to ADU construction. Almost every parcel in the City has the land area or existing built floor area to support an ADU, and many homes already have spaces that could be easily converted to ADUs. The ADU and JADU regulations adopted in 2018 and revised in 2020 were drafted to work in tandem with the controls for the RAS-1 and RAS-2 districts and have laid the foundation for substantial ADU production.

There are no cumulative land use constraints to multi-family development. The Rancho Del Mar Overlay (RDMO) Zone standards have been tested to ensure they are internally consistent and can support housing in the 20-24 unit/acre range. The RDMO Zone allows multi-family housing to be either owner or renter occupied. New housing units in this zone must be affordable. The affordability requirement is not a constraint to development, as the site is publicly owned and represents a unique opportunity for reduced land and construction costs. There are no comparable opportunities in the city, as this is the only property in Rolling Hills that is flat, vacant, served by public sewer, and walking distance from public transit.

Prior to August 2022, one notable omission from the City's zoning regulations was a provision for density bonuses. State law requires that the City offer a density bonus for projects that set aside various percentages of units for affordable housing, senior housing, and other types of special needs housing. The number of bonus units is based on a sliding scale and can be up to 50 percent above the base density permitted by zoning. For projects where all units are affordable to low and very low income households, the density bonus rises to 80 percent. A density bonus could be requested for the Rancho Del Mar site, since the overlay requires that any multi-family housing is 100 percent affordable. This would allow 28 units on the site instead of the 16 allowed by the General Plan and zoning. Density bonus provisions were adopted by Rolling Hills in August 2022 and the City is now fully compliant with this requirement.

The Housing Element includes a program recommendation that the City amend the Municipal Code to adopt density bonus provisions or adopt the State provisions by reference.

### **5.2.5 Building Code Standards**

The City of Rolling Hills adopted the Building Code for Los Angeles County in effect on January 1, 2020 as its Building Code. A number of local amendments to the Code were made. This includes an allowance for the City Council to hold a public hearing to review decisions of the County Board of Appeals, Code Enforcement Appeals Board, or Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board. Other local amendments include a modified definition of “basement” (to avoid the appearance of multi-story buildings), adjusted provisions for grading and cut slopes, limits on driveway slope, and limits on developing slopes over 50 percent. The City has also adopted the Los Angeles County Plumbing Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code, Residential Code, Fire Code, and Green Building Code.

Effective July 1, 2008, all land in the City of Rolling Hills was deemed to be a “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone” (VHFHSZ). As a result, several more restrictive fire safety standards have been adopted. The City also has adopted standards for hours of construction, and requirements for geological surveys and investigations.

### **5.2.6 Permit Processing Times and Approval Procedures**

Processing and permit procedures can be a constraint to the production and improvement of housing due to the time they add to the development process. Unclear permitting procedures, layered reviews, multiple discretionary review requirements, and costly conditions of approval can increase the cost of housing, create uncertainty in the development process, and increase the financial risk assumed by the developer.

In Rolling Hills, the time required to process a project varies depending on the size and complexity of the proposal, and the volume of projects being reviewed. Not every project must complete every possible step in the process. In addition, certain review and approval procedures may run concurrently.

For smaller projects, permit processing times tend to be faster than in most cities. Administrative review applications (i.e., those that do not require public hearings) typically take only a few days to process. However, the City’s capacity is limited, requiring that some permit processing functions are contracted out. Even smaller projects that are approved ministerially typically require review by the Rolling Hills Community Association and the Los Angeles County Building and Safety Department, in its role as the contracted building authority of the City.

The City collects no fees for over the counter review—such fees are assessed when the project is submitted to the Department of Building and Safety. Administrative review processes have been created for residential additions less than 1,000 square feet, accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units, remodels, foundation repair, and re-roofing. Such projects are required to submit two sets of plans, various checklists, and calculations of existing and proposed square footage, lot coverage, and impervious surface coverage. The City’s website provides comprehensive information for applicants seeking permits, including on-line portals for applications, payment, and checking progress on permit status.

Larger projects such as new homes take longer, but they are less common. New homes in

Rolling Hills are multi-million dollar projects that often require demolition, site preparation and grading, and new driveways before construction may begin. Larger projects may also require review by the LA County Health Department for the adequacy of the septic system, and the Fire Department for fuel modification.

Unless specifically exempted by State law, large projects such as new homes and residential additions of 1,000 square feet or larger are subject to Site Plan Review. An initial consultation with staff is strongly encouraged at the start of the process. Once an application is received, it is reviewed for completeness, including required calculations, elevations, and site plans. When the application is deemed complete, it is forwarded to the Planning Commission for a hearing, including a recommendation from staff.

The Site Plan review process typically takes three to six months from start to finish, including a field trip by Planning Commissioners to the project site at the start of the process. The process may be completed in a single hearing but on occasion may take two to three hearings so that issues raised by the Commission and public can be addressed. Additionally, project applicants may modify their site plans after approval and return to the Commission for approval of major revisions.

The Planning Commission has the authority to approve Site Plan Review applications. The decision of the Commission is considered final unless an appeal is filed with the City Council or the City Council decides to take the application under its jurisdiction. The decision becomes effective 30 days after adoption of the resolution.

Approval of a Site Plan Review application requires findings related to compliance with the General Plan and adopted lot coverage standards, preservation of topography and vegetation, grading that follows natural contours or does not adversely modify natural drainage channels, the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, impacts to pedestrian movement, and compliance with CEQA.

The Planning Commission does not expressly perform design review as part of this process, as its findings are principally related to address public health, safety, and welfare. Design review occurs privately, through the Rolling Hills Community Association (RHCA). The RHCA has an Architectural Committee that reviews plans for new homes and large additions to ensure that easements are kept free and clear of structures, including fences and other obstructions.<sup>8</sup>

Projects are submitted to LA County Building and Safety following RHCA review. RHCA maintains its own design guidelines, covering such topics as roofs, walls, windows, doors, and lighting. Because RCHA is a non-governmental agency, these guidelines are described later in this report under non-governmental constraints (see discussion of CC&Rs on page 5-22).

Projects that require Variances to development standards or Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) also require Planning Commission hearings. CUPs are required for large horse stables and corrals, detached garages, tennis courts, and a number of other large-footprint site features. From start to finish, the process from submittal of plans to approval of permits may take six months or longer for

---

<sup>8</sup> School District and City-owned property is exempt from this requirement. Thus, any development in the RDMO Housing Opportunity Zone would not be subject to RHCA review.

a brand new home. Applications for ADUs, major remodels, residential additions, and accessory structures are more common, and are processed more rapidly. ADUs, JADUs, and other ministerially approved projects take approximately two to four weeks to process.

The City regularly seeks ways to expedite processing and improve the timeliness of its services. At the present time, permitting and processing time is not considered a constraint and the City complies with the time limit requirements established by Sections 65943 and 65950 of the Government Code. The Site Plan Review requirements and other permitting requirements are not a constraint to the development of multi-family or affordable housing as they would not apply to projects on the Rancho Del Mar site nor would they apply to ADUs that meet the City's adopted standards. As such, they have no impact on the cost, supply, timing, or approval certainty of these projects. For new single family homes, the review requirements result in processing times that may take several months. However, they do not affect the supply approval certainty. In a review of applications over the past eight years, only one application was denied (requesting a height modification to approved addition in 2017) and another application had a partial denial (for stairs and walls, in 2014).

### **5.2.7 Site Improvement Requirements**

The principal site improvements required upon development of a vacant property are the undergrounding of electrical lines to the structure, installation of a septic system, and conformance to the City's outdoor lighting standards. Road and emergency access (fire safety) improvements may be required for properties that do not have street frontage or have other access constraints. New development in Rolling Hills consists almost entirely of custom homes on existing vacant or previously developed lots, rather than subdivision of "raw land," which tends to reduce overall improvement requirements. At the Rancho Del Mar affordable housing site, installation of curb and gutter improvements would be required prior to development, but the site already has road access, storm drainage, and water and sewer facilities in place. There would be no special or unique site improvement requirements imposed on development of this site.

Projects requiring the subdivision of land would be subject to the standards set forth by the City's subdivision regulations, which are specified in Title 16 of the Municipal Code. These standards establish a 24-foot road width for streets. A 32-foot turning radius is required on dead-end streets, and grades may not exceed six percent. The standards recognize that all streets in Rolling Hills are private. The City Council has the discretion to require additional site improvements adjacent to sites where land is being subdivided, including widening existing roads to meet neighborhood traffic and drainage needs. The subdivider may also be required to provide drainage improvements, in accordance with standards set by the City Engineer and with the city's MS4 permit (see P 5-26). The subdivision ordinance further specifies that water mains and fire hydrants may be required when new lots are created, and that easements for gas and electric services may be required.

The cost of installing a new septic system is generally not a constraint for brand new homes but can be an impediment for ADUs and smaller additions, particularly for homeowners with limited incomes. At minimum, the County Health Department requires a feasibility study for any project that could result in septic tank capacity being exceeded. Older homes may face costly septic

installation requirements that could render a home addition or ADU infeasible. Programs to assist lower income or senior homeowners with septic tank replacement could be considered, particularly where an ADU is being added.

### 5.2.8 Development and Permitting Fees

Fees are charged by the City and other agencies to cover the costs of processing permits and providing services and facilities, such as utilities, schools, and infrastructure. Most of these fees are assessed through a pro rata system based on the square footage or value of the project, the staff time required for processing, and the magnitude of the project's impact. If fees become excessive, they can become a constraint on development and make it more difficult to build housing affordably. They can also place a burden on lower income homeowners seeking to modify their homes or add an Accessory Dwelling Unit.

**Table 5.2: City of Rolling Hills Major Development Fees<sup>1</sup>**

Fee Type	Fee Amount	Notes
Site Plan Review	\$1,500	
Conditional Use Permit	\$1,500	
Variance	\$1,250	
Minor Variance	\$750	Encroachments from main structure that do not extend more than 5' into required setbacks
Zoning Change or Code Amendment	\$2,000	
General Plan Amendment	\$2,000	
Accessory Dwelling Unit application	\$375	
Major Remodel Review	\$375	
View Impairment Review	\$2,000	Processing fee for Committee review of impacts on trees and views
Water Efficient Landscape Review	\$1,500	Unused balance refunded
Traffic Commission Review	\$300	Required for new driveways
Lot Line Adjustment	\$1,500	Plus County fee
Tentative Parcel Map	\$1,500	Plus County fee
Final Parcel Map	--	County fee only
Environmental Review Determination	\$200	Plus Fish and Game Fee
Environmental Impact Reports	Consultant fee plus 10%	Only required as needed
Appeal Fee	2/3 of original application fee	Only required as needed

Source: City of Rolling Hills, 2021. Barry Miller Consulting, 2021

<sup>1</sup> This is not a comprehensive list of all fees but covers the major development-related categories in the City's fee schedule. The fee schedule also covers records searches, inspections, and review of grading plans.

A summary of residential development fees charged by the City of Rolling Hills is presented in Table 5.2. Most projects do not require payment of these fees, as they would not typically require use permits, Variances, Zoning changes, General Plan amendments, CEQA review, lot line adjustments, and so on. However, Site Plan Review is commonly required for all new homes and major additions, and ADU permits are required for larger ADUs. For projects complying with City standards and requirements, the fees are not a development constraint.

Rolling Hills is one of 13 cities that contracts with the Los Angeles County Department of Building and Safety (LACDBS) for plan checking, building permits, and building inspection. The County issues building, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical permits on the City's behalf. The cost schedules for the incorporated cities served by LACDBS are higher than the schedules for the unincorporated area but are comparable to nearby cities with full-service building departments. A residential project with an assessed valuation of \$100,000 would be subject to a plan check fee of \$3,413 and a permit fee of \$4,029. This includes required energy and disabled access checking costs. As the value of a project increases, the fees decline as a percentage of total project costs. They represent 7 percent of a \$100,000 project but less than 5 percent of a \$500,000 project.

The fee schedules for other permits varies by type. Electrical permits are subject to a base fee of \$74.70, plus a cost per square foot (\$0.20/SF for multi-family and \$0.50/SF for single family and duplexes). Separate fees are collected for swimming pools, branch circuits, lighting fixtures, appliances, and electrical plan checking. Mechanical permits are collected for HVAC systems, compression units, boilers, refrigeration systems, etc. Plumbing permits are based on the number of fixtures and also cover projects requiring connection to septic tanks and work such as solar water heaters, sprinkler systems, and backflow protection devices. Relative to the other 12 cities that contract with Los Angeles County, the fee schedule in Rolling Hills is slightly higher. However, the fees are lower in Rolling Hills than in nearby Rolling Hills Estates.

The County also collects fees for projects requiring geotechnical review. This would apply to most new housing units in Rolling Hills. The fee ranges from \$2,752 to \$17,746, with the actual amount based on 0.50% of the value of the proposed structure. Additional fees are charged for geotechnical site inspections and geotechnical review of grading plans.

Los Angeles County typically updates its fees annually based on the consumer price index and other factors. The increase in 2021 was 2.2 percent for all cities served by the County. Rolling Hills updates its fee schedule less frequently, although fees are considered as part of the annual budgeting process. Some of the City's fees—such as the fees for parcel maps and lot line adjustments—have not been updated in many years.

There are no local surcharges or special fees associated with multi-family housing. On a per unit basis, permitting costs would be substantially lower for multi-family units than for new single family units. This is due to the smaller size of multi-family units and to multi-family housing being permitted "by right" within the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone, with no applicable administrative fees. The City's fee structure has not historically distinguished between single and multi-family construction, as multi-family housing only recently became a permitted use.

A number of other fees apply in Rolling Hills; these are typically associated with new residences and are intended to offset the additional cost of providing services. These include:

- A Park and Recreation Fund Fee, which is equivalent to 2% of the first \$100,000 in building evaluation, plus an additional 0.5% of the remaining balance. The fee for a \$1 million construction project would be \$6,000. This fee is only charged for new primary homes---ADUs are exempt.
- A School Impact Fee, which is paid to the Palos Verdes Unified School District. In 2020, the fee was \$3.79 per square foot for new residential construction.
- A fee collected by the Rolling Hills Community Association (RHCA), equivalent to \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed valuation (i.e., \$2,000 for a project with a construction value of \$1,000,000)
- Additional architectural review fees collected by the RHCA, including a \$165 flat fee plus \$1 per square foot for new construction, additions and major remodels. In addition, RHCA collects fees ranging from \$25 to \$500 for individual features such as swimming pools, tennis courts, gazebos, and new roofs.

There are no sewer connection fees in the city, since there are no sewers. There is no water connection fee; water service charges are determined by the size of the meter and the number of fixtures, plus the amount of water used. The City likewise has no impact fees for housing, transportation, public art, or other services. Projects in the RDMO Zone would be exempt from the RHCA fee, since they are outside the HOA boundary.

In total, fees for a typical new home are roughly equivalent to 7-8 percent of total construction costs. This is comparable to other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, though somewhat higher than in other urbanized parts of Los Angeles County. The higher fees are associated in part with the terrain and hazards in Rolling Hills and the size and complexity of applications for new homes, many of which require extensive grading and multiple inspections. Fees do not constrain development in Rolling Hills, but they do add to the cost of housing, which is already expensive in the City. Programs to reduce processing and permitting fees for ADUs could be considered, as they could incentivize ADU production.

### **5.2.9 Other Local Ordinances and Disclosure Requirements**

No other local ordinances were identified that could present potential constraints to housing needs. The City does not have an inclusionary zoning requirement, growth control ordinance or limits on the number of units that may be constructed in a given year, or other locally-imposed requirement impacting the cost of residential development. The City prohibits the rental of rooms and houses for periods of less than 30 days, effectively disallowing short-term rentals. This supports the City's goal of using Accessory Dwelling Units as rental housing, rather than for transient occupancy.

The City also complies with AB 1483 (2019), which requires that agencies publish specific information on their websites starting January 1, 2021. This information includes:

- All current fees and exactions applicable to housing
- All zoning ordinances, design and development standards

- Current and five previous annual financial reports
- An archive of nexus studies for impact fees conducted after January 1, 2018

The City of Rolling Hills maintains a Planning and Community Services landing page on its website that contains all of this information. This landing page includes a link to all planning and development fees, the Zoning Map, the Municipal Code (which includes the zoning ordinance and all applicable development standards), the General Plan, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Landscape Design Standards, the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, Planning and Development forms and application materials, the Planning Commission calendar, technical information for developers (related to stormwater management), permitting requirements, guidelines for equestrian facilities, information on solar panels and rainwater harvesting, and guidance on septic system installation. The City is also updating its [environmental programs](#) page. An action program in the Housing Element calls for this information to be reorganized and updated, with new information added on Accessory Dwelling Units and links to the RHCA Design Guidelines.

Every annual budget and audited financial report for the City since 2010 is available on the City's website. There have been no nexus studies for impact fees since 2018, but such studies would be posted if conducted in the future.

Disclosure requirements related to SB 35 also apply to Rolling Hills. In 2018, California adopted SB 35, which establishes streamlining provisions for multi-family projects meeting certain criteria related to affordability and payment of prevailing wages to construction workers. As of 2021, projects in Rolling Hills in which 10% or more of the units are affordable are eligible for SB 35. Article III Section 300 (b) of HCD's Guidelines for SB 35 requires that cities in this situation must provide "information, in a manner readily accessible to the general public, about the locality's process for applying and receiving ministerial approval, materials required for an application as defined in Section 102(b), and relevant objective standards to be used to evaluate the application." An action program in this Housing Element recommends creating an SB 35 information sheet and application and including it on the Planning and Community Services Website.

## **5.3 Non-Governmental Constraints**

Non-governmental constraints significantly affect the affordability of housing in Rolling Hills. Specifically, the high cost of real estate in the city, its heritage as a rural, gated equestrian community, and its limited infrastructure and severe environmental constraints, make it extremely challenging to build traditional affordable housing units. The city is one of the most expensive and highly constrained communities in California. To be economically viable, affordable housing must be tailored to community context—for example, through accessory dwelling units.

### **5.3.1 Land Costs**

Land in Rolling Hills is expensive. The city features dramatic topography, with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and Los Angeles basin. Property in the city is marketed as a location for prestigious estates. The supply of acre-plus homesites on the Palos Verdes Peninsula is limited, making demand for such properties very strong. A scan of Zillow.com in Fall 2021 shows two vacant lots for sale in the city—one for \$7.5 million and another with geologic constraints for \$1 million. Data on recent sales shows a vacant single family parcel that sold for \$6.85 million in November 2020 and another that sold for \$1.84 million in 2019. These properties have been marketed and sold as sites for large single family homes.

The economic viability of affordable housing on these sites is further challenged by the cost of the site improvements that would be required to facilitate safe development. The vacant parcels described above lack public sewer; are accessed by narrow, winding, private roads traversing an area with very high wildfire severity; and have slopes that exceed 50 percent in some cases. The cost of road widening, grading and earth movement, and installation of community-wide sewer and storm drainage construction make most types of multi-family housing economically infeasible. There is no public revenue source to make these improvements. The absence of commercial land uses in the city limits the City's ability to sponsor programs that would reduce or underwrite land or site improvement costs.

### **5.3.2 Construction Costs**

The cost of construction, including labor and materials, is a significant constraint to housing development in Rolling Hills. While high costs have impacted the entire state, Rolling Hills is particularly impacted by the high cost of mitigating environmental constraints, including fire and geologic hazards. New home construction requires grading and earth movement, often with costly retaining walls and engineered drainage systems. Many homes in the city feature high-end finishes, as well as amenities that result in higher costs. The city is also vulnerable to elevated or inflated costs that reflect its reputation as a high-end, high-income market.

In 2014, the Rolling Hills Housing Element estimated that construction costs were approximately \$330 to \$500 per square foot. Based on recent projects in the city, costs have doubled since then. The National Association of Homebuilders estimated that costs increased 26 percent between June 2020 and June 2021 alone. There have been rapid increases in the price of lumber, copper, steel, aluminum, concrete, and other building materials, resulting in some

projects being placed on hold and others being cancelled altogether. Construction costs for home additions now regularly exceed \$800 per square foot.

Construction of septic tanks represents a unique expense in Rolling Hills that is not common in surrounding cities. Anecdotally, homeowners in the city report costs of well over \$25,000 to install new septic systems, which in some cases can be an impediment to adding an accessory dwelling unit or expanding an older home.

### **5.3.3 Financing**

Financing is not a constraint to housing development in Rolling Hills, but the high cost of housing makes it infeasible for most households to buy a home in the community. Home mortgage interest rates were low at the time the Housing Element was drafted, with rates at around 3.0 percent for a 30-year mortgage in Fall 2021. Income and down payment requirements have become more stringent than they were following the mortgage crisis of a decade ago, and there are fewer flexible loan programs to bridge the gap between the amount of a required down payment and a potential homeowner's available funds.

Given the very high cost of housing in Rolling Hills, significant capital is required to purchase a home. A 20 percent down-payment on the median priced home in the City would be nearly \$750,000, with monthly mortgage payments of nearly \$19,000. A very high income would be required to qualify. First time buyers face particular challenges in the city, given the lack of equity from prior home ownership.

### **5.3.4 Delays Between Approval and Construction**

Given the high cost of construction and rising interest rates, there may be delays between the time a project is entitled and when it is actually constructed. Applicants may postpone their projects due to high material costs, supply shortages and shipping delays, and a lack of skilled construction workers and contractors. Rising interest rates can also add to the cost of a project, leading to postponement. The economic uncertainty and upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic has also caused some projects to stall over the last two years. In some cases, projects may be cancelled altogether, or the property may be sold to a new owner who may modify or abandon previously approved plans.

These factors are out of the City's control but can have a real impact on housing supply and construction. The City is particularly interested in the completion of permitted ADUs, as these units are critical to achieving affordable housing goals. As noted in Chapter 6, Rolling Hills intends to establish a monitoring program for permitted ADUs to facilitate their construction. This would include reaching out to those who receive ADU permits and monitoring construction progress on those units. The monitoring program includes follow-up conversations with any applicants who do not complete their projects to understand the factors leading to that decision, and any steps the City can take to improve completion rates.

Another issue that could potentially hinder housing production is the length of time between receiving approval for a project and issuance of a building permit. As noted in Section 5.2.6,

approval resolutions for projects that require discretionary action do not become final for 30 days. Approval by the RHCA also occurs after City approvals. The total required time between City approval and application for a permit is typically 30 to 90 days. Planning entitlements are valid for two years and may be extended, so this time interval does not hinder construction.

The time between submittal of an application for a building permit and issuance of the permit depends on the complexity of the project. As noted in Section 5.2.6, building permits are issued by the Los Angeles County Building and Safety Division (Building and Safety). Typical processing time for complex projects is less than nine months.

The City does not receive notification from Building and Safety when permits are issued, and the County's on-line record-keeping system does not consistently reflect current permit status. An action program in this Housing Element calls for Rolling Hills to work with the County to receive regular updates on active building permits. This will allow the City to track the status of development projects and follow up when necessary.

### **5.3.5 Conditions, Covenants, and Restrictions (CC&Rs)**

Development in Rolling Hills is controlled through both municipal zoning and privately enforced CC&Rs. The CC&Rs are considered a non-governmental constraint because they are enforced by the Rolling Hills Community Association (RHCA), a private entity. The CC&Rs were established by the Palos Verdes Corporation in 1936 upon the initial development of the community. They apply to all property in the city except the City Hall Campus, Tennis Court Facilities, PVP Unified School District site (Rancho Del Mar), and Daughters of Mary and Joseph Retreat Center. The RHCA does not have design review or building permit review authority on these sites.

Elsewhere in Rolling Hills, the CC&Rs restrict the development and use of property to single family homes and limited public uses. They do not allow multi-family housing, commercial, office or industrial activity. One of the stated purposes of the CC&Rs is to preserve and maintain the rural character of the community, including regulating the architectural design of structures. The CC&Rs authorize the RHCA Board to appoint and maintain a five-member Architectural Review Committee to carry out this objective. The Committee is comprised of three Association members and two licensed architects.

The RHCA Board has adopted a Building Regulations manual that is used by homeowners and their architects/ contractors, and by the Committee to evaluate projects. Committee review is required for all new residences and accessory structures, and for all projects that modify the exterior of existing structures. Committee meetings occur twice monthly, on the first and third Tuesdays. The meetings are not considered "public hearings" since RHCA is not a public agency, but they are open to all members of the Association and are subject to Association bylaws.

RHCA's Building Regulations require that all homes under RHCA's jurisdiction be one-story, ranch-style construction. The Regulations identify three permissible style types: traditional ranch, contemporary ranch, and early California Rancho. Specific standards are provided for each style, including allowable exterior siding materials, roof materials (and colors), roof pitch,

building height (25 feet), and floor to ceiling plate heights (8'6" maximum in at least 50 percent of the structure). Regardless of style, all buildings must be painted white, conform to the natural grade, and have consistently designed doors and windows. A minimum floor area of 1,300 square feet, plus a two-car garage, is required for all residences.

The regulations align with the City of Rolling Hills zoning regulations—in fact, the CC&Rs expressly state that the Architectural Committee must comply with applicable provisions of the Rolling Hills Municipal Code. This includes allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), which are not mentioned in the Association's Building Regulations. Under AB 670 and AB 68 (effective January 2020), CC&Rs may not be used to deny ADU applications, and prohibitions on ADUs by homeowner associations are not enforceable.

State law does allow homeowner associations to review the design of ADUs, provided their process is fair, reasonable, and expeditious. This has been occurring in Rolling Hills for the last three years with no adverse effects on ADU construction.

As noted earlier in this chapter, the City has developed a ministerial process for ADU approval as required by state law. Projects meeting the dimensional requirements in the Municipal Code (which are consistent with State standards) are approved without a public hearing or discretionary review by the City. If an ADU does not affect the exterior of a home (for instance, a Junior ADU entirely within the footprint of an existing home, or the conversion of a detached guest house to an ADU), then no RHCA review is required. The Architectural Committee does review ADUs that modify the exterior, add square footage to a structure, or result in a new accessory structure. The purpose of this review is to verify that the structure meets the objective design requirements in the RHCA Building Regulations rather than to evaluate the merits of the project or its off-site impacts. According to the Committee's own guidelines, it "will not require modifications to working drawings that materially change the massing of the project."

City staff has worked closely with RHCA staff to ensure that their design review process is coordinated with City permitting, streamlined, and does not impose unreasonable restrictions on applicants. The RHCA office is adjacent to City Hall and there is ongoing coordination between the two entities. When an application for an ADU is submitted to the City, the City advises the applicant to proceed to RHCA immediately afterwards to initiate project review. Projects are typically forwarded to the RHCA Architectural Committee within two weeks and are typically approved at the initial meeting; if modifications are required, the plans are typically approved at the second meeting two weeks later. The review occurs concurrently with the City permitting process, avoiding potential delays.

In practice, every ADU application approved by City staff has subsequently been approved by the RHCA Architectural Committee. Nonetheless, an action program in this Element recommends that the City work with RHCA to update the 2017 Building Guidelines to acknowledge ADUs and provide guidance for homeowners seeking to add an ADU.

### **5.3.6 Infrastructure**

Another factor adding to the cost of new construction is the limited availability of infrastructure, specifically streets, sewer, storm water and water facilities.

#### **Streets**

Rolling Hills has no public roads or streets. Since the 1930s, the community's internal street network has been designed to establish a rural, equestrian character. This historic aspect of the city's infrastructure is one of Rolling Hills' defining features. The road network is typified by winding roads with a 15- to 25-foot paved cross-section and no curbs, gutters, sidewalks, or streetlights. Narrow road width, coupled with steep grades and very low densities, effectively precludes public transit within the city. Access is also gate-controlled at three entry points.

The city's circulation infrastructure is not conducive to uses generating high trip volumes, such as higher-density housing. Given the entire city's designation as a very high wildfire hazard severity area, the capacity to evacuate the population is also a limiting factor. Most streets in the community are "dead ends" without emergency vehicle access alternatives in the event that ingress and egress is blocked.

A number of properties—including City Hall, the Retreat Center, and the PVUSD site, are accessed from roads outside the City gates. These parcels are less constrained by street access but could require ingress and egress improvements (resurfacing, driveways, etc.) in the event a change of use was proposed. Such improvements are typical for any development and would not adversely affect expected construction costs.

#### **Wastewater Disposal**

With the exception of the school site and thirteen residences that have individually or collectively (through the creation of a small sewer district) connected to an adjacent jurisdiction's sewer systems, there is no sanitary sewer system in Rolling Hills. Residences are served by individual septic tanks and seepage pits. These systems are designed to serve single family residences and are not conducive to multi-family housing. This is particularly true given the geologic, slope, and soil constraints in Rolling Hills. To meet water quality and runoff requirements, high-density housing typically requires a viable sewer connection.

Over the past 35 years, the City has conducted multiple sewer system feasibility studies. In 2019, the City received approval from the Los Angeles County Public Works and Sanitation District to discharge effluent from up to 235 existing homes in Rolling Hills. The City is in the process of completing design drawings for Phase One, which is a 1,585-foot long 8-inch diameter sewer line along Rolling Hills Road/Portuguese Bend Road. This will provide service to City Hall, the RHCA offices, and the Tennis Courts. Future phases of the project could provide service to residences but would require significant grant funding and potentially special assessments.

In 2021, the City surveyed all households to determine the level of support for developing a sewer system. Roughly 16 percent of the City's households participated. The survey found that about three-quarters of the residents' septic tanks were more than 20 years old. More than 80

percent supported construction of a sewer system, though many responses were contingent on the cost. Past engineering studies have concluded that the terrain and unstable geological conditions in the city make a conventional gravity sewer system infeasible in the city, meaning the cost to property owners could be significant.

The Palos Verdes Unified School District site is an exception. It is connected to a wastewater treatment line that was installed when the school was initially constructed. Collection lines were sized to accommodate a school campus with several hundred students, and associated maintenance facilities—a higher level of demand than is associated with current uses on the site. Given the availability of sewer service to this site and the high cost of extending sewer services elsewhere, it is the most suitable property for multi-family housing in the City.

In some instances, septic systems may present a constraint to ADU development. This is generally not an issue for JADUs or smaller ADUs that repurpose existing habitable space, but a new detached ADU that adds floor space may require increasing the capacity of a septic system. As noted earlier in this chapter, a program in this Housing Element proposes further evaluation of this constraint, and possible ways to assist homeowners in addressing it.

### **Storm Water Run-off**

As a rural community without public streets, Rolling Hills does not have a municipal storm sewer system or continuous network of storm drains. Drainage follows topography, with stormwater flowing into steep ravines through the community. Water percolates into the ground along canyon bottoms, with runoff flowing to the ocean, or to larger streams and detention basins downstream, depending on location.

To comply with federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and maintain its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, the City is required to screen and monitor its runoff to avoid compromising downstream water quality standards. It also required to implement a number of programs, such as an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program. The City also requires Best Management Practices (BMP) for construction in order to avoid erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and runoff that would degrade water quality. These requirements are not a development constraint but may add to the cost of construction. Moreover, the lack of a municipal storm drainage system represents another constraint to higher density housing in most of the city.

The Rancho Del Mar site is outside the area covered by the MS4 monitoring program and drains west toward Rancho Palos Verdes. Unlike the rest of Rolling Hills, it is served by an improved storm drainage system. A 2017 facility evaluation reported the storm drains and inlets on the site as being in good condition.

### **Water**

Water infrastructure in Rolling Hills is owned, maintained, and operated by California Water Service (CalWater). The city is within CalWater's Palos Verdes District, which also serves the other cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Facility planning is governed by an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), which evaluates anticipated demand and the water resources available to meet that demand.

Projections of future water use are based in part on expected population growth, which is derived from SCAG forecasts and local general plans. Water demand is projected to increase by 6 percent by 2045, reflecting very slow population and housing growth in the Peninsula cities. Development beyond that anticipated by SCAG forecasts could reduce water pressure, compromise firefighting capabilities, and curtail domestic water availability. This is a problem throughout California, made worse by persistent drought conditions. The UWMP provides water shortage contingency plans, including measures to reduce demand and procure emergency supplies.

Water storage facilities and pipelines in Rolling Hills are generally adequate to meet local needs. However, many of the city's water facilities are aging and the system as a whole is vulnerable to damage during earthquakes and landslides. Storage and distribution facilities reflect the rural density of the city and are not sized to accommodate significant growth. The Palos Verdes Unified School District site provides a unique opportunity in this regard, as its water system was designed for a public school campus with several hundred students.

The introduction of ADUs in Rolling Hills could potentially impact water demand in the City. The California Water Company has no plans to upgrade the aging water system. As ADUs are created, it will be important to consider potential impacts on water distribution lines and fire fighting capacity. Several factors work to mitigate the impacts of ADUs on the water system. First, the population of Rolling Hills has declined by roughly 300 since 1980. Thus, the addition of 40 or so ADUs over eight years may not increase the total number of residents in the City. Second, water conservation measures have been implemented—and continue to be implemented—to reduce water flows and water demand. These measures include water-efficient landscaping requirements, as well as requirements for more efficient plumbing fixtures.

### Dry Utilities

Rolling Hills residences are also served by dry utilities. Electric services are generally provided by Southern California Edison while natural gas is provided by Southern California Gas Company. A range of private vendors provide phone, internet, and cable services. Capacity is available to serve new development, and all of the vacant and underutilized sites identified in Chapter 4 would have access to these services if they were developed. The Rancho Del Mar site currently has access to these services as it is a former school.

### **5.3.7 Environmental Constraints**

Rolling Hills has severe environmental constraints to development. Slopes exceeding 25 percent are present on almost every remaining undeveloped parcel in the city. Geotechnical studies are required when new homes are constructed, and mitigation is often required to reduce the potential for future damage. The City's Site Plan Review Process and grading requirements are intended to strictly limit recontouring of existing terrain. Most grading occurs through "cut and fill" procedures that retain materials on site. This adds to local housing costs and limits the viability of multi-family housing on most properties in the city.

#### **Landslide Hazards**

Figure 5.2 shows landslide zones in Rolling Hills, as mapped by the California Geological Survey (CGS). Large portions of the city are considered hazardous and major slides have occurred in the past. This includes the Flying Triangle Landslide, which has impacted roads, homes, and properties in the southern part of the city for the last 50 years. These areas are poorly suited for development and are susceptible to slope failure. Human modifications to slopes (through development) can exacerbate the problem and the risk.

Building at the head of a landslide can decrease the bedrock strength along an existing or potential rupture surface and "drive" the landslide down slope. Improper grading practices can also trigger existing landslides. Because of these geologic hazards, the City limits land disturbance and other actions that would exacerbate soil instability. Ground instability would contribute to potential risks to human life as well as to physical structures. The Safety Element of the General Plan sets forth policies to restrict new development and expansion of existing development in areas susceptible to landslides.

#### **Earthquake Hazards**

Like most of Southern California, Rolling Hills is vulnerable to earthquakes. Large earthquakes can cause building damage and collapse, as well as damage to roads and utilities. The City of Rolling Hills is crossed by the Cabrillo Fault, which is part of the Palos Verdes Fault Zone. It is also vulnerable to earthquakes on the Whittier Fault, the Newport-Inglewood Fault, the Malibu Fault, the Santa Monica Fault, the Redondo Canyon Fault. The location of these faults is shown on Figure 5.3.

The Whittier and Newport-Inglewood Faults are considered capable of generating earthquakes with magnitudes greater than 7.0 and have the potential to cause catastrophic damage. In the event of a major earthquake on either fault, the city of Rolling Hills would be vulnerable to ground shaking. Secondary hazards include liquefaction, earthquake-induced landslides and differential settlement. Fault rupture is not a significant hazard in the city, and there are no Alquist Priolo "special studies" zones within the city limits.

#### **Wildfire**

As shown on Figure 5.4, the entire city of Rolling Hills has been designated a "Very High Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone" by CalFire. The city's terrain creates challenges for vegetation management and presents conditions where a fire can travel quickly up and down canyon

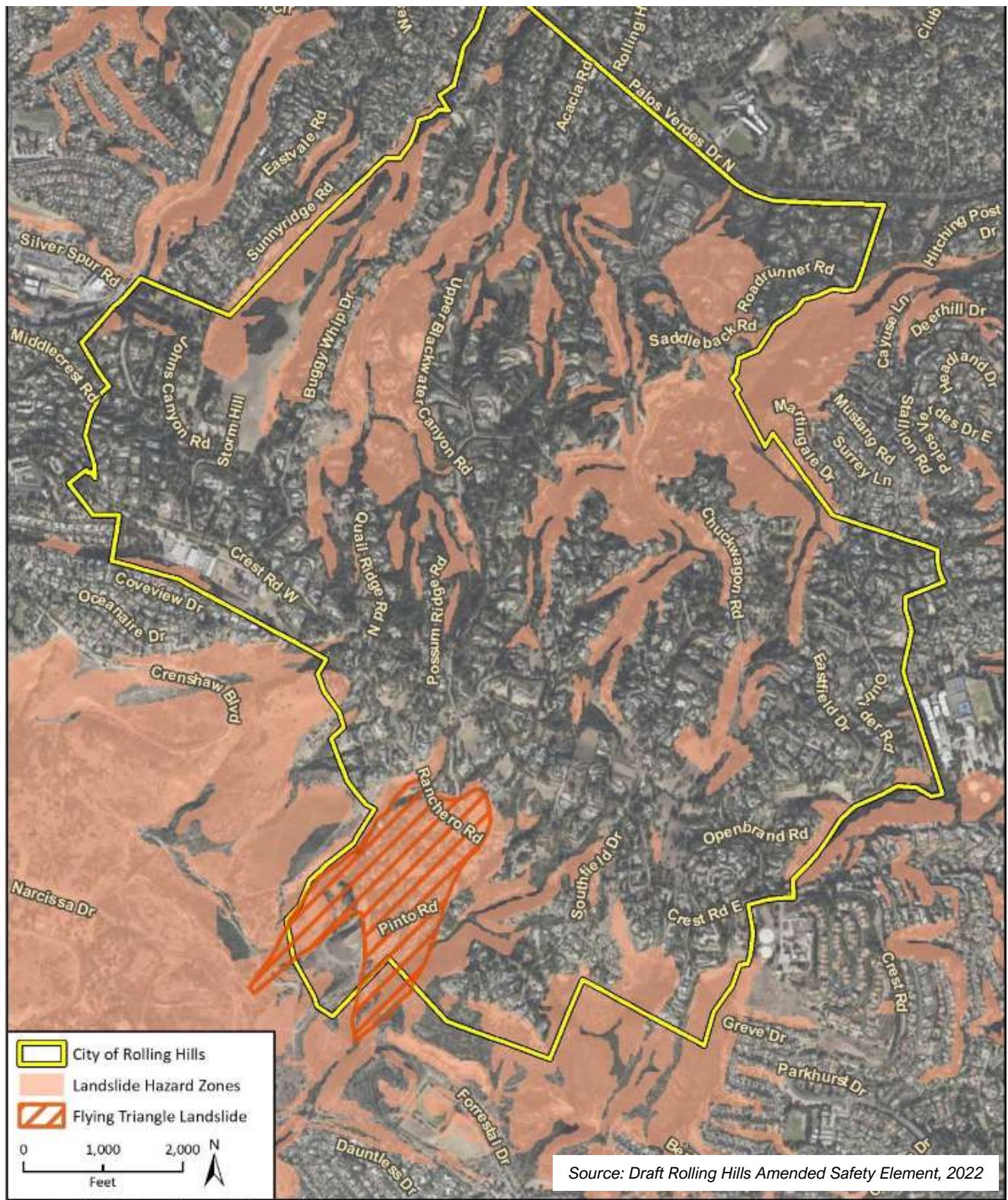
slopes. Despite defensible space requirements, the city's rural nature and equestrian heritage means that extensive areas are covered by dense scrub and brush. The Palos Verdes Peninsula has a history of destructive wildfire, including fires that destroyed homes in 1973, 1993, 2009, and 2018.

The City has taken measures to reduce fire hazards, including preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2020. The Plan outlines measures to harden infrastructure, improve vegetation management, underground electric power lines, and improve inspections and enforcement. It also includes provisions for evacuation. Additionally, the City (and Los Angeles County) require special building safety measures, including standards for roofing, eaves, exterior finishes, and buffer zones that respond to the higher fire hazard levels.

Despite these measures, the risks of wildfire cannot be eliminated entirely. Moreover, the city continues to face evacuation constraints resulting from its narrow roads, limited ingress and egress points, and the presence of livestock on many properties.

### **Biological Resources**

Rolling Hills supports a variety of plant and wildlife species, including some that are listed or under consideration for listing by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. These species include the Palos Verdes Blue butterfly, the California Gnatcatcher, the Pacific Pocket Mouse, the San Diego Horned Lizard, and Brackishwater snail. Development that could adversely impact the habitat of these species must undergo review and approval by the overseeing federal and state agencies. Typical mitigation measures include preservation of habitat, further restricting the potential land available for development. This constraint is likely to continue throughout the planning period.



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2022.

Additional data provided by California Geological Survey, 2015. The Flying Triangle Landslide polygon is from USGS, 2021, and is subject to data inaccuracies.

**Figure 5.2: Landslide Hazard Areas in Rolling Hills**



Imagery provided by ESRI, Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020. Additional data provided by California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, 2016.

Source: Draft Rolling Hills Amended Safety Element, 2021

**Figure 5.3: Earthquake Faults in the Rolling Hills Vicinity**



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.  
Additional data provided by CalFire, 2020.

Source: Draft Rolling Hills Amended Safety Element, 2021

**Figure 5.4: CalFire “Very High” Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

# 6. Housing Goals, Policies, Objectives, and Programs

Chapter 6 provides the City's housing plan for the next eight years. The plan has three components:

- A statement of the City's goals and policies for housing. The goals and policies balance State mandates and Government Code requirements with local needs and priorities.
- An action program. The action program identifies the specific, measurable steps the City will take during 2021-2029 to implement the policies.
- Measurable objectives for housing production. These objectives correspond to the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and also include numeric targets for housing rehabilitation and conservation.

## 6.1 Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies reflect the City's continued commitment to actively support residential development and plan for the City's fair share of regional housing needs:

**GOAL 1: Provide housing opportunities which meet the needs of existing and future Rolling Hills' residents.**

- Policy 1.1:** Accommodate Rolling Hills' share of the region's housing needs in a way that protects public safety, responds to infrastructure constraints and natural hazards, recognizes market conditions, and respects the historic context and land use pattern in the city.
- Policy 1.2:** Allow the development of a variety of housing types in the city, including multi-family housing. While Rolling Hills will remain a rural equestrian community, housing opportunities will be provided for all income groups as required by State law.
- Policy 1.3:** Facilitate development on the remaining vacant buildable lots in the city in a manner consistent with adopted zoning standards.
- Policy 1.4:** Allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) in all residential zones. Maintain objective standards to ensure that ADUs and JADUs are compatible with the community; minimize visual, parking, traffic, and other impacts; and respect neighborhood context.
- Policy 1.5:** Explore incentives to create and maintain Accessory Dwelling Units that are affordable to low and very low income households.
- Policy 1.6:** Encourage the conversion of existing guest houses and other habitable accessory buildings into legal ADUs.

**Policy 1.7:** Work with other governmental entities and the non-profit community to support the development of affordable or senior housing on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and in nearby South Bay cities.

**Policy 1.8:** Maintain planning and building procedures that maximize efficiency and reduce permit processing times and high fees. Encourage public understanding of the planning and building processes to reduce project costs and delays.

**GOAL 2: Maintain and enhance the quality of residential neighborhoods in Rolling Hills.**

**Policy 2.1:** Encourage and facilitate the maintenance and improvement of existing homes.

**Policy 2.2:** Ensure that new housing and home improvements comply with building code and fire safety requirements.

**Policy 2.3:** Maintain a code enforcement program, including procedures to remediate violations.

**Policy 2.4:** Require the design of home improvements, additions, ADUs, and infill housing to minimize impacts on existing residences. Include objective standards in the zoning ordinance that protect visual quality, privacy, and community character.

**Policy 2.5:** Mitigate hazards that could potentially cause a loss of housing units in the city, including wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes. Encourage home hardening and defensible space to minimize the potential for housing loss during a natural disaster.

**Policy 2.6** Prohibit the use of ADUs as short-term rentals in order to maintain their viability as permanent housing units.

**Policy 2.7:** Encourage weatherization, energy conservation, and renewable energy to increase energy efficiency and reduce home energy costs.

**GOAL 3: Address the housing needs of older adults and others in the community with special housing needs.**

**Policy 3.1:** Provide reference and referral services for seniors, such as in-home care and counseling for housing-related issues.

**Policy 3.2:** Support shared housing programs and room rentals as options for seniors to remain in the community without financial hardship.

**Policy 3.3:** Encourage housing opportunities for live-in care givers, domestic employees, and family members who may assist elderly or mobility-impaired residents who wish to age in place.

- Policy 3.4:** Consider participation in state and federal programs that assist lower income and senior households in home repair and maintenance.
- Policy 3.5:** Strive to meet the needs of extremely low-income Rolling Hills residents, including seniors on fixed incomes.
- Policy 3.6:** Encourage the retrofitting of existing Rolling Hills homes so they are accessible to the disabled, including persons with developmental disabilities. Provide reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, and procedures for disabled persons to ensure equal access to housing.
- Policy 3.7:** Participate in countywide programs to meet the needs of unsheltered residents and others who may need emergency housing assistance.

**GOAL 4:** **Promote housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, disability status, or national origin.**

- Policy 4.1:** Affirmatively further fair housing by ensuring that housing opportunities for persons of all income levels, races and ethnicities, and physical abilities are available in Rolling Hills.
- Policy 4.2:** Enforce all applicable laws and policies pertaining to equal housing opportunity and discrimination. Maintain third party agreements to follow-up on and correct alleged violations.
- Policy 4.3:** Make information on fair housing laws available to residents and realtors in the City by providing information on the City's website and print media at the City Hall public counter.
- Policy 4.4:** Ensure effective and informed community participation in local housing decisions. This should include special efforts to include traditionally underrepresented groups, including persons working or providing services in Rolling Hills.
- Policy 4.5:** Distribute affordable housing opportunities around the city by focusing on ADUs as a housing strategy.
- Policy 4.6:** Participate in regional forums and initiatives to promote fair housing.

## **6.2 Housing Implementation Plan, 2021-2029**

The goals and policies set forth in the Housing Element will be implemented through a series of housing programs. Some of these programs are already underway and others will be implemented over the next eight years. This section of the Housing Element provides a brief description of each program, including measurable objectives, responsible entities, and implementation timeframes. Each of these programs has been developed consistent with HCD guidelines and State Government Code requirements.

### **Program 1: Annual Progress Report**

As required by State law, the City will prepare and file an annual report on the progress made toward implementing its Housing Element using forms and definitions adopted by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Guidance on the content of the report is provided by the State Office of Planning and Research. It documents the City's progress toward meeting its share of regional housing needs and efforts to remove government constraints to housing production. The report must be presented to the City Council prior to its submittal (it may be approved as a consent item).

Quantified Objective:	Provide one report per year
Funding Source:	City General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	File by April 1 of each year

### **Program 2: Rancho Del Mar Opportunity Site Monitoring**

In February 2021, the City adopted the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone on the 31-acre Rancho Del Mar (RDM) campus owned by the Palos Verdes Unified School District. As documented in Chapter 4 and Appendix B of this Housing Element, large parts of the RDM site are unimproved and vacant. The new zoning permits 16 affordable multi-family units on the site, which may be developed "by right" at a minimum density of 20 units per acre.

The City Manager will meet at least once annually with the School Superintendent to discuss the future of the site, including future development opportunities. Next steps to be pursued on the site include:

- Subdividing the site to create a separate parcel west of the PVPTA transit facility. This site could potentially be more easily marketed as a development opportunity than the 31-acre site as a whole.<sup>1</sup>
- Preparation of a "fact sheet" for the site, for review by the School Superintendent and School Board, highlighting the potential for multi-family housing
- Further discussions with the School Board regarding opportunities for housing on the site.

---

<sup>1</sup> Subdivision is not required to develop the site—it can also be developed "as is." However, subdivision could provide an incentive for future development during the planning period.

- In collaboration with the School District, make information on the site (e.g., the “Fact Sheet”) available to affordable housing developers.
- Further discussions with non-profit developers regarding the opportunity to construct housing on the site, including technical assistance to developers where requested.
- Consideration of permit streamlining, CEQA clearance, and fee reductions for future affordable housing development on the site. Multi-family housing is already permitted “by right” subject to objective design standards adopted in February 2021, but further steps could be taken to reduce future development costs.

**Quantified Objectives:** (1) 16 units of affordable housing on the RDM site (excludes density bonus, addressed in Program 3)

(2) Annual meeting between the City Manager and School Superintendent

**Funding Source:** City General Fund

**Responsible Agency:** City Manager

**Implementation Time Frame:** (1) Meeting with School Superintendent by end of 2022 and once annually thereafter

(2) Preparation of site “fact sheet” for review by School District and School Board by June 2023

(3) Subdivision creating “western” parcel by end of 2024, subject to School Superintendent and Board approval

### **Program 3: No Net Loss Monitoring and Other Multi-Family Housing Opportunities**

The City has identified adequate capacity to accommodate 45 units of housing, as required by the Regional Housing Needs Allocation. Sixteen of these units are on the Rancho Del Mar Site. Five are new single family homes on vacant lots (three of which are already approved). The remainder are Accessory Dwelling Units. Rolling Hills will continue to maintain General Plan and zoning designations that facilitate development of the required number of units and will continue to comply with the Housing Accountability Act in the event projects are proposed. It will also affirmatively market lower-income housing opportunities to non-residents to achieve increased housing mobility in the region.

SB 166 (2017) requires that every city maintain “adequate sites” to accommodate its RHNA by income category at all times during the eight-year Housing Element period. If a designated housing opportunity site becomes unavailable, the city must demonstrate that it still has adequate capacity on its remaining sites (e.g., “no net loss”). In the event the Rancho Del Mar site becomes unavailable to produce the housing units envisioned by the overlay zone, the City would need another suitable site to accommodate those units.

Cities generally meet the no net loss mandate by providing one or more “buffer” sites in addition to their primary sites. These sites must meet HCD criteria, including the ability to accommodate 16 units at a density of at least 20 units per acre. As demonstrated in Chapter 4, due to the lack of sewer and the community’s natural hazards, Rolling Hills does not have a buffer site available. The City will continue to explore potential housing sites that could supplement the RDM site, particularly where sanitary sewer service could be made available in the future. The City will

continue to rely on accessory dwelling units to meet the balance of its lower-income housing assignment, regardless.

Quantified Objectives: (1) No net loss of housing capacity to meet RHNA at all times  
(2) Provide an 80% density bonus on the Rancho Del Mar site, enabling 29 units of new affordable housing instead of the 16 allowed by the base zoning.  
Funding Source: City General Fund/ Permitting Fees  
Responsible Agency: Planning and Community Services Department  
Implementation Time Frame: Continuous through 2029

#### **Program 4: Add Definitions of Transitional and Supportive Housing, Residential Care Facilities, and Employee Housing, to Municipal Code**

The City added these definitions during the first year of the planning period (August 2022) and the City now allows these housing types. It will continue to support diverse housing types in the future.

To comply with Government Code Section 65583(c)(3), the City of Rolling Hills was required to clarify that residential care facilities, transitional housing, and supportive housing are considered residential uses and are subject to the same restrictions that apply to the other residential uses that are allowed in a given zoning district. In other words, a single family home used as a group home for persons with disabilities is subject to the same planning and zoning requirements that apply to a single family home used by a traditional family. Most local governments have addressed this requirement by adding definitions to their zoning codes for transitional and supportive housing, as well as large and small residential care facilities.

The purpose of this program was to add those definitions to the Rolling Hills Municipal Code (Chapter 17). The definitions acknowledge that such housing is permitted in the same manner as other residential dwellings of the same type in the same zone as required by State law. The recent Code amendments also explicitly state that supportive housing shall be a use by-right in zones where multi-family and mixed uses are permitted, including non-residential zones permitting multi-family uses. The amendments ensure that no special requirements are placed on residential care facilities with seven or more occupants, as required by State law. Definitions of low barrier navigation centers also have been added to the Code and referenced in other zoning regulations, as required by State law.

This program also included a Municipal Code Amendment to add a definition for employee housing in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (HSC). HSC Section 17021.5 states that employee housing providing accommodations for six or fewer people shall be deemed a single family structure with a residential land use designation. It further states that employee housing may not be considered a boarding house, rooming house, hotel, dormitory, or similar term that implies that such housing is a business run for profit or differs in any other way from a single family dwelling. State law precludes a city from requiring a conditional use permit, zoning variance or other zoning variance for such housing, and stipulates that the use of a single family dwelling for six or fewer employees does not constitute a change of occupancy for building code purposes. As of August 2022, the City fully complies with this requirement.

Quantified Objectives:	Create local housing opportunities for at least six households employed in Rolling Hills (and currently living outside the city) during the planning period.
Funding Source:	City General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department/ City Attorney
Implementation Time Frame:	(1) Ordinance revisions completed in August 2022 (2) Opportunities for at least six individuals working in Rolling Hills and living elsewhere to reside in the community (in ADUs, guest houses, affordable units on the Rancho Del Mar site, etc.) by 2029

## Program 5: Density Bonus Ordinance

This action was completed in August 2022.

Section 65915 of the California Government Code establishes mandatory statewide provisions for density bonuses for affordable and senior housing projects. Prior to August 2022, Rolling Hills did not currently have density bonus provisions in its Municipal Code. Historically, the City has not had multi-family housing, nor any site where multi-family housing could be constructed. With the creation of the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone, a developer could request a density bonus and related concessions from a developer. State standards would apply in this instance. The City has adopted provisions in its Municipal Code acknowledging the applicability of State density bonus laws in the event a request is received.

Quantified Objectives:	Application of density bonus to future affordable rental housing on Rancho Del Mar Overlay site (up to 13 additional units, assuming 100% affordable project on the site)
Funding Source:	General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	Ordinance Adopted in August 2022

## Program 6: Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Production, Monitoring, and Incentives

As noted in Chapter 4, the City intends to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation of 29 lower income units through a combination of affordable housing on the Rancho Del Mar site (16 units, before density bonuses) and privately constructed and rented ADUs on scattered sites throughout the city. At least 18 ADUs should meet affordability thresholds for low and very low income households.<sup>2</sup> Creating opportunities for lower income households on scattered sites supports one of the main objectives of the State's Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements, which is to avoid the concentration of lower income housing in a single location. An ADU-centered strategy also responds to the lack of sanitary sewer, storm drainage, and public streets in Rolling Hills and the community's rural densities and absence of supportive services.

---

<sup>2</sup> Two ADUs meeting affordability criteria for low/very low are already under construction (see Table 4.1)

As stated in Chapter 4, the City approved nine ADUs in 2021 alone, including two that are projected to be affordable to lower income households based on their small size. Thus, creating additional ADUs affordable to lower income households over the next eight years is an attainable goal. The Annual Housing Progress Report should address the City's progress toward meeting this goal; if the City is falling short after two years, the strategy should be revisited and additional incentives should be developed.

Program 6 includes a number of specific elements, which are listed below:

**6.1 Develop Citywide ADU Registry.** The City developed an ADU registry in October 2021 and will expand it as new units are created. Currently, the registry (or data base) contains fields such as Address, Owner, month approved, square footage, and a description of each unit. This should be expanded to include information on whether the unit is occupied, the number of occupants, and the rent charged—this information would be requested from homeowners on a voluntary basis. Tracking occupancy and affordability is intended to determine how many units are serving very low- and low-income households, and to demonstrate that the City is meeting its RHNA.

**6.2 Annual ADU Survey and Monitoring.** The City will send an annual letter to households on the ADU roster requesting information on the status of the unit. The information will be used to prepare a summary that can be referenced as part of the City's Annual Progress Report. As part of this task, the City will also identify instances where very low or extremely low income households (including family members, domestic employees, caregivers, etc.) are residing on Rolling Hills properties and paying below market rent (or no rent). To the extent these households are occupying independent living quarters, this data provides evidence that the City is accommodating its RHNA target for very low income households.

As part of this effort, the City will also implement an annual monitoring program to ensure that the Housing Element targets for ADUs are being achieved. A determination of the City's progress toward meeting its RHNA target for 2021-2029 shall be made once per year. In the event the City is not on track to meet its target, it will consider alternative means of meeting its RHNA goals within six months of this determination. These could include additional ADU incentives, modifications to the affordable housing overlay zone, and other actions that would facilitate production of additional affordable units.

**6.3 Develop Inventory of Potential ADUs.** Over time, the City will develop a parcel data base of potential (or "unintended") ADUs, which are existing habitable spaces that could potentially be converted into independent dwelling units. This would include guest houses, pool houses, and similar accessory structures that are used by the primary residence. As the inventory is completed, owners would be advised of the opportunity to convert the space into a legal ADU.

**6.4 Incentives for ADU Construction.** The City will develop incentives for ADU construction. Different incentives may be developed for those building new homes (i.e., reduced fees for including an ADU in a new residence), those adding a new ADU on their property, and those converting existing habitable floor space into an ADU. In accordance with California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Section 65583(c)(7) (effective January 1, 2021), the City will explore the use of State CalHome, LEAP, REAP, and SB 2 funding to help local homeowners

build or finance ADUs on their properties. Access to these funds typically requires rents that are affordable to low and very low-income households.

**6.5 Pre-Approved ADU Plans.** The City will determine its eligibility for State grant funding to develop “pre-approved” plans for ADUs that can be used by Rolling Hills residents. These architect-developed plans would be specifically tailored to meet the RHCA design guidelines and would respond to the topography and access constraints found on most Rolling Hills lots. Enabling homeowners to use pre-approved plans may reduce architectural design costs, and potentially reduce construction costs. This can make ADUs more feasible and allow them to be rented more affordably.

**6.6 Coordination with RHCA.** The City will coordinate with the Rolling Hills Community Association to ensure that RHCA’s design review practices and procedures do not constrain ADU construction or add to their costs. City staff will meet with RHCA staff and the RHCA Architectural Committee regularly to coordinate review, advise RHCA of State laws relating to ADUs, and address any issues that may arise in the future. The City will also work with the Rolling Hills Community Association to explore reduction of annual HOA fees for property owners agreeing to limit rents on their ADUs.

**6.7 Septic Tank Replacement Grants or Financial Assistance.** The City will pursue funding for a grant which can be used to assist homeowners with septic tank replacement when paired with the addition of an ADU. The grants would be targeted to lower income households and seniors who may seek to add an ADU but lack the financial resources to replace their septic tanks.

**6.8 Non-Profit Construction of ADUs.** The City will explore the possibility of engaging a non-profit housing developer in a program to develop ADUs in partnership with interested Rolling Hills property owners. Participation could be limited to qualifying lower income residents, or to homeowners who agree to limit rents to levels that are affordable to lower income households. Such a program was successfully implemented by the City of Santa Cruz, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, and could be considered locally.

**6.9 Monitor Best Practices in ADUs.** The City will continue to track statewide and national trends in ADU management, incentives, and regulations. The focus will be on cities in California that are comparable to Rolling Hills in density, character, and constraints, with an eye toward cities that are relying on ADUs to meet a substantial share of their RHNA for lower income households. Programs that are potentially transferable to Rolling Hills will be considered for local implementation. The City is currently working with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments on an ADU research study, including a state-funded “ADU Acceleration Project” to explore ways to promote ADUs in southern LA County cities.

**6.10 Update Municipal Code Provisions for ADUs.** This action was completed in August 2022. The City has updated its ADU ordinance to reflect changes to State law made since the last revision to the ordinance in February 2020. This included eliminating references to a maximum bedroom count in an ADU and including provisions for complete applications to be deemed approved if they are not acted upon within 60 days.

**6.11 Outreach to ADU Permit Recipients.** The City will monitor ADU approvals, including six-month “check-ins” with all applicants receiving ADU permits until the units are completed. These check-ins will include status updates on the projects, including whether a building permit has been issued and what progress is being made. In the event an applicant chooses not to follow through on an approved ADU, staff will make an effort to document the reasons and evaluate any changes that might be made to the City’s ADU program to improve completion rates. This information should be part of the City’s annual housing progress report.

In addition to the specific measures listed above, City staff will continue to assist homeowners who are interested in adding an ADU, and will work with applicants to facilitate ADU review, permitting, and approval.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Quantified Objectives:     | (1) Citywide ADU registry of 40 ADUs by 2029, including at least 18 ADUs rented at levels meeting affordability criteria for lower income households<br>(2) ADU Survey, administered once a year<br>(3) Inventory of potential ADUs<br>(4) ADU Incentives<br>(5) Two to four pre-approved ADU architectural plans<br>(6) Municipal Code Revisions (see 6.10 above) -- Completed<br>(7) 100% completion of ADUs receiving permits<br>(8) Seven ADUs/guest houses constructed by non-profits by 2029 (see 6.8 above and Program 9 below) |
| Funding Source:            | City General Fund/ State grants  |
| Responsible Agency:        | Planning and Community Services Department/ City Attorney  |
| Implementation Time Frame: | (1) Rosters and Surveys prepared by 2022 and updated annually<br>(2) ADU incentives by 2023<br>(3) Approved architectural plans by 2024, or as funding allows<br>(4) Amend Municipal Code Chapter 17.28 (Accessory Dwelling Units) for consistency with State law by August 2022 (this action has been completed)<br>(5) Establish protocol for 6-month check-ins with ADU permit recipients by January 1, 2023<br>(6) Annual monitoring report on ADU production  |

## **Program 7: Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Outreach, Education, and Information**

Program 7 addresses public outreach, education, and information on ADUs. Like Program 6, it has multiple elements.

- 7.1 Biennial Mailing.** The City will send or help coordinate a mailing to all households in Rolling Hills at least once every two years advising them of the opportunity to create an ADU, the potential benefits of having an ADU, and potential incentives in the event the ADU will be occupied by a household worker, caregiver, family member, or other household meeting the definition of a low or very low income household. The mailing may consist of an article in the City's monthly newsletter, or could be included as a component of the South Bay Cities COG efforts to encourage ADU production. The City is one of 15 cities participating in this program.
- 7.2 Website.** The City will develop a landing page on its website with information on ADU opportunities ("Thinking about building an ADU?"). The website landing page will include information on the types of ADUs an owner may consider (detached, attached, junior, etc.), the typical cost and cost considerations, financing options, tax implications, development standards, tenant selection, and so on. The information should also be provided in printed form for interested homeowners.
- 7.3 RHCA Design Guidelines Update.** The City will work with the Rolling Hills Community Association to facilitate an update of the RHCA Design Guidelines so that they address ADUs. Currently, the Guidelines do not acknowledge ADUs at all. The Update would provide objective design standards for ADUs that are consistent with Rolling Hills zoning standards as well as the design guidelines that currently apply.

Quantified Objectives:	(1) Outreach mailer to 639 households (at least once every 2 years) (2) Creation of 40 new ADUs by 2029 (5 per year)
Funding Source:	City General Fund, State grants
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	(1) First mailing by March 2023 (2) Website update by June 2023 (3) Update of design guidelines by 2024

## **Program 8: Assist Senior and Disabled Households**

The City will continue to address the housing needs of seniors and persons with disabilities by connecting those in need with social service agencies, non-profits, volunteer organizations, and other service providers, and by coordinating with the RHCA in the services and programs it provides. As noted in the Needs Assessment, more than one-third of the city's residents are over 65 and about 10 percent have one or more disabilities. The City will work with seniors, especially those on fixed incomes, to evaluate housing needs and resources. Within 18 months of Housing Element adoption, the City Council will convene a study session jointly with the RHCA Needs of Seniors Committee and at least one local non-profit serving seniors (such as Peninsula Seniors) to discuss the needs of Rolling Hills seniors and potential programs to address these needs.

Several of the programs listed elsewhere in this Element (shared housing, assistance with home maintenance, reduced utility rates, etc.) are primarily intended to benefit lower income seniors. The City also will support expanded opportunities for persons with disabilities, including the use of universal design principles and accessibility standards in new construction and ADUs. As part of this program, Rolling Hills will also work with the Harbor Regional Center to implement outreach services to Rolling Hills families on services available to persons with developmental disabilities. The City's website will be updated to include links to housing and supportive services for seniors and disabled persons.

Quantified Objectives:	Website landing page with senior housing resources Facilitate age-in-place retrofits for 10 senior households City Council study session on needs of seniors and potential actions to assist Rolling Hills seniors
Funding Source:	City General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department/ City Manager
Implementation Time Frame:	June 2023 (for website) Council Study Session before December 2023

## **Program 9: Assist Extremely Low-Income Households**

Extremely Low Income (ELI) households have incomes that 30 percent or less of the County median. In 2021, the income thresholds for ELI were \$24,850 for a household of one; \$28,400 for a household of two; \$31,950 for a household of three; and \$34,450 for a household of four.

Based on CHAS data, there are 25 ELI households in Rolling Hills, representing about 3.5 percent of the city's households. The CHAS data indicated that all 25 of these households were homeowners, suggesting they are primarily seniors on fixed incomes. The City will explore ways to assist Rolling Hills homeowners on fixed incomes with home maintenance, repair, and retrofit activities. It will also direct these households to appropriate resources, such as shared housing services and programs to reduce utility costs.

There are additional ELI households in Rolling Hills that may not be counted in the Census data, including extended family members living in independent quarters on a property, or domestic employees (housekeepers, au pairs, personal assistants, etc.) living in guest houses, accessory

buildings, or in separate quarters within the primary residence. The City will address the needs of these households by prioritizing applications for ADUs and encouraging homeowners to create opportunities for domestic employees and family members to live “on site.”

A study sponsored by SCAG in 2020 determined that 15 percent of the ADUs in the coastal Los Angeles area were likely to be available at rents affordable to Extremely Low Income Households.<sup>3</sup> A 2018 study further found that 17% of the ADUs in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver were occupied by a friend or family member for free.<sup>4</sup> A 2014 study found that 18% of the ADUs in Portland were occupied for free or extremely low cost.<sup>5</sup> A 2012 UC Berkeley publication indicates that up to half of all ADUs are occupied at no cost.<sup>6</sup>

Based on these analyses, the City is estimating that seven “rent free” or extremely low income rentals will be added to the Rolling Hills housing stock by 2029. It will seek to document and measure progress toward this objective by soliciting voluntary reporting of such units by individual homeowners. As noted in Program 6.2, an annual survey is proposed to be administered to all registered ADU owners in the city. This would enable tracking of rent-free or reduced rent ADUs.

Quantified Objectives:	Provide seven housing units affordable to Extremely Low Income
Funding Source:	City General Fund/ Permitting Fees
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	Prepare inventory of Extremely Low Income (ELI) units by 2024, update annually
	Facilitate housing assistance to at least seven ELI homeowners by 2029

## Program 10: Support Regional Efforts to End Homelessness

Extremely low-income persons also include those who are homeless or may be at risk of becoming homeless. Although the point-in-time surveys for the last five years have not counted any homeless residents in Rolling Hills, the City recognizes that homelessness is a regional problem that requires regional solutions. Rolling Hills will continue to allow emergency shelters and single room occupancy hotels in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone and will monitor the effectiveness of its regulations in its Annual Housing Progress Report.

The City will continue to work with adjacent communities on emergency shelter referrals. As a member of SCAG and the South Bay Cities COG, staff and elected officials participate in forums and discussions of homelessness, and potential programs and resources to end homelessness and increase the supply of shelter, transitional, and supportive housing in Greater Los Angeles.

<sup>3</sup> SCAG Regional Accessory Dwelling Unit Affordability Analysis, 2020

<sup>4</sup> Jumpstarting the Market for ADUs. Terner Center (for ULI), San Francisco, 2018

<sup>5</sup> ADUs in Portland OR. Environmental Solutions Management, 2014

<sup>6</sup> Scaling Up Secondary Unit Production in the East Bay. Berkeley Institute of Regional Development, 2012

Quantified Objectives: Participation in point in time surveys; participation in at least one regional meeting annually on strategies to end homelessness

Funding Source: City General Fund/ Permitting Fees

Responsible Agency: Planning and Community Services Department/ City Manager

Implementation Time Frame: Ongoing, 2021 through 2029

### **Program 11: Permit Streamlining**

The City will continue its efforts to expedite permit processing, ensure efficiency, and reduce administrative and processing costs for new development. This could include provisions for reduced fees for ADUs that are rented at below market levels, or occupied by qualifying lower income households. As part of the annual budgeting process, the City will ensure that fees are appropriate for the services provided, and will consider ways to improve the permitting and entitlement processes.

This program includes working with LA County Building and Safety to receive periodic updates on the status of active building permits in Rolling Hills. While this data is available on-line through the County's website, it is not consistently updated or made available in a format that allows the City to easily track the status of entitled projects. The City will use this data to identify approved housing units (including ADUs) that have been entitled but not yet constructed so that it may follow up with owners in the event of permitting delays.

Quantified Objectives: Compliance with all provisions of the Permit Streamlining Act

Funding Source: City General Fund/ Permitting Fees

Responsible Agency: City Manager/ Finance Director/ Planning and Community Services Department/ LA County Building and Safety

Implementation Time Frame: Ongoing, 2021 through 2029

### **Program 12: Facilitate Communication with Affordable Housing Service Providers, Developers, and Advocates**

The City of Rolling Hills periodically receives requests from housing advocates, non-profit developers, and service providers to disseminate information on affordable housing needs and opportunities and work collaboratively to address housing issues. City planning staff regularly field requests from for-profit and non-profit developers, participate in regional housing meetings and discussions, and work with other cities to explore creative, effective ways to meet housing needs. In the event a non-profit agency or developer wishes to submit a grant application that will increase housing affordability for senior or low-income Rolling Hills residents, staff will provide administrative support wherever possible.

Quantified Objective: Hold at least one meeting a year with one or more non-profit housing sponsors to discuss housing opportunities and needs in Rolling Hills  
See also Programs 8, 13, and 15

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: Planning and Community Services Department

Implementation Time Frame: Convene one meeting before December 2022. Convene additional meetings at least once a year from 2023 to 2029.

## **Program 13: Home Sharing**

Shared housing enables homeowners to offset their housing costs by receiving rent, or get additional help in managing housing duties. It also creates a resource for lower income households in the community, including college-aged students and young adults, caregivers, domestic workers, landscapers and building industry workers, child care workers, teachers, and other public service employees. It can also be a resource for seniors, some of whom may no longer wish to live alone or lack the financial resources to live alone.

Residents in Rolling Hills have access to two nearby home sharing programs: Focal Point at the South Bay Senior Services Center in Torrance and the Anderson Senior Center in San Pedro. Both these centers offer resources to assist seniors locate roommates interested in sharing housing. These programs make roommate matches between seniors based on telephone requests.

Numerous other home sharing services have emerged over the last decade. These include SHARE! Collaborative Housing, a public-private partnership supporting shared single family housing for persons with disabilities in Los Angeles County; Affordable Living for the Aging, which matches younger single tenants with seniors in Los Angeles County; and Los Angeles County HomeShare, which serves residents of all ages throughout the County. There are also private services such as Silverleaf (Long Beach) that facilitate home sharing for a fee.

The City will continue to apprise residents about shared housing programs by providing information at the public counter and online, including an article in the City Newsletter in 2023. It will also proactively meet with at least one non-profit home-sharing service provider in 2023 to discuss opportunities in Rolling Hills.

Quantified Objectives:	Continue to provide informational brochures advertising shared housing programs at City Hall and on the City's website At least eight non-resident households participating in a non-profit managed home sharing program enabling them to reside in Rolling Hills by 2029
Funding Source:	City General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	Provide article and meet with home sharing service in 2023

## **Program 14: Sewer Feasibility Studies and Phase One Construction**

As indicated in Section 5.3.5 of this Housing Element, Rolling Hills does not have a sanitary sewer system. With a few exceptions, the entire city is served by private septic systems. Septic system installation is costly and requires customized design to reflect steep terrain. The cost of installing sanitary sewers and storm drains would be even more costly, as it would likely require easements, force mains, and lift stations.

The City recently completed design drawings for a sanitary sewer extension through adjacent Rolling Hills Estates that will bring service to Rolling Hills City Hall and the Tennis Courts. A future phase of this project could continue southward along Portuguese Bend Road, allowing some Rolling Hills homes and a number of vacant properties to be served by sewer. A survey done by the City in 2021 indicated there was strong support for a sewer extension project, contingent on the cost to each homeowner. There is currently no funding source for such an extension. Grant funding would be required, as it would reduce the cost burden on homeowners and make the project more feasible.

The City will continue to work toward addressing this constraint during the 2021-29 planning period. This includes:

- Developing the initial phase of the project, serving City Hall and the Tennis Courts
- Conducting feasibility and cost studies for a future phase to serve privately owned homes and parcels in the northern part of Rolling Hills
- Pursuing funding for future phases
- Continuing to poll Rolling Hills residents on their level of support for the project

In addition, the City continues to monitor water quality issues related to its MS 4 permit for stormwater discharge. Efforts to address runoff quality and implement best management practices to reduce pollution are ongoing and will continue.

Quantified Objective:	(1) Complete 1,585-foot sanitary sewer extension to City Hall/Tennis Courts (Phase I) (2) Complete feasibility / cost study of sanitary sewer extension (3) Obtain grants for Phase I project construction (4) Updated “Will Serve” letter from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, indicating ability to accept effluent from 235 existing homes upon completion of future phase sewer system
Funding Source:	General Fund/ State grants
Responsible Agency:	City Manager
Implementation Time Frame:	Complete Phase I by 2024 Determine viability of future phases and available grants by 2023

## **Program 15: Pursue Grants for Minor Home Repair Program**

At least once every two years, the City should re-evaluate the feasibility of joining the Los Angeles Urban County CDBG program in order to create a funding source for home improvements for qualifying lower income Rolling Hills residents. In the event the City finds that the amount of funding it will receive exceeds the costs of administering the program (including staffing and reporting requirements), the City will participate in the program. Available funds will be used to improve housing conditions for lower income or senior Rolling Hills residents, including:

- Grants for minor home repair and rehabilitation projects, including electrical, plumbing, and heating repairs; health and safety improvements; and energy efficiency improvements;
- Grants to facilitate “aging in place” for lower income seniors and residents with disabilities;
- Grants for septic system repair for lower income homeowners seeking to add an ADU

If the City determines that CDBG participation is not viable, it will pursue other funding sources that could support a similar grant program for lower-income Rolling Hills homeowners. This could include administration of home repair grants by another entity (such as South Bay Cities COG) or a local non-profit.

Quantified Objectives:	Minor home repair/ age-in-place/ septic tank replacement assistance to at least ten lower-income or senior Rolling Hills households
Funding Source:	LA Urban County CDBG Program/ State grants
Responsible Agency:	City Manager/ Finance Director
Implementation Time Frame:	By 2023, and every two years thereafter

## **Program 16: Code Enforcement**

The City will continue code enforcement and nuisance abatement activities to ensure the safety and habitability of housing in Rolling Hills. While property maintenance in Rolling Hills is excellent, there is a need for ongoing enforcement of planning and building codes. The City has a “Code Enforcement” webpage with online forms for reporting suspected violations, including those relating to vegetation management and outdoor lighting as well as unpermitted construction or nuisances. Periodic information on code enforcement resources and requirements is also provided to residents through the City’s monthly newsletter.

Quantified Objective:	Respond to 100 percent of resident Code Enforcement inquiries
Funding Source:	General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	Ongoing, 2021-2029

## **Program 17: Reduce Home Energy Costs**

Energy bills can be a significant cost burden, particularly for households on fixed incomes with large homes to heat and cool. The City has adopted the Green Building Code and enforces Title 24 energy efficiency requirements through its contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Building and Safety. New residential projects, including new homes, ADUs, renovations, and additions, will continue to be required to meet Title 24 standards. These requirements result in energy savings which reduce gas and electric consumption and home utility bills.

Rolling Hills also works with Southern California Edison to distribute information to residents on energy conservation and weatherization, including information on financial assistance and lower utility rates for low-income customers. The City will provide links on its website to assist lower income residents in accessing information on reduced utility rates. Rolling Hills is also a member of the South Bay Environmental Services Center, which provides information on energy incentives, audits and rebates. These programs will continue in the future.

The City will also support resident installation of solar energy systems. A growing number of Rolling Hills homeowners have installed photovoltaic panels, increasing energy independence and resilience while reducing home energy costs.

Quantified Objective:	(1) Provide links on City website related to energy conservation, weatherization, and financial assistance (2) Adopt updated Building Code standards for energy efficiency
Funding Source:	General Fund, LIHEAP
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	Website Update, with links: Complete by January 2023

## **Program 18: Facilitate New Construction and Home Improvements**

The City will continue to work with property owners, architects, and builders to enable new housing to be built in the City. Continued cooperation and communication between City staff, applicants, and neighbors will facilitate the construction of new housing. The City is committed to efficient planning, building, and inspection procedures, and regularly seeks ways to improve the process and reduce delays.

With few vacant lots remaining, most construction projects in Rolling Hills consist of home additions, repairs and modernization, or replacement of existing dwellings. Continued investment in Rolling Hills housing stock is strongly encouraged and will continue to be supported in the future. Although the City does not provide direct financial assistance to lower income homeowners, it assists owners in keeping costs down through permit streamlining and fees that are generally below average compared to other cities in Los Angeles County.

Quantified Objective:	5 new single family homes (above moderate income)
Funding Source:	Private Funds (Permitting Fees)
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department, LA County Building and Safety
Implementation Time Frame:	Objective covers the period from 2021 through 2029

## **Program 19: Remediate Geologic Hazards**

The City will continue to explore solutions to ground stability and landslide problems. Grading, new structures and additions typically require a soils and geology report along with grading and building permits. The City has developed strict grading practices that limit grading to no more than 40 percent of the lot and require maintenance of natural slopes. These practices are necessary to safeguard the public against ground instability.

The City will support repair work on landslide-damaged homes and hillsides that have been damaged or compromised by past landslides. The City will strive to avoid further loss of its housing stock as a result of natural disasters, including landslides and wildfires.

Quantified Objective:	Geologic studies for new development and major grading permits
Funding Source:	City General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department/ City Manager
Implementation Time Frame:	On-going, 2021 to 2029

## **Program 20: Fair Housing Services Program Administration**

The City will complete a Fair Housing Outreach and Enforcement Options Memorandum to determine options for ensuring that existing and prospective residents have access to fair housing services, and that property owners are apprised of Fair Housing laws and practices. This could include an agreement with a third party fair housing services provider to promote and affirmatively further fair housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, familial status, disability, or other characteristics protected by state and federal fair housing law. Other alternatives for outreach, education, and enforcement also may be considered. Based on the findings of the Memorandum, the City will implement Fair Housing measures, including Programs 21 and 22 described below.

Quantified Objective:	At least five households assisted
Funding Source:	General Fund
Responsible Agency:	City Manager
Implementation Time Frame:	Complete memorandum by June 2023

## **Program 21: Fair Housing Outreach and Affirmative Marketing**

The City will provide information on fair housing resources on its website, including links to fair housing services. Other outreach measures to be implemented include posting regulations regarding housing discrimination, as well as phone contacts, at City Hall and periodically providing this information in the City's newsletter.

The City will also provide a referral process for any person who believes they have been denied access to housing because of their race, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, familial status or disability. In the event a complaint is received, the City will refer the party to a fair housing service provider for follow up and work with the complainant to resolve the issue.

In addition, the City will affirmatively market future housing opportunities in the city by:

- Requiring an affirmative marketing plan for any affordable multi-family development created in the Rancho Del Mar Overlay Zone. Such a plan would be prepared by the project's developers and would ensure that future units are marketed to attract occupants who are demographically diverse, including lower-income households in other parts of the South Bay and Los Angeles County.
- Developing materials for Rolling Hills residents who may be seeking tenants for their ADUs, which will be provided to ADU applicants at the time they apply for a building permit or ADU permit. These affirmative marketing materials will include contact information for housing service providers and non-profit housing organizations that serve lower-income tenants in the surrounding region. Interested residents can use these materials to find prospective tenants in a larger market area than the Palos Verdes Peninsula, including residents of all races, ethnicities, ages, and abilities.

Quantified Objective:

- (1) At least 50% of future occupants of affordable housing created on the RDMO site are from outside Rolling Hills.
- (2) At least 50% of future ADU occupants are from outside Rolling Hills (to be measured through the ADU survey described in Program 6.2)

Funding Source:

General Fund

Responsible Agency:

City Manager, Planning and Community Services Director

Implementation Time Frame: Ongoing, 2021-2029. Website update by December 2022.

## **Program 22: Fair Housing Training for Staff**

At least one City staff member will attend an on-line fair housing certification training class on an annual basis. These classes are typically three-hour sessions in which participants are informed and educated about federal and California fair housing laws, compliance, and illegal housing practices. The trainings cover prohibited and best practices, including language guidance for advertising housing for sale or for rent, and protected classes under federal and California law.

In addition, the City will regularly evaluate the need for multi-lingual services, including translation of material on its website into other languages. It will also continue to implement its reasonable accommodations ordinance and monitor data on persons with disabilities in the city to ensure that barriers to mobility are eliminated to the greatest extent possible.

Quantified Objective: (1) At least one Rolling Hills staff member participates in on-line Fair Housing training each year through 2029  
(2) At least one presentation on fair housing is delivered to the City Council in a noticed public hearing, attended by at least 10 residents

Funding Source: General Fund  
Responsible Agency: City Manager  
Implementation Time Frame: 2023

## **Program 23: Written Procedures for SB 35 Projects**

As required by State law, the City will prepare written procedures and application materials for projects seeking to use SB 35. Affordable multi-family housing development on the Rancho Del Mar site would be potentially eligible. The procedures would follow the provisions established by the Affordable Housing Overlay Zone, and include the objective standards and application procedures identified when that zone was adopted. Once completed, the information will be included as a PDF link on the Planning and Community Services Department website for easy access.

Quantified Objective: Posted information on SB 35, including application form  
Funding Source: General Fund  
Responsible Agency: Planning and Community Services Department  
Implementation Time Frame: Complete by December 31, 2022

## **Program 24: Updating of Linked Files on Planning and Community Services Department Landing Page**

AB 1483 requires that every city post current information on fees, zoning standards, design guidelines, processes and procedures, nexus studies and other pertinent information on its website. Although Rolling Hills complies with this requirement today, reorganization of the material could provide greater clarity and easier access to this information. For example, the website could include a link to the RHCA design guidelines, as well as updated flow charts and graphics showing approval processes. As noted under Program 7.2, the website also should include dedicated information about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and the steps residents can take to add an ADU on their property.

Quantified Objective:	Reorganized and updated Planning and Community Services Department website
Funding Source:	General Fund
Responsible Agency:	Planning and Community Services Department
Implementation Time Frame:	Complete by December 31, 2023

## 6.3 Summary of 2021-2029 Quantified Objectives

Table 6.1 provides quantified objectives for housing construction, rehabilitation, and conservation by income group. The new construction objectives align with the RHNA numbers that appear earlier in the Housing Element. The rehabilitation objective aims to assist 10 very low-income or senior households over the eight-year period. The conservation and preservation objectives correspond to the approximate number of households in Rolling Hills by income group based on Census data. The objectives aim to preserve housing for 100 percent of these households. There are no housing units in Rolling Hills that are at risk of conversion from affordable to market-rate.

**Table 6.1: Quantified Objectives by Income Group for Rolling Hills (2021-2029)**

Income Category	New Construction	Rehabilitation	Conservation/ Preservation
Extremely Low [1]	7	5	25
Very Low [2]	13	5	45
Low [2]	9		45
Moderate	11		25
Above Moderate	5		500
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>640</b>

Source: SCAG Adopted Regional Housing Needs Determinations (November 2012)

[1] City's RHNA for "Very Low" income is 20 units. This has been allocated proportionally to "Extremely Low" and "Very Low" based on Table 3.8, which indicates the current proportion of "Very Low" income households in these two groups. Extremely low income households represent 35% of the "very low" total.

[2] The new construction objectives shown in Table 6-1 correspond to the City's total RHNA. In addition to these units, the City is aiming to exceed the low- and very low-income targets shown here through a density bonus on the Rancho Del Mar site and the construction of ADUs beyond those shown in the table. Distribution of 40 ADUs by income is estimated at 18 lower income units, 15 moderate-income units, and 7 above moderate-income units.

Table 6.2 summarizes the 24 Housing Element programs listed in this chapter. It includes a quantified objective and timeframe for each program, as presented above.

**Table 6.2: Housing Element Action Plan Summary**

#	Program	Timing	Quantified Objective
1	Prepare Annual Progress Report on Housing Element implementation	Annually, by April 1	One Report per year
2	Facilitate affordable housing on Rancho Del Mar Housing Opportunity site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual meeting with School Superintendent</li> <li>• Subdivision by 2024</li> </ul>	16 lower-income units by 2029
3	No net loss monitoring/ other housing opportunities	Continuous, through 2029. Address in Annual Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No net loss of housing capacity for duration of planning period</li> <li>• 13 affordable density bonus units on Rancho Del Mar site (29 total)</li> </ul>
4	Add definitions of transitional, supportive, employee housing and residential care facilities to Municipal Code	August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council action adopting definitions and identification of permitted uses (COMPLETED)</li> <li>• Opportunities for 6 non-residents employed in city to reside in Rolling Hills (in ADUs, etc.)</li> </ul>
5	Adopt density bonus provisions in Municipal Code	August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council action adopting density bonus provisions (COMPLETED).</li> <li>• 13 density bonus units by 2029 (on Rancho Del Mar site)</li> </ul>
6	Accessory Dwelling Unit production, monitoring, and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated ADU ordinance by August 2022</li> <li>• ADU Roster in 2021</li> <li>• Annual ADU survey, starting in 2022</li> <li>• Pre-approved plans in 2024</li> <li>• ADU incentives in 2023</li> <li>• Annual monitoring program (2023)</li> </ul>	40 ADUs by 2029, including at least 18 ADUs affordable to lower income households
7	Accessory Dwelling Unit Outreach, Education, and Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First biennial mailing by end of 2022</li> <li>• Website update by 6/23</li> <li>• Update of design guidelines by 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach mailer to 639 households</li> <li>• ADU website landing page</li> <li>• ADU section added to RHCA Guidelines</li> </ul>

#	Program	Timing	Quantified Objective
8	Assist senior and disabled households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website update by 6/23</li> <li>• Housing assistance during 2021-2029</li> </ul>	Assist 10 lower income or senior households with age in place retrofits
9	Assist extremely low income households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare inventory of ELI units by 2024</li> </ul>	7 ADUs affordable to ELI households
10	Support regional efforts to end homelessness	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in point-in-time surveys</li> <li>• Attend one mtg a year</li> </ul>
11	Permit streamlining	Ongoing	Compliance with Permit Streamlining Act
12	Facilitate communication with affordable housing service providers, developers, and advocates	By December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene at least one meeting a year</li> <li>• See Programs 8, 13, 15</li> </ul>
13	Home Sharing	By December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on website, plus print media resources</li> <li>• Eight shared housing arrangements</li> </ul>
14	Sewer feasibility studies and Phase I construction	Phase I construction (serving City Hall) by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewer extension to City Hall/ Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Feasibility study for sewer extension</li> <li>• “Will serve” letter for 235 existing homes</li> </ul>
15	Consider participation in Urban County CBDG Program	By 2023	Minor home repair/septic tank replacement assistance to 10 lower income or senior households
16	Code enforcement	Ongoing	100% follow up
17	Reduce home energy costs	By 2023	Website update
18	Facilitate new construction and home improvements	Ongoing	5 market-rate single family homes (including 3 already approved)
19	Remediate geologic hazards	Ongoing	Geologic studies for new development
20	Fair housing program administration	Develop fair housing compliance program by December 2022	Assist five households

#	Program	Timing	Quantified Objective
21	Fair housing outreach and affirmative marketing	Website update by December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 50% of future occupants of affordable housing created on the RDMO site are from outside Rolling Hills</li> <li>At least 50% of future ADU occupants are from outside Rolling Hills</li> </ul>
22	Fair housing training for City staff	Initiate in 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for one staff member annually</li> <li>Noticed presentation to City Council attended by at least 10 residents</li> </ul>
23	Prepare written instructions for SB 35 applications	Complete by December 31, 2022	Guidance memo and application form
24	Update Planning and Community Services website	Complete by December 31, 2023	Updated website

# Open Space and Conservation Element



June 25, 1990

## **OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Purpose of the Element</b>	1
<b>Relationship to Other Elements</b>	1
<b>Inventory of Existing Conditions</b>	3
<b>Open Space Inventory</b>	3
<b>Management of Resources</b>	5
<b>Summary of Open Space/Conservation Issues</b>	14
<b>Goals and Policies</b>	15

## **OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

### **LIST OF TABLES**

<b><u>Table</u></b>		<b><u>Page</u></b>
OSC-1	Endangered or Sensitive Animal Species	7
OSC-2	Violations of Federal Air Quality Standards	10
OSC-3	Violations of State Air Quality Standards	11

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

<b><u>Figure</u></b>		<b><u>Page</u></b>
OSC-1	Open Space Resources	4

# **OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

---

Rolling Hills has undergone a transition since the early part of the century from a sparsely vegetated agricultural area to a heavily landscaped residential community. Such a conversion of land use often endangers sensitive resources and open space lands. Thus, Rolling Hills and the other Palos Verdes Peninsula communities have made a concerted effort to conserve and protect the natural environment during their development. This Open Space/Conservation Element is a written description of the City's commitment to maintaining a balance of preservation and development. Its purpose is to ensure future generations the same level of enjoyment from the environment as is enjoyed by present residents.

### **Purpose of the Element**

The Open Space/Conservation Element is designed to:

- Inventory the existing natural resources and the various functions served by open space.
- Balance planning activity with environmental considerations.
- Establish recognition of the social, economic and aesthetic benefits which develop from the preservation of open space.
- Prevent neglect or unnecessary destruction of natural resources.
- Set forth goals and policies concerning the conservation, development and use of natural resources and the preservation of open space.

### **Relationship to Other Elements**

The Open Space/Conservation Element provides significant input into the Land Use and Circulation Elements. Land use decisions are based upon location and significance of various environmental

factors. Also, new circulation proposals will be required to consider possible environmental impacts prior to their approval.

The information provided in the Open Space/Conservation Element is significant on a project-specific basis. Through the environmental assessment process, planners and local decision-makers are required to make an initial assessment as to whether or not a proposed project will have a "significant effect" on the environment. The Open Space/ Conservation Element will serve as a tool in the environmental evaluation process.

## INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

---

The purpose of this section is to provide information relative to the utilization of the City's natural resources and the preservation of open space areas. The information presented herein provides the basis for the policies and strategies discussed in the element's final section.

### **Open Space Inventory**

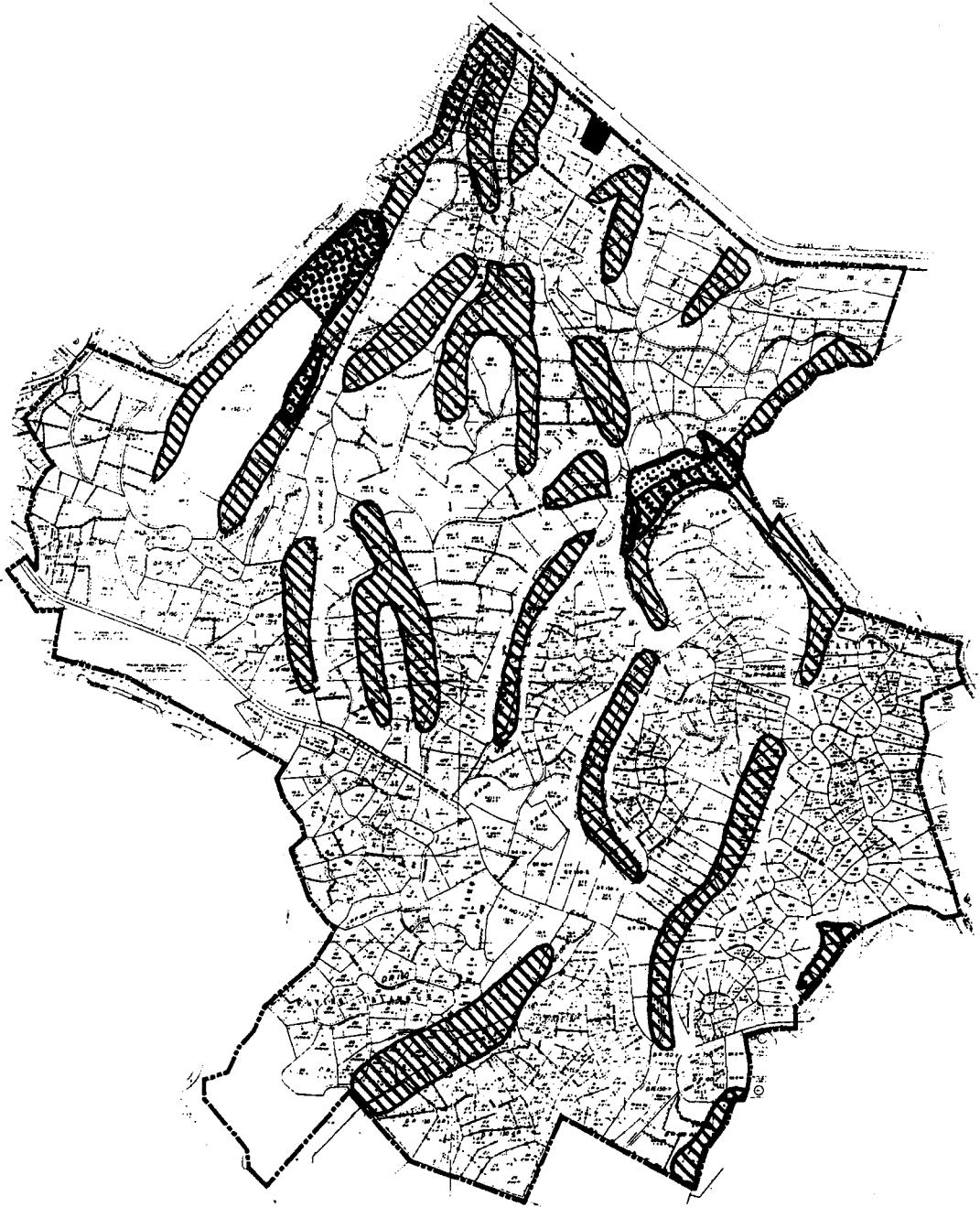
The planning area consists of the ridgetops and canyons of the San Pedro Hills. The area is primarily wooded due to abundant landscaping which has been placed as development occurs. The large size of the City's parcels and the slopes upon which many of them exist allow for the preservation of large amounts of privately-owned open space. The City actively promotes the preservation of open space by requiring easements for riding and hiking trails for all lots created within the City and substantial building setbacks on private property. The use of these areas as wildlife habitats and growth areas for natural vegetation is emphasized. Restrictions on the size and locations of buildings also promote preservation of natural vistas and canyons.

The City's open space resources have been grouped into the following four categories, and are graphically depicted in Figure OSC-1.

**Tennis Courts:** Three tennis courts are located opposite the City administration building. These courts are owned by the City and operated by the Rolling Hills Community Association and are open to residents and their guests from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Publicly Owned Open Space:** The northern portion of Storm Hill is owned by the City of Rolling Hills. The property consists of approximately eight acres. The property is open to City residents for use as an open equestrian area. The property was dedicated to the City through the provisions of the Quimby Act. The City also owns two riding rings which are described below under equestrian facilities.

**Equestrian:** Two riding rings are located within the City of Rolling Hills. Hesse's Gap Ring is located on the City's eastern side and Clif Hix Ring is located on the City's western side adjacent to



Tennis Courts



Publicly Owned  
Open Space



Equestrian Riding Ring



Canyon Open Space



↑ North

0

2000

scale in feet

SOURCE: CBA



Figure OSC-1  
Open Space Resources

JUNE 25, 1990

Storm Hill. Laced throughout the community are approximately 25 miles of private equestrian trails maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association. The trails are developed on property easements and are primarily located in the canyon areas. The trail system initiates at the Eastfield and main guard gates, and may be utilized by non-city residents by obtaining a City-issued permit. Joggers and walkers also enjoy the trail system.

**Hillside Open Space:** A substantial amount of land in Rolling Hills is constrained from development due primarily to excessively steep hillsides and canyons. The canyon areas found within Rolling Hills are presented generally in Figure OSC-1. These areas were identified through a combination of aerial photographs and the United States Geological Surveys topographic maps. Areas identified as canyons are generally areas which remain unbuilt behind and between two residential lots and which are approximately 100 feet or more below these adjacent properties. In some cases these areas do not specifically meet the above criteria; however, their position relative to adjacent properties, varied terrain, or position in relation to potential watercourses made it practical to include them. Most of these areas will not be built upon. The potential does exist, in some cases, for development to occur when careful review is exercised.

### **Management of Resources**

In addition to open space areas, Rolling Hills contains natural resource components which warrant conservation. Local resources include biological habitat, surface and ground water, air quality, soils, and minerals. The characteristics of these resource components will be described in the following section, providing the foundation for policies which support their conservation.

#### **Biological Habitat**

Rolling Hills is a hilltop community located on the San Pedro Hills of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The community supports a wide variety of plant and wildlife. Much of the plant life found in Rolling Hills is imported as the natural state of the area included only coastal grasses and shrubs. Since development of the community was initiated, Rolling Hills has become home to many trees and flowers. The developers planted trees and shrubs along the roadsides and to each homeowner of five or more acres, five Olive Trees were donated. Among the more common plants that

were established in the community's early stages of development were Pepper Trees, Geraniums and Matilija Poppy. Nearly three-quarters of households responding to the Community Attitude Survey indicated concern over the disturbance of native vegetation through development in Rolling Hills.

Wildlife in Rolling Hills is varied. Many animals habitate in the area due to the relative abundance of space and vegetation. Types of wildlife which may be expected in the Rolling Hills area include squirrels, gophers, skunks, mice, raccoon, opossum, foxes, lizards, snakes, frogs and a wide variety of birds including owls and peacocks. Pheasant and quail are currently being reintroduced into the area. Of the many animals inhabiting the Rolling Hills area, several are listed by California's Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB). The NDDB tracks animals, plants and natural communities that are endangered, candidates for protection or considered sensitive. The occurrence of these is tracked on United States Geologic Survey Maps. Circles of varying sizes show occurrences of individual species or communities. The size of the circle correlates to the size of the area in which the subject is known to habitate. As these maps are too large to include in the General Plan, they are kept on file at City Hall. No plants are currently listed by the NDDB for the Rolling Hills area. The only animal listed as endangered by the Federal Government is the Palos Verdes Blue, a butterfly which was last seen in the Rolling Hills area in May, 1986. Several other animals do occur, however, that are considered as candidates for protection by either the Federal Government or the State Government. The Tiger Beetle, while not considered to be endangered or threatened, does maintain a sensitivity to humans. Sensitivity of an animal indicates that a condition of the animal or its habitat such as rarity, fragility or sensitivity to humans, exists to an extent that may be cause for concern.

Table OSC-1 shows animals that are either listed or considered for listing in the Rolling Hills area.

**TABLE OSC-1**  
**ENDANGERED OR SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES**

Name	Priority	Fed Status	Cal Status	Sensitive
Palos Verdes Blue	A2.2	Endangered		
Lyons Pentaecheta	A2.1	Fed Cand 2		
CA Brackishwater Snail	A2.2	Fed Cand 2	Cal Cand	
Pacific Pocket Mouse	B1.2	Fed Cand 2		
CA Black Tailed Gnatcatcher	B2.2	Fed Cand 2		
San Diego Horned Lizard	B2.2	Fed Cand 2		
Bank Swallow	B3.1		Cal Cand	
Long Eared Owl	B3.1			
Tiger Beetle	BU			Sensitive

The priority rating of the above indicate the following conditions:

- A2.1 - Very rare, endangered and unprotected species
- A2.2 - Very rare and threatened species
- B1.2 - Rare and threatened species or very rare, endangered or threatened subspecies.
- B2.2 - Rare and not threatened, or peripheral and endangered in California only, species or rare and threatened subspecies
- B3.1 - Uncommon and declining, or peripheral and threatened in California only, species or uncommon and threatened, or peripheral and endangered in California only, subspecies.
- BU - Possibly threatened - needs more information.

Source: California Department of Fish and Game,  
Natural Diversity Data Base

## Water Resources

Water sources available to the City are derived exclusively from Metropolitan Water District through West Basin Municipal Water District and California Water Service Company.

Groundwater sources are virtually nonexistent due to the City's and peninsula's position atop a tertiary deposit of mudstones, and diatomaceous shales from the metamorphic period. The City and peninsula are also effectively severed from other groundwater supply by the Palos Verdes fault.

Through the first six months of 1989, the City of Rolling Hills consumed seven million cubic feet of water. Water consumption for the third and fourth quarters of each year are somewhat higher than first and second quarter consumption rates due to warmer weather.

Due to the lack of available groundwater, Rolling Hills' water supply comes entirely from non-interruptable sources as allotted by West Basin Municipal Water District and Metropolitan Water District.

Relatively stable population figures indicate that no substantial change in water consumption will occur. However, consumers are currently being requested to reduce water consumption by ten percent and similar requests can be expected on a periodic basis in the future.

## Air Quality

Air quality, like other natural resources, is limited. Within any time period, the local air basin has a restricted ability to dilute contaminants and maintain air quality at levels which do not adversely affect the population. Air quality is a major concern of residents and visitors to the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, and with increasing population and development, air quality can be expected to further deteriorate until extreme efforts are made to control emissions of known pollutants into the atmosphere.

Air quality standards are set by both the State and Federal governments. The South Coast Air Quality Management District has the responsibility to monitor and enforce air quality standards in the South Coast Air Basin, of which Rolling Hills is a part.

Air quality data specific to Rolling Hills is not available due to the lack of a monitoring station in the immediate area. However, Rolling Hills is located in Source Receptor Area 3 which includes the monitoring station in Hawthorne, thereby providing a suitable data base for estimating air quality in the City. Tables COS-2 and COS-3 describe the number of days Federal and State standards were exceeded at this monitoring station. As evidenced by these tables, air quality standards for ozone, particulates, carbon monoxide and visibility are being exceeded in Rolling Hills. The proximity of several oil refineries along with the Los Angeles International Airport to the reporting station should indicate that the air quality in Rolling Hills is actually better than reported for Hawthorne.

Air quality, as reported at the Lennox-Hawthorne reporting station, appears to have remained relatively stable over the three and one-half year period. While ozone violations ranged from 10 to 19 and carbon monoxide violations ranged from one to 12, there does not appear to be a consistent identifiable trend of either worsening or improving air quality.

The State Air Resources Board has designated the South Coast Air Basin a non-attainment area for ozone, carbon monoxide, particulates and nitrogen dioxide. Only lead and sulfur dioxide are in compliance with Federal and State standards. In February, 1979, the Southern California Association of Governments adopted the Air Quality Management Plan, which sets forth policies and programs for localities to undertake air quality improvement strategies.

While Rolling Hills does not contain any polluting industries, automobile emissions are probably higher per vehicle due to longer trip lengths. The City's resident-generated vehicle trips do contribute to air pollution. The Rolling Hills General Plan specifies policies to initiate efforts to improve local air quality, such as trip reduction techniques, and to coordinate with the South Coast Air Basin in implementing strategies set forth in the Air Quality Management Plan to improve regional air quality.

**TABLE OSC-2**  
**VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**  
**LENNOX-HAWTHORNE MONITORING STATION**

Pollutant	1985	1986	1987	1988 (Jan-June)
Ozone	4	8	3	(3)
Carbon Monox 8 hr.	46	18	18	(15)

Source: California Air Quality Data, Volumes XVII (1985), XVIII (1986), XIX (1987) and XX (1988).

**FEDERAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

Ozone	1 hr. - 0.12 ppm
Carbon Monoxide	1 hr. - 35 ppm 8 hr. - 9 ppm
Sulfates	-
Visibility	-

**TABLE OSC-3**  
**VIOLATIONS OF STATE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**  
**LENNOX-HAWTHORNE MONITORING STATION**

Pollutant	1985	1986	1987	1988 (Jan-June)
Ozone	11	19	10	(5)
Carbon Monox 1 hr. 8 hr.	12 51	1 23	2 22	(5) (17)
Sulfates	0	1	0	(0)
Visibility	174	154	129	(72)

Source: California Air Quality Data, Volumes XVII (1985), XVIII (1986), XIX (1987) and XX (1988).

#### STATE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Ozone	1 hr. - 0.10 ppm
Carbon Monoxide	1 hr. - 20 ppm 8 hr. - 9 ppm
Sulfates	24 hr.- 25/ug/m <sup>3</sup>
Visibility	10 mi. at 70% hu.

## Soils

Soils in Rolling Hills consist primarily of those which exist on gently sloping or rolling foothills and terraces throughout the Los Angeles Basin. Soil types consist predominantly of fertile clays with some loams and shales. The Soil Conservation Service has identified the following soil types in Rolling Hills.

Altamont-Diablo Association -	30-50% slopes
Ramona-Placentia Association -	5-9% slopes
Diablo-Altamont Association -	2-9% slopes

Source: USDA Soil Conservation Service,  
Report and General Soil Map, Los Angeles, CA, 1969.

In addition to soil maps, the Soil Conservation Service Report contains descriptions of soil types which define a soil's limitations and its suitability for a specific use. The soils found in Rolling Hills are not prime agricultural soils. The majority of soil found in Rolling Hills will, however, support a variety of agricultural crops. The following section describes the characteristics of those soils which occur in Rolling Hills.

Altamont-Diablo association, 30 to 50 percent slopes, eroded: Soils in the Rolling Hills planning area are composed almost entirely of those found in the Altamont-Diablo association. Natural vegetation consists of annual grasses and forbs. Altamont soils of this association are moderately eroded dark brown, neutral clays with a brown calcareous clay subsoil and partially scattered calcareous soft shale or sandstone substratum. These soils are well drained with slow subsoil permeation, rapid runoff and high erosion hazard. Their inherent fertility is high. Diablo soils of this association are moderately eroded dark gray, neutral clay with dark grayish brown, strongly calcareous subsoil and very strongly calcareous shale with outcrops of hard shale in the substratum. These soils are well drained with slow subsoil permeation, rapid runoff and high erosion hazard. Inherent fertility is high.

These soils are used extensively for residential development, for watershed and wildlife.

Ramona-Placentia association, 5 to 9 percent slopes: Natural vegetation consists mainly of annual grasses and forbs. Ramona soils are brown to reddish brown heavy loam, loam, or sandy loam soil. The subsoil is dense clay loam or clay which can contain coarse fragments. The substratum or parent material is loam or light clay loam. Ramona soils of this association are well drained with slow subsoil permeation and medium runoff. The erosion hazard is moderate and the inherent fertility is moderate.

Placentia soil is brown to reddish brown loam or sandy loam. The subsoil is dark reddish brown dense clay loam which restricts roots and the substratum may contain gravelly or iron cemented hardpan. The Placentia soils of this association are moderately well drained with very slow subsoil permeation and medium runoff. The erosion hazard is moderate and inherent fertility is low. These soils are used almost exclusively for residential and industrial development.

Diablo-Altamont association, 2 to 9 percent slope: Natural vegetation consists of annual grasses and forbs. Diablo soils are well drained and have slow subsoil permeability. They have dark gray, neutral, clay surface layers with very strongly calcareous shale occurring below. Outcrops of hard shale make the surface rocky in a few places. Inherent fertility of this soil is high.

Altamont soils are well drained and have slow subsoil permeability. They have dark brown, neutral, clay surface layers underlain by a brown calcareous clay subsoil. Partially weathered calcareous soft shale or sandstone occurs as a substratum. Inherent fertility of this soil is high. These soils are used almost exclusively for residential development.

### Mineral Resources

The California Division of Mines and Geology has identified mines and mineral resources within Los Angeles County. A copy of this map is located in the Los Angeles County Master Environmental Assessment. No mineral resources or mines are indicated for the Rolling Hills area.

In addition to the lack of significant mineral resources, the Basic Deed Restrictions covering all properties in Rolling Hills prohibit any mining operations and the production or extraction of any minerals or mineral substances from any property. The City's zoning ordinance further prohibits any such commercial activities.

## **SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION ISSUES**

---

In order to identify appropriate policies for the conservation of resources in Rolling Hills, the following issues have been identified as part of the General Plan Update through input from the General Plan Advisory Committee and Community Attitude Survey.

- Development siting often does not respect the aesthetic value of open space areas, and can disturb public viewsheds.
- Many newer residences are being constructed to maximize building area on the lot, resulting in extensive grading of Rolling Hills' steeper parcels.
- Many residences are landscaped with non-native vegetation, resulting in increased habitat loss for native species and usually in increased water consumption.
- The rural character of the City's extensive network of hiking/equestrian trails is being compromised through use of the trail system by bicyclists and motorized vehicles.

## **GOALS AND POLICIES**

---

**GOAL 1: Conserve and enhance the City's natural resources, facilitating development in a manner which reflects the characteristics, sensitivities and constraints of these resources.**

**Policy 1.1:** Encourage the retention of natural habitat for wildlife through the preservation of existing vegetation.

**Policy 1.2:** Encourage the reintroduction of native wildlife onto the Peninsula.

**Policy 1.3:** Encourage the introduction of drought-resistant landscaping in lieu of plant materials which require extensive irrigation.

**Policy 1.4:** Maintain stringent grading regulations which promote soil stability and prevent erosion.

**Policy 1.5:** Require construction and landscaping to preserve the natural scenic vistas available to properties.

**Policy 1.6:** Permit the use of solar panels to maximize energy efficiency, and require the panels to be screened from public view.

**Policy 1.7:** Encourage the preservation of watershed areas in their natural state.

**Policy 1.8:** Promote public understanding of the fragile nature of the City's hillsides.

**Policy 1.9:** Encourage use of alternative modes of transportation and support street and traffic control systems to minimize air quality impacts.

**Policy 1.10:** Cooperate with the Air Quality Management District and incorporate provisions of the Air Quality Management Plan into project review procedures.

**GOAL 2: Enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation activities within the City.**

**Policy 2.1:** Encourage the maintenance and improvement of the system of hiking and equestrian trails in Rolling Hills through the Community Association.

**Policy 2.2:** Continue the City's program of acquisition and development of strategically located recreation centers.

**Policy 2.3:** Encourage the continued upkeep of all City-owned recreation facilities within Rolling Hills.

**Policy 2.4:** Provide expanded recreational opportunities for children.

**Policy 2.5:** Establish guidelines to limit usage of hiking/equestrian trails to those on foot or horseback.



# ROLLING HILLS GENERAL PLAN

SAFETY ELEMENT

*prepared by*  
**City of Rolling Hills**

Planning and Community Services  
2 Portuguese Bend Road  
Rolling Hills, California 90274

*prepared with the assistance of*  
**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**

706 South Hill Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, California 90014  
**March 2022** (Amended Oct. 2022)

\*The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP or HMP) is a separate document adopted into the Safety Element of the General Plan by Resolution No. 1314 in compliance with AB 2140. It is available electronically at [https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning\\_and\\_community\\_services/index.php](https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning_and_community_services/index.php).

# Table of Contents

---

Introduction.....	1
City Setting.....	1
Regulatory Setting .....	1
Critical Facilities and Infrastructure.....	3
Hazards of Concern.....	6
Geologic Hazards .....	6
Flooding .....	10
Wildland and Urban Fires .....	14
Hazardous Materials.....	17
Community Communication.....	17
Emergency Response and Evacuation .....	17
Disease Prevention .....	19
Climate Change.....	20
Vulnerable Populations and Assets .....	20
Vulnerability Assessment Results.....	22
Goals, Policies, and Implementation .....	24
Hazard Mitigation .....	24
Community Communication.....	31
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience.....	39
References .....	41

## Tables

Table 1	Rolling Hills Climate Summary .....	1
Table 2	Rolling Hills Demographic Characteristics.....	2
Table 3	Active Faults Located less than 50 Miles from Rolling Hills .....	9

## Figures

Figure 1	Critical Facilities Map .....	5
Figure 2	Landslide Hazard Zones .....	7
Figure 3	Faults in the Vicinity of Rolling Hills.....	8
Figure 4	Rolling Hills Earthquake Shaking Potential .....	11
Figure 5	Rolling Hills Liquefaction Hazard Areas.....	12
Figure 6	Dam Inundation Areas .....	13
Figure 7	Fire Hazard Zones.....	15
Figure 8	Existing Evacuation Routes .....	18

## **Appendices**

Appendix A Existing Conditions Report

# Introduction

---

The Safety Element provides the City of Rolling Hills' (City's) goals, policies, and actions to minimize the hazards to safety in and around Rolling Hills. The Element evaluates natural and human-caused safety hazards that affect existing and future development and provides guidelines for protecting the community from harm. The Element describes existing and potential future conditions and sets policies for improved public safety. The goal of the Safety Element is to reduce the risk of injury, death, property loss, and other hardships to acceptable levels.

## City Setting

Rolling Hills covers an area of approximately three square-miles on the Palos Verdes peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The topography of the city and peninsula area is unique in that it rises above the Los Angeles Basin with rolling hills, steep slopes, and canyons. The city itself is in the San Pedro Hills. Due to its location near the coast, the area is generally cooler and has fewer air quality concerns compared to the nearby Los Angeles Basin. Table 1 summarizes the climatology of the area.

**Table 1 Rolling Hills Climate Summary**

Climate Character	Estimate
Annual Average Observed Maximum Temperature from 1961 - 1990 (Fahrenheit)	71
Annual Average Observed Minimum Temperature from 1961 – 1990 (Fahrenheit)	50
Annual Average Observed Precipitation from 1961 – 1990 (inches)	19

Source: Cal-Adapt 2021



*Rolling Hills City Hall*

Rolling Hills is a residential community that consists of large parcels and ranch-style homes and has a sizable older adult<sup>1</sup> population of about 513 (28% of the city's total population). Important community demographic data for Rolling Hills is included in Table 2. The city is also an equestrian community, as many of residents are horse owners or have horses on their property.

## Regulatory Setting

Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code requires that the General Plans include 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,

<sup>1</sup> An older adult is any adult over the age of 65 years old.

**Table 2 Rolling Hills Demographic Characteristics**

Demographic Characteristics	Estimate
<b>General</b>	
Total Population	1,739
Population under 10 years	7 percent
Population over 65 years	28 percent <sup>1</sup>
Race	77 percent White, 18 percent Asian, 5 percent Hispanic/Latino
Disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory)	12 percent
<b>Housing</b>	
Total Households	645 <sup>1</sup>
Average Household Size	2.76
Owner-occupied Households	96 percent
Population over 65 years living alone	15 percent of those over 65 years
<b>Employment</b>	
Unemployment Rate	6 percent
Poverty Rate	2 percent
Median Income	\$ 239,000
Insurance Coverage	97 percent

Source: U.S. Census 2018

seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence and other geologic hazards; flooding, and wildland and urban fire. In addition, Safety Elements are required to address non-hazard specific issues such as peak load water supply, evacuation routes, and military installations.

Senate Bill 379, adopted on October 8, 2015, requires cities to include climate change adaptation and resilience into the general plan process. To comply with SB 379, this Safety Element includes a vulnerability assessment; adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and objectives; and feasible implementation measures.

Senate Bill 99, adopted August 30, 2020, requires the cities to “identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in

the safety element that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.” SB 99 does not define neighborhood and cities are expected to define neighborhoods based on their community.

## **Relationship to Other Documents**

The Rolling Hills Safety Element is one of several plans that address safety in the City. The Safety Element must be consistent with these other plans to ensure the City has a unified strategy to address safety issues. The Safety Element includes information and policies from the following documents to ensure consistency.

### *Other General Plan Elements*

The Safety Element is one section of the Rolling Hills General Plan. Other elements include Land Use, Transportation, Housing,

Conservation, Open Space and Recreation and Noise. Policies in these other elements may be related to safety issues. Information and policies in the Safety Element should not conflict with those in other elements.

#### *Hazard Mitigation Plan \**

The City's Hazard Mitigation Plan includes resources and information to assist the City of Rolling Hills, its residents, and public and private sector organizations in planning for hazard events. The Plan provides a list of activities that may assist the City in reducing risk and preventing loss from future hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities specifically for reducing risk and preventing losses relating to earthquake, land movement, wildfire, and drought.

#### *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*

The City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), adopted in July 2020, seeks to reduce wildfire risk in Rolling Hills. The Plan was developed collaboratively among stakeholders including the community, the City of Rolling Hills, the Rolling Hills Community Association, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The Plan includes fire mitigation and evacuation strategies for the community.

## Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Critical facilities are places that provide emergency services or serve people who would be impacted by an emergency. Examples include hospitals, fire stations, police stations, emergency services facilities, utility facilities, and communication facilities. Critical facilities can also include the transportation system and schools. Due to the size and composition of Rolling Hills, many of the critical facilities that serve the city are located outside of city limits. No areas

in Rolling Hills have been identified as lacking emergency service. Critical facilities that serve the city are shown in Figure 1 and include:

1. Rolling Hills City Hall: 2 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
2. Rolling Hills Community Association: 1 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
3. Rancho Del Mar High School: 38 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
4. Storm Hill Park: Agua Magna Canyon, Rolling Hills, CA
5. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Lomita Station: 26123 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita, CA
6. Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 56: 12 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
7. Los Angeles County Communications Tower: 5741 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
8. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
9. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Tarragon Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
10. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: 27873 Hawthorn Boulevard, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
11. California Water Service Reservoir: Palos Verdes Drive North/Palos Verdes Drive East (SW corner), Rolling Hills Estates, CA
12. California Water Service Reservoir: 3960 East Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
13. California Water Service Reservoir: Via Canada, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
14. California Water Service Reservoir: 1 Spur Lane, Rolling Hills, CA
15. California Water Service Reservoir: 60 Eastfield Drive, Rolling Hills, CA
16. Portuguese Bend Road
17. Crest Road

---

\*The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP or HMP) is a separate document adopted into the Safety Element of the General Plan by Resolution No. 1314 in compliance with AB 2140. It is available electronically at [https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning\\_and\\_community\\_services/index.php](https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning_and_community_services/index.php).

City of Rolling Hills  
**Rolling Hills General Plan**



*Rolling Hills Community Association*

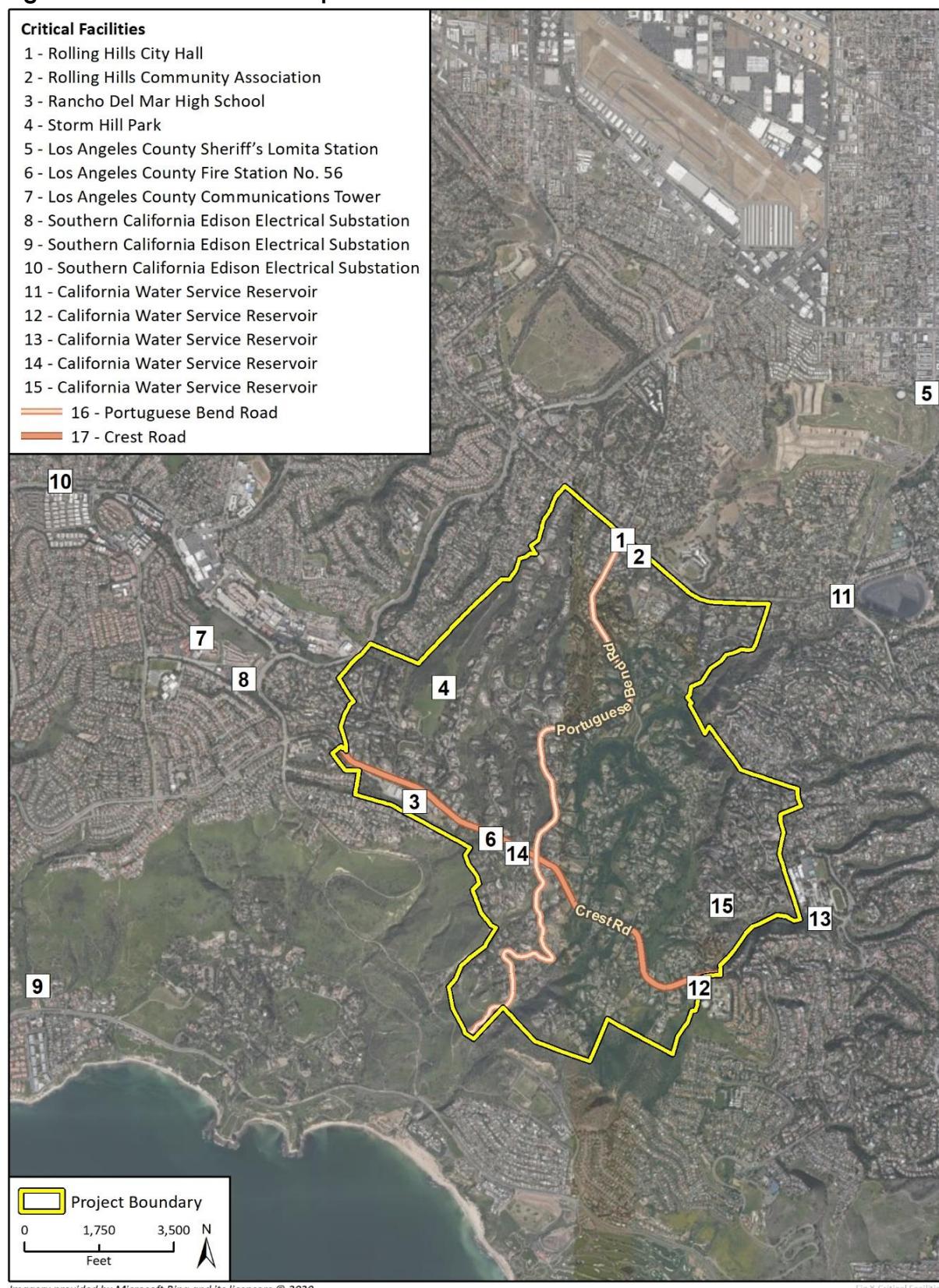
**Figure 1 Critical Facilities Map**

Fig X Critical Facilities

# Hazards of Concern

## Geologic Hazards

Geologic processes that pose a threat to life, health, property, or infrastructure are considered geologic hazards. Natural geologic hazards that have the potential to affect Rolling Hills include seismic hazards, landslides, liquefaction, expansive soils, and weathering. In most cases, these natural processes cannot be prevented; however, the magnitude of destruction resulting from natural geologic hazards can be reduced through planning policies and measures.

### Landslide Hazards

Landslide activity refers to a wide range of gravity driven downslope earth movement, including rockslides, rotational slips, mudslides, and shallow debris flows.

Geological and geomorphological conditions such as soil type, soil strength, slope angle, and slope height predispose slopes for failure. Other factors affecting the susceptibility to slope failure include the amount of precipitation, vegetation on the slope, groundwater seepage, and human modifications to the slope. Landslides often result in damage to property and roadways and can cause them to become unsafe due to displacement of the subsurface.

Much of the existing development in Rolling Hills is located on hilly terrain and have a greater potential to experience landslide hazards. Many of the canyons in Rolling Hills exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage, leaving them susceptible to slope failure. Figure 2 shows the landslide zones in the City of Rolling Hills, as mapped by the California Geological Survey (CGS). Landslide activity has been well documented in the region. Relicts of landslides and rockslides are present throughout the City of Rolling Hills.

The following major landslides have occurred in and adjacent to the city. All are in the landslide hazards areas identified in Figure 2:

- Portuguese Bend Landslide: Beginning in<sup>2</sup> 1956 over approximately 270 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Abalone Cove Landslide: Beginning in 1974 over 80 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Klondike Canyon Landslide: Beginning in 1979 over to the south near the coastline
- Flying Triangle Landslide: Beginning in 1970s or 1980s over approximately 70 acres in the southeast area of the city

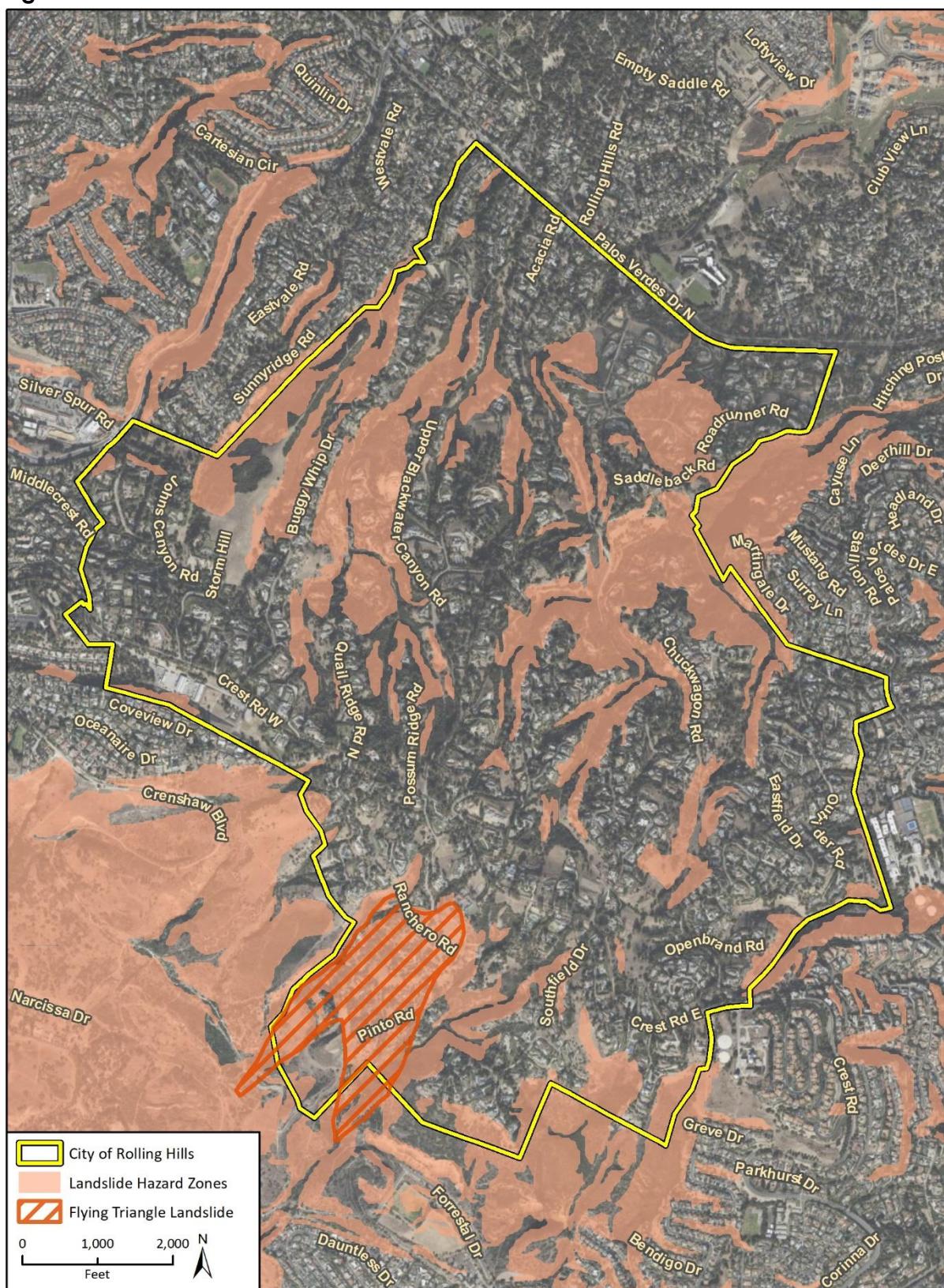
The Flying Triangle Landslide, shown in Figure 2, continues to impact the southeast portion of the city through impacts to private roads and above-ground utility lines. This area is relatively unsuitable for development due to the ongoing changes in topography.

### Seismic Hazards

Rolling Hills is in a seismically active region of southern California. The last major earthquake in the Los Angeles area was the 5.1 magnitude La Habra earthquake in 2014. Rolling Hills is within 50 miles of the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault. Analysis of seismic data from the region indicates that the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults may generate a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and 7.4, respectively (SCEC 2013). Figure 3 shows the faults in the vicinity of Rolling Hills.

Typically, seismic shaking and fault rupture are primary hazards as they occur as a direct result of the interaction between the seismic wave energy and the earth's surface. Secondary hazards, such as liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides, occur as a result of the primary earthquake hazards.

<sup>2</sup> "Beginning in" is defined as the first noted event of major rock movement

**Figure 2 Landslide Hazard Zones**

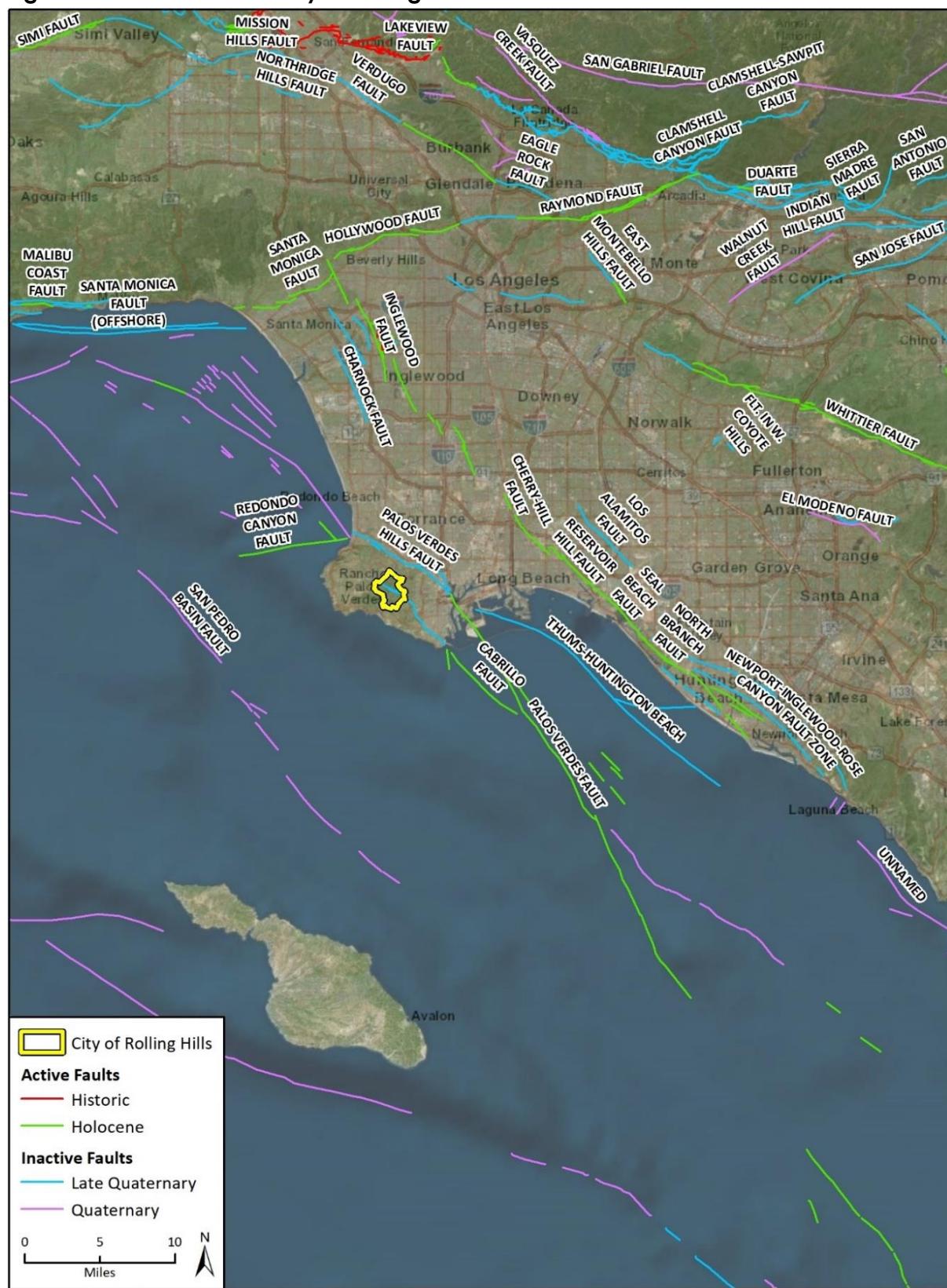
Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2022.

Additional data provided by California Geologic Survey, 2015. The Flying Triangle Landslide polygon is from USGS, 2021, and is subject to data inaccuracies.

Fig X Landslide Hazard Zones

City of Rolling Hills  
**Rolling Hills General Plan**

**Figure 3 Faults in the Vicinity of Rolling Hills**



Imagery provided by ESRI, Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020. Additional data provided by California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, 2016.

Fig 3. Active Faults in Vicinity

Often, earthquake activity can result in other effects such as building damage/collapse, infrastructure failure, pipeline breakage, and damage to transportation and communication facilities. The size of the earthquake and distance from the fault rupture zone typically determine the severity of these events.

### *Seismic Shaking*

Seismic shaking, or ground shaking, refers to the movement of the earth's surface resulting from the energy release by an earthquake. Seismic shaking is typically the primary cause of property damage resulting from earthquake activity. Seismic shaking can destroy buildings, roadways, powerlines, and pipelines. Energy transmitted through the ground can travel hundreds of miles and may cause damage in many locations simultaneously. Closer proximity to the fault rupture area results in stronger shaking in that location.

The amount of ground shaking that occurs in a location depends on the magnitude of the earthquake, the distance from the epicenter, and local soil conditions. The intensity of ground shaking is related to the peak ground velocity during an earthquake. As shown in Figure 4, the earthquake shaking potential for Rolling Hills is low to moderate. The intensity of seismic shaking is measured using the Modified Mercalli scale.

According to the CGS, an active fault is one that has experienced surface movement in the past 11,000 years. The city is located near a number of active faults, including the Cabrillo Fault in city limits. Table 3 includes a list of nearby faults, their respective distance from the city, the maximum credible earthquake generated from each fault, and the likelihood of earthquake occurrence in each case.

The San Andreas fault is located approximately 80 miles to the east of Rolling Hills. Although the San Andreas fault is located at a greater distance from the city, seismic shaking originating from earthquakes occurring along the San Andreas fault poses a threat to the city. Figure 3 identifies the active and inactive faults located in the city and vicinity.

### *Fault Rupture*

Fault Rupture occurs when seismic movement on a fault break through the earth's surface. Hazards related to fault rupture arise when structures are built near or on top of an active fault. While there are a number of seismically active faults in the city and region, there are no active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and delineated by CGS. Figure 3 shows the designated Alquist-Priolo study zones, the closest of which is the Newport-Inglewood Fault approximately nine miles northeast of the city.

**Table 3 Active Faults Located less than 50 Miles from Rolling Hills**

Fault Name*	Approximate Distance from Rolling Hills
Whittier	25 miles east
Newport-Inglewood	9 miles east
Palos Verdes	<1 mile north
Malibu Coast	20 miles northwest
Cabrillo	Located in the City boundaries
Santa Monica	20 miles north-northwest

\*All faults listed are active. An active fault is one that has experienced surface movement in the past 11,000 years.

### Liquefaction and Settlement

Liquefaction is a ground failure phenomenon that occurs as a result of a seismic event. Liquefaction increases water content in surface soils until the soil reaches a semi-liquid state, contributing to a reduction in support, and ultimately resulting in shifting or subsidence of buildings and utilities. Ground failure typically occurs when the following conditions exist:

- Loose, unconsolidated granular soils
- Shallow groundwater
- Strong seismic ground shaking

While Rolling Hills has moderate to high seismic shaking potential, the subsurface soils generally lack saturated alluvial deposits and thick, granular soils. Figure 5 shows the liquefaction hazard areas, which are in the low-lying areas to the east and north, generally surrounding the Los Angeles Harbor and Harbor Lake. Liquefaction potential for Rolling Hills is low, as shown in Figure 5.

### Earthquake Induced Landslides

Ground failure or destabilization of slopes resulting from an earthquake can also occur following seismic activity in the form of Earthquake-Induced Landslides. Earthquake-induced landslides typically occur in areas with steep slopes or unstable soil conditions. As discussed above under Landslide Hazards, the risk of landslide activity in Rolling Hills is high. Much of the city overlies areas that have been identified as landslide zones by the CGS. Risk of landslide activity increases following rainfall events that result in saturated soils. Both shallow and deep seated landslides have historically occurred in the city.

## Flooding

Rolling Hills participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. According

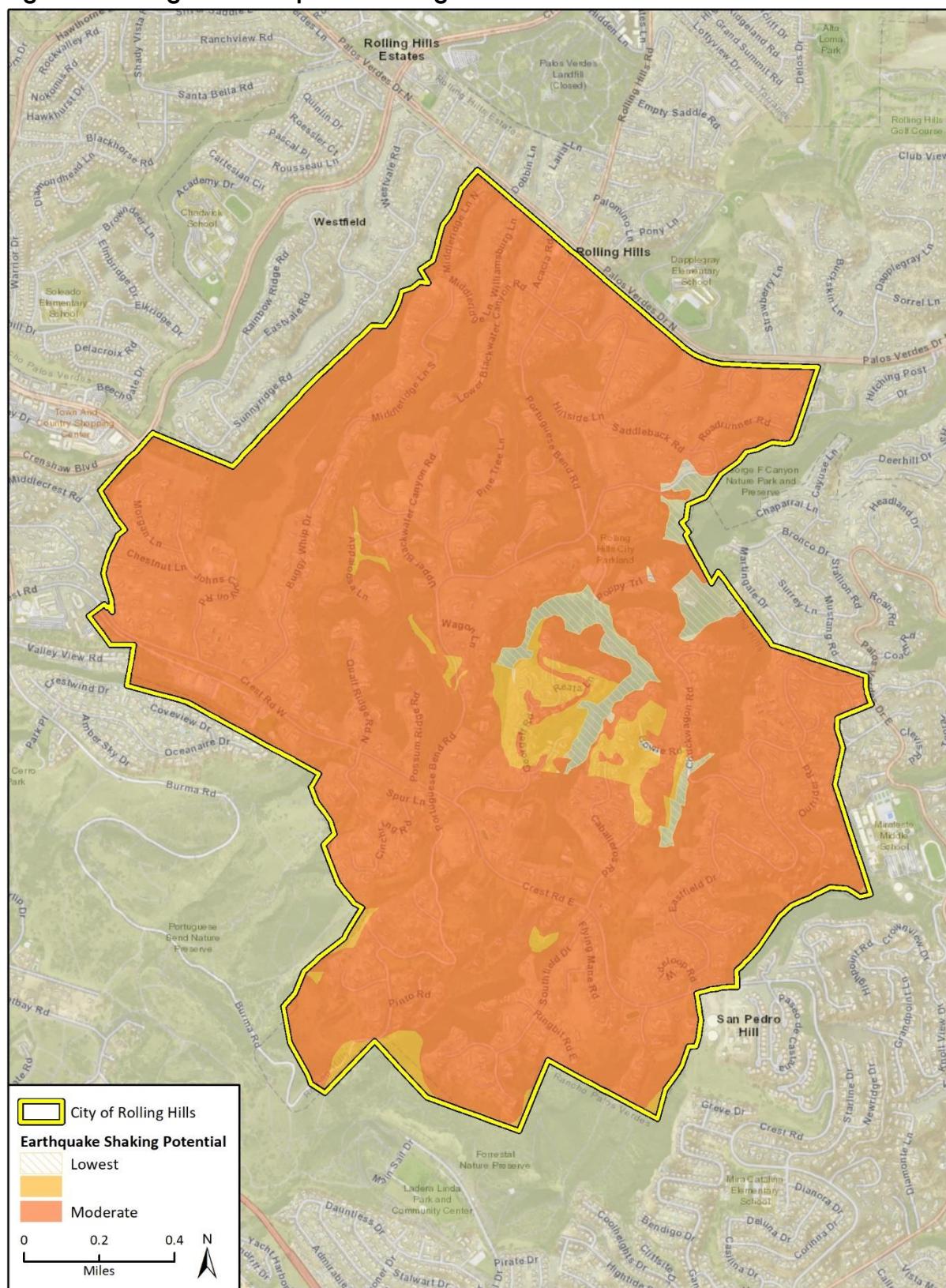
to the FEMA flood maps, the city is not located in a flood hazard area and currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2008). Overall, the city is not in any immediate risk from flooding caused by overflowing water bodies or heavy rains. However, runoff and minor flooding pose a risk if drainage systems fail along canyon bottoms, where natural drainage leads.

### Dam Inundation

No water storage facilities that the State of California identifies as dams are located in Rolling Hills. Just outside city limits are three water storage facilities identified as dams, which include:

- **Palos Verdes Reservoir.** Owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and located at the southeast corner of Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive North. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the reservoir can hold approximately 1,100 gallons of water and has an extremely high downstream hazard.
- **10 MG Walteria and 18 MG Walteria.** Two reinforced concrete tanks which are owned by the City of Torrance and located at Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road. The tanks can hold 31 and 58 acre-feet (AF) of water, respectively.

Senate Bill 92, adopted in 2017, is a new dam safety requirement that requires dam owners to map the downstream inundation areas for dams governed by the Department of Water Resources. Figure 6 shows the inundation areas for the nearby water storage facilities. Due to their locations and the topography of the area, the inundation areas do not enter or affect any portion of the city.

**Figure 4 Rolling Hills Earthquake Shaking Potential**

Imagery provided by Esri, Microsoft Bing and their licensors © 2021.

Earthquake Shaking Potential data provided by California Geological Survey (CGS), last updated 2019.

Fig X Earthquake Shaking Potential

Figure 5 Rolling Hills Liquefaction Hazard Areas



**Figure 6 Dam Inundation Areas**

Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.  
Additional data provided by California Department of Water Resources, 2020.

Fig 6. Dam Inundation

## Wildland and Urban Fires

The entire City of Rolling Hills is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), as shown in Figure 7. Rolling Hills terrain is comprised of several large and steep canyons that limit and challenge vegetation management and present conditions where a fire can quickly travel up and down slope to nearby homes. Due to the rural nature and large residential lots, many homes are surrounded by more substantial vegetation and dense brush than in more suburban settings. The bridle trails for hikers and equestrian access also contain dense vegetation and management difficulties, which contributes to the fire risk of the city. Electrical power lines pose a hazard to starting fires in the city if lines are not automatically de-energized when

knocked down by extreme weather or if the surrounding vegetation is not adequately managed.

There is a history of fires in the city and the surrounding Palos Verdes Peninsula. Three major fires have been documented on the Peninsula and in the city in:

- 1923: an estimated 4,000 acres burned in Palos Verdes Hills
- 1945: 3,000 acres burned
- 1973: approximately 900-925 acres burned, 12 homes destroyed, and 10 homes damaged
- 2005: 212 acres burned near Del Cero Park
- 2009: 230 acres burned, 6 homes damaged, and forced 1,200 residents on the Peninsula to evacuate
- 2015: 3 acres burned



*Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 56*

**Figure 7 Fire Hazard Zones**

For many of the developed residences in the city that are vulnerable to fires, their risk may increase with construction techniques that may not meet current wildfire standards. Rolling Hills Building Code and Los Angeles County Fire Department, under the VHFHSZ standards, require new development to include more stringent design and material standards for roofing, eaves, and rafter tails as well as exterior finishes and fire buffer zones. While compliance with these standards reduces the vulnerability to new structures, existing structures that have not complied with these standards may be susceptible to undue fire risk.

## Existing Fire Risk Reduction Strategies

- Rolling Hills Municipal Code (RHMC) Chapter 8.24 Abatement of Nuisances, Chapter 8.30: Fire Fuel Abatement, and Chapter 15.20 Fire Code
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Fuel Modification Plans
- Los Angeles County Fire Code Section 4908
- Rolling Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan vegetation management standard recommendations
- Rolling Hills Community Association fire fuel management strategies



*Portuguese Bend Road, south of Crest Road*

## Hazardous Materials

According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), there are no hazardous waste sites or facilities in Rolling Hills (DTSC 2020). The city and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster.

The city is not located near any major transit routes involving transport of a substantial quantity of hazardous material through the city. However, the nearby oil refineries (located along Sepulveda Boulevard approximately six miles northeast) and Port operations (located approximately three miles to the east) could create air quality impacts if wind patterns and release events occur. Air quality impacts are discussed in the *Open Space and Conservation Element* of the Rolling Hills General Plan.

## Community Communication

---

### Emergency Response and Evacuation

#### **Police Response and Crime**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is contracted with the city to provide police services and protection to the city. The Lomita Station of the Sheriff's Department located at 26123 Narbonne Avenue serves the city.

According to the Lomita Station crimes report from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, Rolling Hills had 7 reported crimes (LACSD 2020). The crimes were related to theft, burglary, and arson. Outside the city limits and in the Lomita District, 401 crimes were reported during this same period, 79 of

which were violent crimes (LACSD 2021). The difference in crimes in the city and the surrounding area is attributed to the private nature of the city. There are three entrances to the city, all of which are gated and staffed 24 hours a day. Visitors are required to be on a resident's guest list to enter city limits, reducing crime in the city and demand on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

#### **Fire Response**

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides emergency operations support to the City and participates in the California mutual aid system. Mutual aid is emergency assistance that is dispatched upon request across jurisdictional boundaries. Fire Station 56, located at 12 Crest Road West, serves the city under Battalion 14, which also serves the remaining Palos Verdes Peninsula, Lomita, and Avalon Canyon. Fire response constraints in the city include ability to access certain homes or areas due to inadequate road widths for fire maneuvering. One of the major topics of concern related to fire response in the city relates to vegetation clearing along roadways. Ten-foot clearance on each side of the roadway, especially the limited access roads, is important for fire response and evacuation during a fire, according to Scott Hale, Assistant Fire Chief.

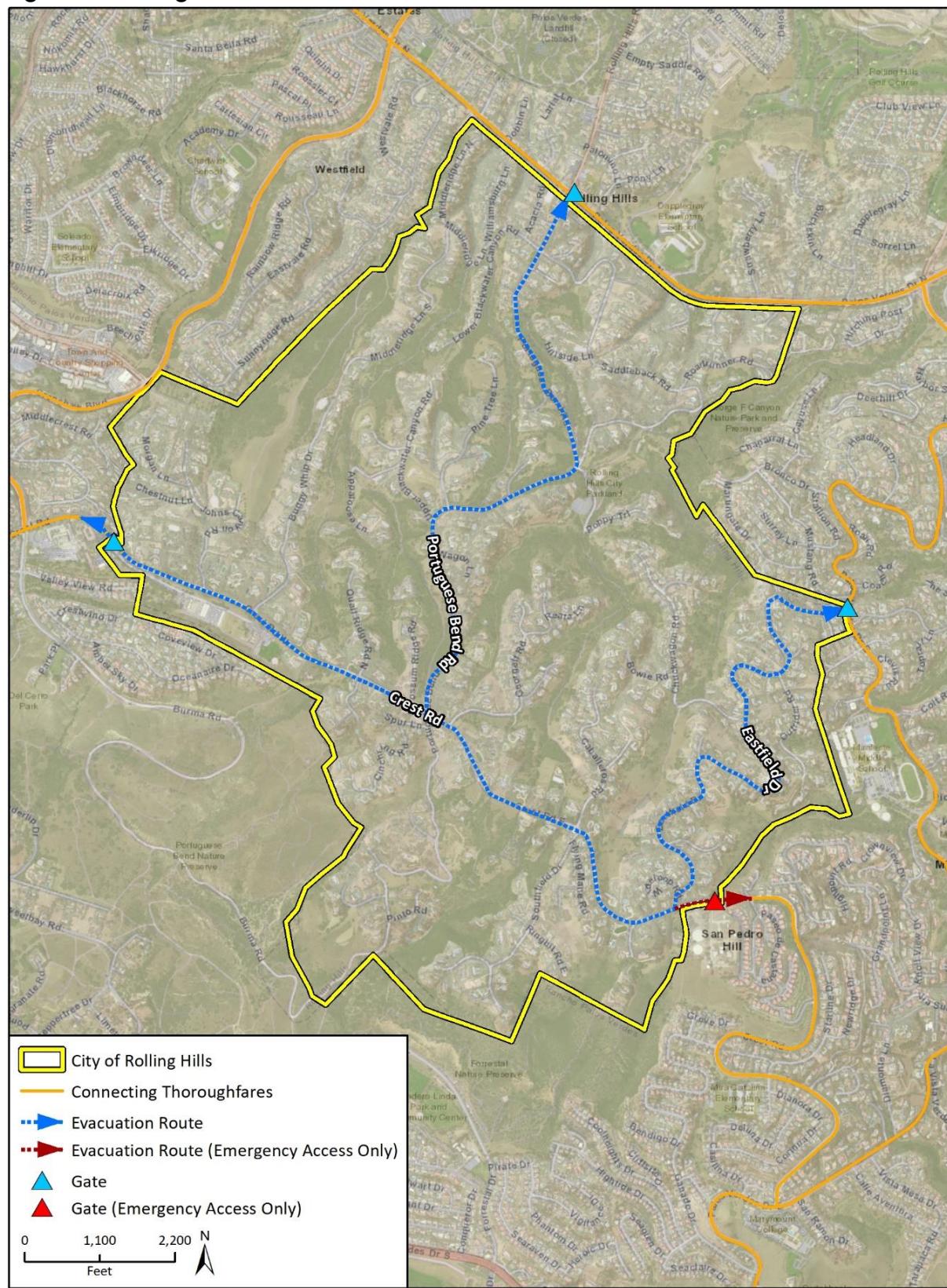
#### **Evacuation Strategies and Routes**

Because a variety of hazards could affect city residents, it is vital to identify critical routes for evacuation in the event of a major event.

Senate Bill 99, adopted August 30, 2020, requires cities to "identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes." Due to the size of Rolling Hills and that it has four evacuation routes, no neighborhoods have been identified as not having two evacuation routes. As shown on the Figure 8, the evacuation routes also connect to major

City of Rolling Hills  
**Rolling Hills General Plan**

**Figure 8 Existing Evacuation Routes**



Imagery provided by ESRI and its licensors © 2021.

Fig X Evacuation Routes - Zoomed Out

roadways in the area that are multi-directional such as Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Drive North and Palos Verdes Drive East.

Figure 8 identifies the existing evacuation routes in the city, which are:

- Main Gate at Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North
- Crest Gate at Crest Road near Crenshaw Blvd
- Eastfield Gate at Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive East
- Crest Road East Gate at the end of Crest Road East

Crest Road East Gate has been updated with a motor and has no guards. This gate is available as an emergency exit to the city during emergencies. The City's recently adopted CWPP establishes evacuation strategies and methodologies, including:

- Using the City's Block Captains<sup>3</sup> as important coordinators for residents
- Communication goals between the City, emergency responders, Rolling Hills Community Association, and residents
- Details for residents regarding how people get notified during an evacuation
- Responsibilities and operations of the Emergency Operations Center

## Disease Prevention

As evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, unforeseen infectious diseases can be disastrous for communities, especially vulnerable groups such as older adults, and people with compromised immune systems. The City worked diligently during the pandemic to minimize risk to community members. The Block Captains regularly checked in on old adults in the community,



*Fire Station Trail*

<sup>3</sup> The Rolling Hills Block Captain Program is a city-sponsored, resident-based community program of volunteers. Their role is to get to know neighbors, help them to prepare for an

emergency, and be a liaison between first responders and City of Rolling Hills during an emergency.

finding out what residents needed, helping run errands, and providing hand sanitizer. Additionally, the City disseminated information regularly including where to buy groceries at the beginning of the pandemic, testing information, and more. Policies regarding infectious disease can help expedite recovery and prepare the community for future risks.

## Climate Change

Climate change is expected to affect future occurrences of natural hazards in and around Rolling Hills. Some hazards are projected to become more frequent and intense in the coming decades, and in some cases, climate impacts have already begun.

In developing the Safety Element, the City completed a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment consistent with Government Code Section 65302(g), which assesses how the populations and assets in Rolling Hills are vulnerable to different climate hazards. The full Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment can be found in Appendix A: Existing Conditions Report. According to the Vulnerability Assessment, the city is most vulnerable to wildfire impacts, extreme heat, and landslide impacts from climate change.

According to the Vulnerability Assessment and the California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, Rolling Hills can expect the following changes to natural hazard events:

- Projected annual average maximum temperature is expected to increase in Rolling Hills between 1.8- and 6.6-degrees Fahrenheit (°F) compared to 1990, depending on the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenario.<sup>4</sup>

- Extreme heat events are also expected to increase in Rolling Hills. The annual number of average extreme heat days is projected to increase from a baseline of 4 between 1950 and 2005 to 8 or 14 between 2030 and 2099, depending on the GHG emissions scenario.
- Although only small changes in average precipitation are projected, the Los Angeles Region, which includes Rolling Hills, is expected to experience dry and wet precipitation extremes and higher frequency and severity of storms. Increasing storm intensity may exacerbate landslide hazards in the city. Warmer and drier conditions state-wide could increase the prevalence of drought conditions that could impact Rolling Hills.
- Wildfire is projected to increase over all of southern California.

## Vulnerable Populations and Assets

As climate change occurs, communities will be affected to varying degrees and impacts depending on the hazard as well as how sensitive the communities are to impacts. Virtually all people and assets in a community will be affected by climate change in some way, but some communities may be more sensitive. The Vulnerability Assessment identified the following sensitivities:

### Populations

- **Children.** Approximately 6.6 percent of the total population in Rolling Hills are ten years old or younger.
- **Persons in Poverty.** This is identified for people living in households with an income below the poverty limit, which is \$26,200 for a household of four people. There are approximately 26 people in

<sup>4</sup> The Vulnerability Assessment uses two GHG emissions scenarios: Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5. RCP 4.5 describes a scenario in which GHG

emissions peak around 2050 and then decline. RCP 8.5 is the scenario in which GHG emissions continue to rise through 2050 before leveling off around 2100.

Rolling Hills who live in poverty, or approximately 1.6 percent of the total population for whom poverty status can be determined.

- **Persons with Chronic Health Conditions.** These are people who have a long-term or permanent health condition that can create regular challenges in their day-to-day lives. These health problems include obesity, cancer, heart disease, and arthritis. In addition, those with any kind of disability, including mobility challenges, hearing, or vision impairments, behavioral disabilities, and challenges living independently or taking care of themselves. Approximately 11.5 percent of the population have identified having a disability.
- **Renters.** These are people who live in homes that they (or the head of their household) do not own. Approximately 24 housing units, or 4 percent of the housing units in Rolling Hills, are renter-occupied.
- **Older Adults.** These are persons 65 years or older are more at risk for climate change impacts, especially those living alone. 28 percent of the population of Rolling Hills are over 65 years, and 15 percent of those over 65 years live alone.
- **Limited English Proficiency.** Approximately three percent of households have identified being limited English-speaking. Of those, a majority spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages and Spanish.

## Infrastructure

- **Access Roads.** These roadways are one of a few, or the only, ways in and out of some communities or neighborhoods. The single or limited number of entry and exit points does not make the road itself more vulnerable than other roads, but loss of these roadways can effectively cut off large numbers of people from other areas in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and

the rest of Los Angeles County. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are the primary access roads into and out of the city.

- **Bridle Trails.** Throughout the community are over 25 miles of trails available to residents and non-city residents who obtain permits. The trails are maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association and located primarily in canyon areas.
- **Electrical Substations.** Electrical substations are facilities that convert electricity from one voltage to another, making it suitable for long-distance transmission or for use by homes, businesses, and other electrical customers. There are no electrical substations located in city limits, but three are located near the city in Rancho Palos Verdes and owned/operated by Southern California Edison.
- **Electrical Utility Lines.** These lines transmit and deliver electricity from Southern California Edison to the city. The city has both underground and overhead electric utility lines.
- **Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines.** Natural gas pipelines carry large volumes of natural gas between communities. There are no transmission lines in the city. One transmission line ends at the intersection of Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North, adjacent to city limits.
- **Water Reservoirs and System.** The system that stores and supplies drinking water for residents. Palos Verdes Water District of the California Water Service supplies water to Rolling Hills. There are two California Water Service water reservoirs in the city limits.

## Services

- **Public Safety Response.** Public safety services are provided by law enforcement

- and fire agencies. These agencies include the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments.
- **Water Services.** These services involve treating and transporting water to be used by customers and transporting and treating wastewater so it can be safely released into the environment. California Water Service provides drinking water to the city.
  - **Energy Delivery.** Energy services in Rolling Hills include electricity and natural gas delivered through utility lines from Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company.

## Vulnerability Assessment Results

The Vulnerability Assessment indicates that the city's populations, infrastructure, and services are most vulnerable to wildfire, extreme heat, and extreme precipitation events.

### Populations

Vulnerable populations such as older adults, residents with chronic health conditions, and those with financial trouble are most at risk to extreme heat and wildfire impacts.

28 percent of the city's population is over 65 years. 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 (CDC 2017a). Older adults who are 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 and do not have a partner to assist them. Extreme heat can be highly dangerous to persons with chronic health conditions, because very high temperatures can exacerbate diabetes,

cardiovascular conditions, respiratory ailments, and other diseases. Some of these people have weakened immune systems which can make them more likely to contract illnesses and vulnerable to human health hazards. In addition, they may be taking medications that make the effects of extreme heat worse (CDC 2017b). While there are not many households in poverty in the city, those who are have limited financial resources to upgrade their homes to have air conditioning to better resist extreme heat.

Older adults, residents with chronic health conditions, and those with financial trouble are the populations most at risk to wildfire impacts. Older adults are almost three times more likely to die in a fire than the overall population (USFA 2017), and typically have increased mobility or mental health issues. Therefore, older adults, especially those in the city living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when there is a need. Those in Rolling Hills with limited financial resources are more unlikely to retrofit their homes to better resist climate-related hazards such as wildfires. In addition to direct impacts, indirect impacts such as poor air quality also creates public health hazards to the city. Recent California wildfires in August and September 2020 had areas of California recording the worst air quality in the world and highlighted the hazards of secondary impacts from wildfires, which could impact the city from fires throughout the State. Older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions are likely to be impacted most by these secondary impacts. Also, those with limited finances or without air conditioning would be impacted by secondary smoke impacts that occur during local and regional wildfires.

### Infrastructure

Access roads, residential structures, and community facilities and government buildings are the most vulnerable

infrastructure to wildfire and extreme precipitation impacts from climate change.

All city infrastructure is located in a VHFHSZ. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from many areas of the city. Wildfires may not significantly damage the infrastructure, but they could result in closure or the inability to travel on them during wildfire events, which can isolate areas of the city and create severe health and safety risks. Wildfires are unlikely to substantially damage trails directly, but they can force widespread trail closures which are an important asset to the community.

The greatest potential impact of life and well-being would be to residential structures, which are the primary structures in the city. In addition, impacts to Rolling Hills Community Association and City Hall structures would impact community functions and government services.

Critical infrastructure most at risk in Rolling Hills to minor flooding impacts and landslides from increased storms would be access roads, bridle trails, electrical utility lines, and water systems. Because Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from the city, any damage or

closure can effectively isolate areas of the city, potentially creating severe health and safety risks. Bridle trails are predominantly located in canyon areas, which would be more susceptible to flooding and landslides. Landslides could impact utilities, as seen in the existing Flying Triangle Landslide area, which has moved utility lines above ground in certain areas due to the continuous movement of the earth in this area. Due to the limited accessibility of the city, there is a medium potential for impacts to access roads and bridle trails and a low potential impact for the remaining vulnerable infrastructure.

## Services

Energy delivery, specifically electricity delivery, could be impacted from increased wildfires. Direct impacts to Southern California Edison electricity transmission infrastructure could impact 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. Public safety services could be strained during wildfire events, which are expected to increase.

Overall, climate change impacts from wildfire are projected to have the greatest potential impact to the city.

## Goals, Policies, and Implementation

---

### Hazard Mitigation

#### **Goal 1      Minimization of Loss of Life, Injury, and Property Damage Resulting from Geologic Hazards**

**Policy 1.1** Ensure that existing structures throughout the City meet seismic safety standards and that new facilities are developed to updated standards.

**Implementation Measure 1.1.1:** The City will work with Los Angeles County Building and Safety Department and other agencies to ensuring that all proposed structures in the city meet current seismic safety code requirements.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund and permit fees

**Policy 1.2** Support earthquake strengthening and provision of alternative or backup services, such as water, sewer, electricity, and natural gas pipelines and connections, especially in areas of high seismic or geologic high hazard or where weak segments are identified by existing or future studies.

**Implementation Measure 1.2.1:** Require future development in active fault\_areas to provide geotechnical studies indicating the location of the fault trace relative to proposed improvements and identify appropriate mitigation. The City will evaluate the seismic risk to existing infrastructure in these areas and where appropriate, examine the feasibility of mitigating the risk over time.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund and private developers

**Policy 1.3** Enforce seismic design provisions from the California Building Code into all development and ensure adequate review and inspection.

**Implementation Measure 1.3.1:** The City will work with Los Angeles County Building and Safety Department and other agencies to ensuring that all proposed structures in the city meet current seismic safety code requirements.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund and private developers

**Implementation Measure 1.3.2:** Require fault investigations along traces of the Palos Verdes and Cabrillo faults to comply with guidelines implemented by the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Act. Buildings for human occupancy should be set back a minimum of 50 feet from those faults that are shown to be active or from fault traces where the risk cannot be determined.

- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building and Safety Department  
**Funding:** General Fund and private developers
- Policy 1.4** Require review by a structural engineer when a critical building or facility undergoes substantial improvements.  
**Implementation Measure 1.4.1:** City staff will review existing ordinances to ensure that the appropriate review requirements are included in them. In addition, the Seismic Safety Ordinance will require a structural engineer to review development proposals in designated Special Studies Zones.  
**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department  
**Funding:** General Fund and private developers
- Policy 1.5** Ensure that water supplies are not interrupted by seismic events such as surface rupture, ground shaking or ground failure.  
**Implementation Measure 1.5.1:** The City may conduct a seismic vulnerability assessment of current water supply systems to address peak load water supply requirements. If the vulnerability assessment indicates a potential interruption of water supply due to damage from a seismic event, designate emergency sources of water.  
**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department  
**Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 1.6** Discourage development adjacent to earthquake faults and other geological hazards.  
**Implementation Measure 1.6.1:** All development will comply with the Seismic Hazards Overlay Zone.  
**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** Planning Department  
**Funding:** General Fund and private developers
- Policy 1.7** Continue to require preliminary investigations of tract sites by State-registered geotechnical engineers and certified engineering geologists (Chapter 70 County Building Code) and ensure regular inspection of grading operations.  
**Implementation Measure 1.7.1:** The City will continue to enforce the Building Code and Safety regulations.  
**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** Planning Department  
**Funding:** General Fund

**Goal 2      Minimization of Loss of Life, Injury, and Property Damage Due to Flood Hazards**

**Policy 2.1**      Maintain storm drains to prevent local flooding and debris flows, and encourage residents to assist in maintaining those drains that are the responsibility of the homeowner.

**Implementation Measure 2.1.1:** The City will cooperate with the Los Angeles County Public Works Department to maintain storm drains in the City.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 2.1.2:** The City will encourage homeowner maintenance of storm drains by developing educational materials to be added to the City website and included in the City's newsletter.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 2.2**      Avoid construction in canyon bottoms and participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Require new development or expansion of existing development adjacent to canyons to assess potential environmental impacts from increased run-off and erosion and evaluate appropriate mitigation. Mitigation measures should address projected impacts from climate change.

**Implementation Measure 2.2.1:** The City will evaluate the flood hazard potential and address climate change impacts in future environmental review. The City will ensure that development in areas designated as a Flood Hazard Overlay Zone mitigates potential flood impacts.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department

**Funding:** General Fund and private developers

**Implementation Measure 2.2.2:** The City will require the submission of soil engineering reports for land development permits when soil erosion problems are suspected.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund and private developers

## **Goal 3      Minimization of Loss of Life, Injury, and Property Damage Resulting from Fire Hazards**

**Policy 3.1** Develop stringent initial site design and on-going maintenance standards incorporating adequate mitigation measures into individual developments to achieve an acceptable level of risk, considering the increased risk associated with increased wildland fire hazards due to climate change.

**Implementation Measure 3.1.1:** The City will work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and Rolling Hills Community Association to review current standards for wildfire prevention and improve standards and/or regulations where required.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 3.1.2:** The City will implement recommended fire mitigation strategies from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan including infrastructure hardening and vegetation management for and around existing and new development.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department/Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 3.2** Reduce potential fire ignition sources.

**Implementation Measure 3.2.1:** The City will continue to implement the utility undergrounding projects described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 3.2.2:** Designate and publicize emergency access routes with the city and sub region. Prioritize undergrounding of utilities to enhance reliability of emergency access routes and minimize conflagration hazards from fallen power lines.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 3.3** Develop and implement a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing structures.

**Implementation Measure 3.3.1:** The City will develop and implement a comprehensive retrofit strategy for existing structures and lifeline utilities in very high fire risk areas to increase public safety and reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 3.3.2:** Enforce existing ordinances and regulations that apply to roofing materials. The City will enforce a Class A Roofing Ordinance for all structure, as described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The City will require old roofs to be removed prior to reroofing to increase the fire-resistance of the structure.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department/Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 3.4** Ensure that all new residential development has at least two emergency evacuations.

**Implementation Measure 3.4.1:** The City will review and update emergency response and evacuation plans and procedures annually to reflect current conditions and community needs.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 3.4.2:** Create secondary access in communities with single access.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 3.4.3:** Identify special populations and large animals, especially horses, that may need assistance to evacuate.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 3.5** Whenever feasible, locate the following outside flood and fire hazard zones: health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities.

**Implementation Measure 3.5.1:** The City will require review of new essential facilities and, as necessary, development of measures to avoid flood and fire hazard impacts.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund and private developers

- Policy 3.6** Educate residents on fire hazard reduction strategies to employ on their properties, focusing on the most vulnerable populations such as older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions.
- Implementation Measure 3.6.1:** The City will promote vegetation management strategies outlined in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (i.e., fuel management in canyons and fire fuel management standards for individual properties) in the City's quarterly newsletter, through the website, brochures, videos, and block captain meetings.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** Planning Department and City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 3.7** Work with the County to ensure that all fire equipment remains operable and adequate to respond to a major disaster.
- Implementation Measure 3.7.1:** City staff will monitor the City's fire protection rating and cooperate with the Fire Department in the correction of deficiencies.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 3.8** Require new development to meet or exceed hardening requirements in the most current version of the California Building Codes and California Fire Code.
- Policy 3.9** Evaluate evacuation route capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios as part of the next update to the Rolling Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan, in accordance with AB 747.
- Policy 3.10** Update the City's development standards to be in conformance with title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations).
- Policy 3.11** Minimize risks to existing development 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 CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 requirements (SRA Fire Safe Regulations).
- Policy 3.12** Require fire protection plans for all new development.
- Policy 3.13** Require all properties in the city to enforce precautionary measures to create defensible space including, but not limited to, maintaining a fire break by removing brush and flammable vegetation located within 30 feet of the property, maintaining any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood, and maintaining roofs free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetation growth, as described in the Rolling Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Policy 3.14** Evaluate the City's capacity to adequately suppress wildfire, taking into account water supply availability, as part of the next Rolling Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
- Policy 3.15** Coordinate with Palos Verdes Water District to support the provision of adequate water availability throughout the City and provision of adequate water storage to meet future peak fire demand during times of peak domestic demands.
- Policy 3.16** Maintain emergency roadways and improve them as necessary and appropriate to ensure ongoing serviceability.
- Policy 3.17** Establish and maintain community fire breaks and fuel modification/reduction zones, including public and private road clearance.
- Policy 3.18** Require that all homes have visible street addressing and signage.
- Goal 4** **Minimization of Impacts to Life and Property Associated with the Use, Storage, or Transport of Hazardous Materials**
- Policy 4.1** Restrict the travel of vehicles carrying hazardous material through the city.  
**Implementation Measure 4.1.1:** The City will ensure the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department enforce licensing and current laws regarding the transport of hazardous materials through the city.  
**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** City Manager  
**Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 4.2** Work to promote the safe use and disposal of household hazardous wastes.  
**Implementation Measure 4.2.1:** The City will work with agencies responsible for the disposal of household hazardous wastes.  
**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing  
**Agency:** City Manager  
**Funding:** General Fund

## Community Communication

### **Goal 5 Protection of the Community from Disasters and Emergencies**

#### **Policy 5.1**

Designate and develop specific critical facilities as emergency centers to serve the entire City and work with other cities to maintain existing trauma care facilities that serve the region.

**Implementation Measure 5.1.1:** The City will meet with other communities in the region to discuss the loss of trauma care centers in the region. The City will examine the feasibility of establishing the development of a critical/trauma care unit at one of the local clinics or hospitals in the region.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

#### **Policy 5.2**

Cooperate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to ensure that law enforcement services are ready and available to serve the city in the event of a major disaster.

**Implementation Measure 5.2.1:** City staff will monitor the City's contract and budget with the Sheriff's Department to ensure that adequate service levels are maintained.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

#### **Policy 5.3**

Develop and coordinate medical assistance procedures in the event of a major disaster.

**Implementation Measure 5.3.1:** City staff will develop and update the Emergency Operations Plan, which will be distributed to the community. The update of the Emergency Operations Plan will include an assessment of current emergency service and projected emergency service needs, and goals or standards for emergency services training for City staff and volunteers.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

#### **Policy 5.4**

Inventory and, where necessary, acquire supplemental disaster communication equipment and other equipment, tools, and supplies used by Block Captains during an emergency.

**Implementation Measure 5.4.1:** City staff will complete an inventory of infrastructure needed to support emergency communications and equipment needed for use by Block Captains and the City to communicate during emergencies, as described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.4.2:** A survey will be done by the City periodically to establish an inventory of equipment which could be used in the event of a major disaster.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.5** Ensure that adequate provisions are made to supply drinking water for extended periods of time in the event of a major disaster.

**Implementation Measure 5.5.1:** City staff will inventory sources of potable water that could be used in the event of an emergency and the means to distribute that water to residents and others in the Planning Area.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.6** Develop procedures to follow in the event of wildfire, flooding, erosion, and possible reservoir failure and investigate ways of reducing the likelihood of their occurrence.

**Implementation Measure 5.6.1:** 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.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.6.2:** City staff will develop and maintain an Emergency Operations Plan, which will set forth an operating strategy for managing potential emergencies (as described in the Hazard Mitigation Plan)

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.7** Ensure that City Hall maintains a current emergency supply of water, food, blankets, and first aid to provide for all employees for a 3-day period.

**Implementation Measure 5.7.1:** A City staff person will be assigned the task of compiling a list of supplies and maintaining an adequate stockpile.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.8** Encourage private businesses to develop disaster preparedness plans for their employees.

**Implementation Measure 5.8.1:** The City will prepare and distribute a brochure outlining recommendations for stockpiling supplies for employees.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.9** Encourage residents to attend periodic training programs on wildfire mitigation and disaster planning, and to develop disaster preparedness and evacuation plans.

**Implementation Measure 5.9.1:** The City will work with the RHCA and Block Captains to launch a communication and education program that will include a workshop on How to Develop an Evacuation Plan for your Family, as described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.9.2:** The City will work with the RHCA and Block Captains to promote training programs on wildfire mitigation and disaster planning through the newsletter and the City website.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.10** Support the development and further implementation of a peninsula-wide disaster plan.

**Implementation Measure 5.10.1:** The City will coordinate its disaster planning efforts with neighboring jurisdictions in the region as part of Hazard Mitigation Plan updates

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.11** Increase public awareness of City emergency response plans, evacuation routes and shelters, and in ways to reduce risks at the home and office, focusing on the most vulnerable populations such as older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions.

**Implementation Measure 5.11.1:** The City will prepare communication materials outlining procedures to follow in the event of a major disaster. These materials will be distributed to every household and business in the city.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.11.2:** The City will maintain the City-wide Neighborhood Watch program.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.11.3:** The City will define refuge areas in the event of a wildfire event to include in the Emergency Operations Plan. This effort will be led by the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.11.4:** The City will distribute educational materials for large animal evacuation, consistent with Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations. This will include adding the information to the City website and including it in the City's newsletter during the fire season.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.11.5:** The City will work with Block Captains to provide emergency education and information through the City's newsletter and website and by providing workshops and seminars described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Policy 5.12** Maintain a Hazard Mitigation Plan.\*

**Implementation Measure 5.12.1:** The City will coordinate with the American Red Cross and Los Angeles County Fire, Sheriff, and Public Social Services to develop specific plans for responding to emergencies as part of Hazard Mitigation Plan updates. The City will submit copies of its Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments for review. The City will review similar plans prepared by neighboring cities.

**Timing:** Every five years

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

---

\*The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP or HMP) is a separate document adopted into the Safety Element of the General Plan by Resolution No. 1314 in compliance with AB 2140. It is available electronically at [https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning\\_and\\_community\\_services/index.php](https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/planning_and_community_services/index.php).

- Policy 5.13** Ensure maximum accessibility throughout the city in the event of a disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.13.1:** The City will ensure that multipurpose trails are maintained in order to be serviceable by emergency vehicles in the event of a disaster.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.14** Ensure the reliability of essential facilities such as communications towers, electrical substations, water services, and first-response buildings in the event of an emergency through promoting grid resilience and energy independence. Work to implement on-site power generation through solar photovoltaic systems and battery storage.
- Implementation Measure 5.14.1:** The City will work with telecommunication providers to identify opportunities to improve reliability of cell service throughout the city.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.14.2:** The City will work with electricity and natural gas providers to identify opportunities to promote grid resilience.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.14.3:** The City will seek funding to enhance telecommunication service.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.14.4:** The City will provide educational materials to residents (i.e., newsletter, webpage, brochure) to promote solar panels and battery storage installation on existing development.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.15** Minimize the risk of spread of infectious diseases and associated economic disruption.
- Implementation Measure 5.15.1:** The City will coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department to provide testing and contact tracing resources to the Rolling Hills community.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.15.2:** The City will maintain up-to-date public health services on the City's website.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measure 5.15.3:** The City will explore the need for additional marketing campaigns to promote public safety protocol among City departments.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measures 5.15.4:** The City will partner with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide additional support and services in the city.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

**Implementation Measures 5.15.5:** The City will partner with community groups and neighborhood organizations to advertise what resources are available to residents.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** City Manager

**Funding:** General Fund

- Policy 5.16** Increase access to essential resources and facilitate effective communication in the community to accelerate recovery following such a disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.16.1:** The City will connect the newly unemployed with talent-seeking industries, such as through a job portal.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 5.16.2:** The City will supplement federal relief efforts, such as creating a resilience fund for residents to assist those in need.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.17** Provide City officials with a basis for disaster preparedness decision making and establish a public education program for disaster preparedness.
- Implementation Measure 5.17.1:** The Emergency Services Coordinator will conduct annual meetings with City personnel to ensure they are familiar with procedures outlined in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.18** Establish a line of command to ensure that the decision-making process will function satisfactorily in the event of a major disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.18.1:** The City will implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.19** Coordinate with citizen groups, such as Block Captains, and organizations to establish a viable body to provide emergency assistance in the event of a natural disaster.
- Implementation Measure 5.19.1:** The City Emergency Services Coordinator will work with local equestrian groups and other organizations to establish a Rolling Hills Search and Rescue Team.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager and LA County Building & Safety Department
- Funding:** General Fund

- Policy 5.20** Encourage cooperation among adjacent communities to provide back-up law enforcement assistance in emergency situations.
- Implementation Measure 5.20.1:** The City will submit copies of its Hazard Mitigation Plan updates to the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff's Departments for review. The City will review similar plans prepared by neighboring cities.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 5.21** Incorporate health threats into early warning systems.
- Implementation Measures 5.21.1:** Partner with the Los Angeles County Vector Control District and 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, precipitation events, and vector borne diseases due to climate change hazards.
- Goal 6** **Maintenance of Public Safety for All Residents**
- Policy 6.1** Work with, and support the Sheriff's Department in crime prevention and law enforcement efforts, to make sure there are adequate resources to meet the needs of the community.
- Implementation Measure 6.1.1:** The City will conduct an annual review of its contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to ensure current service standards are maintained. Alternatives will be considered if service levels are considered inadequate.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 6.2** Cooperate with neighboring cities, Los Angeles County, California State and U.S. Federal agencies in crime prevention and law enforcement.
- Implementation Measure 6.2.1:** The City will continue to regularly coordinate with all law enforcement agencies in combating crime.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 6.3** Evaluate the incidence of crime and develop measures needed to deter crime or apprehend the criminals.
- Implementation Measure 6.3.1:** The City will monitor crime statistics for the peninsula and the city. The City will meet with Los Angeles County on a regular basis to discuss programs, ordinances, and other measures that will be effective in combating crime.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** City Manager
- Funding:** General Fund

## Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

### **Goal 7      Protection of the Community from the Effects of Climate Change**

#### **Policy 7.1**

The City will continue to enforce updated State-mandated water conservation regulations.

**Implementation Measure 7.1.1:** The City will continue to update the City's zoning ordinance as necessary to enforce and implement State-mandated water conservation regulations.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department

**Funding:** General Fund

#### **Policy 7.2**

Prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change by considering climate change vulnerability in planning decisions, including those involving new public facilities and private development.

**Implementation Measure 7.2.1:** The City will:

- a. Re-evaluate the City's Climate Change Vulnerability analysis over time, as new data becomes available
- b. Update mitigation strategies and the City's vulnerability and adaptive capacity, as appropriate
- c. Identify opportunities for new goals and policies related to climate change using the best available data.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

#### **Policy 7.3**

Amend the local building code to account for climate change stressors.

**Implementation Measure 7.3.1:** The City will amend the local building code to take into account additional stressors on buildings including, increased storm events and intensity, flood proofing for intermittent inundation, slope/soils, subsidence risk and erosion potential in securing foundations, building materials to reduce the impacts of high heat days, and fireproofing in preparation for increasing fire risk.

**Timing:** Immediate

**Agency:** Planning Department and LA County Building & Safety Department

**Funding:** General Fund

#### **Policy 7.4**

The City will engage surrounding jurisdictions in climate adaptation planning.

**Implementation Measure 7.4.1:** Ensure the community's engagement strategy for climate adaptation planning includes surrounding jurisdictions to identify synergies and harmonization of policies.

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Agency:** Planning Department

**Funding:** General Fund

- Policy 7.5** Partner with the South Bay Cities Council of Government to implement climate adaptation strategies at the sub-regional level.
- Implementation Measure 7.5.1:** Collaborate with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Senior Services Working Group to ensure that service providers in and around Rolling Hills are educated on the climate risks of the area and steps they can take to better serve and protect vulnerable groups in Rolling Hills.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** Planning Department
- Funding:** General Fund
- Implementation Measure 7.5.2:** Implement climate adaptation strategies that can address issues at a local and sub-regional level and issues in which coordination and pooling of resources (i.e., emergency centers, transit agency support in an emergency, and large animal evacuation centers) is a benefit to all participating communities.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** Planning Department
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 7.6** Update emergency/disaster response measures to account for increased heat days.
- Implementation Measure 7.6.1:** As part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan, update response measures to account for an increased number of heat days and their impacts on current and future response mechanisms such as warning systems, emergency response and medical service coordination, and shelters.
- Timing:** Every five years
- Agency:** Planning Department
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 7.7** Provide education on heat related illness.
- Implementation Measure 7.7.1:** Incorporate links and references on the City website and incorporate interpretive signage at multi-use path trailheads providing education on heat related illness and personal care steps.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** Planning Department
- Funding:** General Fund
- Policy 7.8** Require air conditioning alternatives.
- Implementation Measure 7.8.1:** Require alternatives to air conditioning such as ceiling fans, air exchangers, increased insulation and low-solar-gain exterior materials to reduce peak electrical demands during high heat events to ensure reliability of the electrical grid.
- Timing:** Immediate and ongoing
- Agency:** Planning Department
- Funding:** General Fund

## References

---

- California Department of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC). 2020. EnviroStor.  
<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=rolling+hills%2C+ca>. Accessed August 2020.
- Center for Disease Control (CDC). 2017a. Heat and Older Adults.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/older-adults-heat.html>. Accessed September 2020.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2017b. Heat and People with Chronic Medical Conditions.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/medical.html>. Accessed September 2020.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2008. Flood Insurance Rate Map 06037C1940F.
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LACSD). 2021. Altadena Station Part I Crimes.  
[https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Transparency\\_Crime\\_Arrest\\_Patrol-CurrentMonth-YTD\\_2019v2020.pdf](https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Transparency_Crime_Arrest_Patrol-CurrentMonth-YTD_2019v2020.pdf). Accessed December 2021.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2019. Hazard Mitigation Plan. January 16, 2019.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2020. Community Wildfire Protection Plan. July 2020.
- Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC). 2013. Hazards and Threats Earthquakes List of Major Active Surface Faults in Southern California. March.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2018. Rolling Hills, City 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates.  
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Rolling%20Hills%20city,%20California&g=1600000US0662602&tid=ACSDP5Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=false>
- Western Region Climate Center (WRCC). 2016. Period of Record Monthly Climate Summary.  
<https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca8973>. Accessed August 2020.

*This page intentionally left blank.*

# Appendix A

---

Existing Conditions Report



## Rolling Hills General Plan Safety Element

### Existing Conditions Report

*prepared by*

**City of Rolling Hills**  
Planning and Community Services  
2 Portuguese Bend Road  
Rolling Hills, California 90274

*prepared with the assistance of*

**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**  
706 South Hill Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, California 90014

**October 2020**



# Table of Contents

---

Summary.....	1
Key Findings .....	1
Introduction.....	2
Hazards of Concern.....	6
Geologic Hazards .....	6
Flooding .....	9
Wildland and Urban Fires .....	12
Hazardous Materials.....	16
Emergency Response and Evacuation .....	16
Climate Change Vulnerability.....	19
Exposure .....	20
Community Sensitivity .....	24
Potential Impacts.....	26
Adaptive Capacity .....	31
Vulnerability Scoring.....	32
Summary of Issues and Opportunities .....	36
Hazards of Concern and Community Sensitivity .....	36
Opportunities .....	36
References.....	38

## Tables

Table 1	Rolling Hills Climate Summary .....	2
Table 2	Rolling Hills Demographic Characteristics.....	3
Table 3	Faults Located within 50 Miles of Rolling Hills.....	8
Table 4	Changes in Annual Average Precipitation.....	23
Table 5	Rolling Hills Existing Adaptive Capacity.....	31
Table 6	Vulnerability Score Matrix .....	33
Table 7	Vulnerability Assessment Results .....	34

## Figures

Figure 1	Critical Facilities Map .....	5
Figure 2	Landslide Hazard Zones .....	7
Figure 3	Faults in the Vicinity of Rolling Hills .....	10
Figure 4	Rolling Hills Liquefaction Hazard Areas.....	11
Figure 5	Dam Inundation Areas .....	14
Figure 6	Fire Hazard Zones.....	15

---

City of Rolling Hills  
**Rolling Hills General Plan Safety Element**

Figure 7	Existing Evacuation Routes .....	18
Figure 8	Historical and Projected Annual Average Maximum Temperature in Rolling Hills .....	21
Figure 9	Number of Extreme Heat Days by Year in Rolling Hills.....	22
Figure 10	Changes in Intensity of Extreme Precipitation Events in Rolling Hills.....	24

# Summary

---

## Key Findings

- The city is most at risks to impacts from wildfire, extreme heat, and landslide events, which are all anticipated to increase as a result of climate change impacts. Vulnerable populations such as older adults and residents with chronic health conditions are most at risk to extreme heat and wildfire impacts. Access roads and residential structures are also the most vulnerable to wildfire and landslide impacts from climate change.
- The city has a moderate risk for shaking potential from earthquakes.
- Flood risks in the city are minimal and limited to natural drainage areas in the canyons.
- Vegetation clearing along roadways is a concern and major goal for improving fire response and evacuation in the city.
- Evacuation strategies and education are important to reduce risk from hazards due to the lack of evacuation routes in the city and the remote development on private roads. The need to further analyze evacuation routes and access is one of the most recent changes in Safety Element requirements. A key opportunity for the Safety Element update is to address specific evacuation needs.
- The City has recently adopted a number of planning documents such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which seek to reduce the risk of hazards in the city. An opportunity for the Safety Element update would be to utilize existing recommendations from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan as implementation tools for the Safety Element.

## Introduction

---

Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code requires that the General Plan include 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 and other geologic hazards; flooding, wildland and urban fire, and climate change adaptation and resilience. In addition, Safety Elements are required to address non-hazard specific issues such as peak load water supply, evacuation routes, and military installations.

This Existing Conditions Report is a comprehensive assessment of natural and man-made hazards for the City of Rolling Hills. The report serves as the foundation for the Safety Element and includes detailed Geographic Information System (GIS) hazard mapping and analyses. The following City plans were also utilized for this report along with existing local data from governmental agencies and scientific research: Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the existing Safety Element.

### Setting

Rolling Hills covers an area of approximately three square-miles on the Palos Verdes peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The topography of the city and peninsula area is unique in that it rises above the Los Angeles Basin with rolling hills, steep slopes, and canyons. The city itself is located in the San Pedro Hills. Due to its location near the coast, the area is cooler and has fewer air quality concerns compared to the nearby Los Angeles Basin. Table 1 summarizes the climatology of the area.

Table 1 Rolling Hills Climate Summary

Climate Character	Estimate
Annual Average Observed Maximum Temperature from 1961 - 1990 (Fahrenheit)	71
Annual Average Observed Minimum Temperature from 1961 – 1990 (Fahrenheit)	50
Annual Average Observed Precipitation from 1961 – 1990 (inches)	19

Source: Cal-Adapt 2021

Rolling Hills is a residential community that consists of large parcels and ranch-style homes and has a sizable older adult<sup>1</sup> population of about 513 (28% of the city's total population). The city is also an equestrian community, as many of residents are horse owners or have horses on their property. Important community demographic data for Rolling Hills is included in Table 2.

---

<sup>1</sup> An older adult is any adult over the age of 65 years old.

**Table 2 Rolling Hills Demographic Characteristics**

<b>Demographic Characteristics</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
<b>General</b>	
Total Population	1,860 <sup>1</sup>
Population under 10 years	7 percent
Population over 65 years	28 percent <sup>1</sup>
Race	77 percent White, 18 percent Asian, 5 percent Hispanic/Latino
Disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory)	12 percent
<b>Housing</b>	
Total Households	645 <sup>1</sup>
Average Household Size	2.76
Owner-occupied Households	96 percent
Population over 65 years living alone	15 percent of those over 65 years
<b>Employment</b>	
Unemployment Rate	6 percent
Poverty Rate	2 percent
Median Income	\$ 239,000
Insurance Coverage	97 percent

Source: U.S. Census 2018

<sup>1</sup>Information obtained from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which includes more recent data than the U.S Census

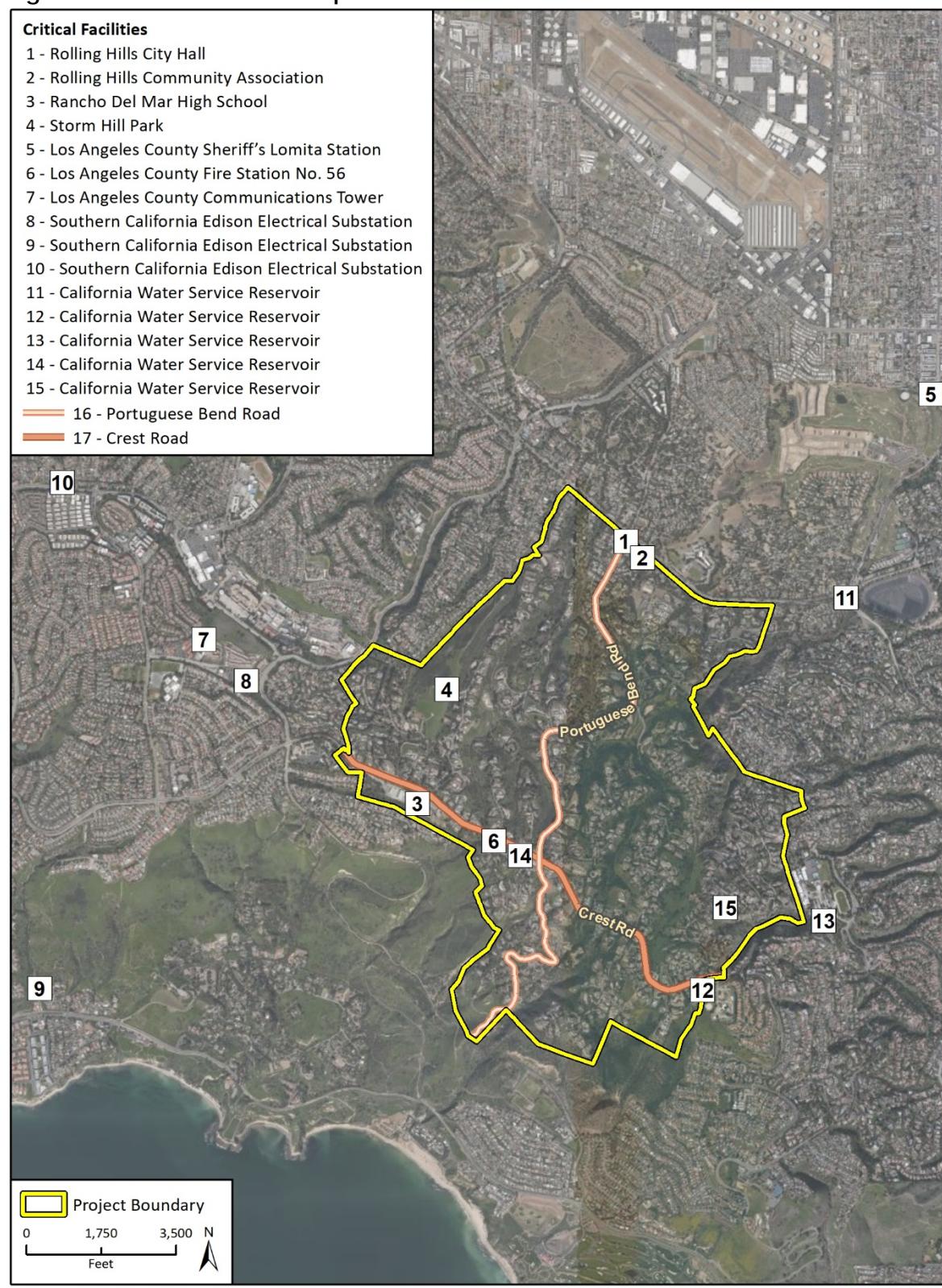
## Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Critical facilities are places that provide emergency services or serve people who would be impacted by an emergency. Examples include hospitals, fire stations, police stations, emergency services facilities, utility facilities, and communication facilities. Critical facilities can also include the transportation system and schools. Due to the size and composition of Rolling Hills, most of the critical facilities that serve the city are located outside of City limits. Critical facilities that serve the city are shown in Figure 1 and include:

1. Rolling Hills City Hall: 2 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
2. Rolling Hills Community Association: 1 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, CA
3. Rancho Del Mar High School: 38 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
4. Storm Hill Park: Agua Magna Canyon, Rolling Hills
5. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Lomita Station: 26123 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita, CA
6. Los Angeles County Fire Station No. 56: 12 Crest Road West, Rolling Hills, CA
7. Los Angeles County Communications Tower: 5741 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
8. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
9. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: Tarragon Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

City of Rolling Hills  
**Rolling Hills General Plan Safety Element**

10. Southern California Edison Electrical Substation: 27873 Hawthorn Boulevard, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
11. California Water Service Reservoir: Palos Verdes Drive North/Palos Verdes Drive East (SW corner), Rolling Hills Estates, CA
12. California Water Service Reservoir: 3960 East Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
13. California Water Service Reservoir: Via Canada, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
14. California Water Service Reservoir: 1 Spur Lane, Rolling Hills, CA
15. California Water Service Reservoir: 60 Eastfield Drive, Rolling Hills, CA
16. Portuguese Bend Road
17. Crest Road

**Figure 1 Critical Facilities Map**

# Hazards of Concern

---

## Geologic Hazards

Geologic processes that pose a threat to life, health, property, or infrastructure are considered geologic hazards. Natural geologic hazards that have the potential to affect Rolling Hills include seismic hazards, landslides, liquefaction, expansive soils, and weathering. In most cases, these natural processes cannot be prevented; however, the magnitude of destruction resulting from natural geologic hazards can be reduced through planning policies and measures.

### Landslide Hazards

Landslide activity refers to a wide range of gravity driven downslope earth movement, including rockslides, rotational slips, mudslides, and shallow debris flows. Geological and geomorphological conditions such as soil type, soil strength, slope angle, and slope height predispose slopes to failure. Other factors affecting the susceptibility to slope failure include the amount of precipitation, vegetation on the slope, groundwater seepage, and human modifications to the slope. Landslides often result in damage to property and roadways and can cause them to become unsafe due to displacement of the subsurface.

A majority of the existing development in Rolling Hills is located on hilly terrain and have a greater potential to experience landslide hazards. Many of the canyons in Rolling Hills exhibit steep slopes with little vegetation coverage, leaving them susceptible to slope failure. Figure 2 shows the landslide zones within the City of Rolling Hills, as mapped by the California Geological Survey. Landslide activity has been well documented in the region. Relicts of landslides and rockslides are present throughout the City of Rolling Hills. The following major landslides have occurred within and adjacent to the city. All are within the landslide hazards areas identified in Figure 2:

- Portuguese Bend Landslide: Beginning in<sup>2</sup> 1956 over approximately 270 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Abalone Cove Landslide: Beginning in 1974 over 80 acres in Rancho Palos Verdes
- Klondike Canyon Landslide: Beginning in 1979 over to the south near the coastline
- Flying Triangle Landslide: Beginning in 1970s or 1980s over approximately 70 acres in the south area of the city

The Flying Triangle Landslide continues to impact the southeast portion of the city through impacts to private roads and requiring above-ground utility lines. This area is relatively unsuitable for development due to the ongoing changes in topography.

### Seismic Hazards

Rolling Hills is located in a seismically active region of southern California. The last major earthquake in the Los Angeles area was the 5.1 magnitude La Habra earthquake in 2014. Rolling Hills is located within 50 miles of the Whittier fault, Newport-Inglewood fault, Palos Verdes fault, Malibu Coast

---

<sup>2</sup> "Beginning in" is defined as the first noted event of major rock movement

---

Figure 2 Landslide Hazard Zones



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.  
Additional data provided by California Geologic Survey, 2015.

Fig X Landslide Hazard Zones

fault, Cabrillo fault, Santa Monica fault, and Redondo Canyon fault. Analysis of seismic data from the region indicates that the Whittier and Newport-Inglewood faults may generate a maximum credible earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and 7.4, respectively (Southern California Earthquake Center 2013). Figure 3 shows the faults in the vicinity of Rolling Hills.

Typically, seismic shaking and fault rupture are primary hazards as they occur as a direct result of the interaction between the seismic wave energy and the earth's surface. Secondary hazards, such as liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides, occur as a result of the primary earthquake hazards. Often, earthquake activity can result in other effects such as building damage/collapse, infrastructure failure, pipeline breakage, and damage to transportation and communication facilities. The size of the earthquake and distance from the fault rupture zone typically determine the severity of these events.

### *Seismic Shaking*

Seismic shaking, or ground shaking, refers to the movement of the earth's surface resulting from the energy release by an earthquake. Seismic shaking is typically the primary cause of property damage resulting from earthquake activity. Seismic shaking has the ability to destroy buildings, roadways, powerlines, and pipelines. Energy transmitted through the ground has the potential to travel hundreds of miles and may cause damage in many locations simultaneously. Closer proximity to the fault rupture area results in stronger shaking in that location.

The amount of ground shaking that occurs in a location is dependent on the magnitude of the earthquake, the distance from the epicenter, and local soil conditions. The intensity of ground shaking is related to the peak ground velocity during an earthquake. According to the CGS Map Sheet 48, the earthquake shaking potential for Rolling Hills is moderate. The intensity of seismic shaking is measured using the Modified Mercalli scale.

According to the California Geologic Survey, an active fault is one that has experienced surface movement in the past 11,000 years. The city is located near a number of active faults, including the Cabrillo Fault within city limits. Table 3 includes a list of nearby faults, their respective distance from the city, the maximum credible earthquake generated from each fault, and the likelihood of earthquake occurrence in each case.

**Table 3 Faults Located within 50 Miles of Rolling Hills**

Fault Name	Approximate Distance from Rolling Hills
Whittier	25 miles east
Newport-Inglewood	9 miles east
Palos Verdes	<1 mile north
Malibu Coast	20 miles northwest
Cabrillo	Located within the City boundaries in the southwest
Santa Monica	20 miles north-northwest

The San Andreas fault is located approximately 80 miles to the east of Rolling Hills. Although the San Andreas fault is located at a greater distance from the city, seismic shaking originating from earthquakes occurring along the San Andreas fault poses a threat to the city. Figure 3 identifies the active and inactive faults located within the city and vicinity.

### *Fault Rupture*

Fault Rupture occurs when seismic movement on a fault breaks through the earth's surface. Hazards related to fault rupture arise when structures are built near or on top of an active fault. While there are a number of seismically active faults in the city and region, there are no active faults with the potential for ground rupture, defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and delineated by CGS. Figure 3 shows the designated Alquist-Priolo study zones, the closest of which is the Newport-Inglewood Fault approximately nine miles northeast of the city.

### *Liquefaction and Settlement*

Liquefaction is a ground failure phenomenon that occurs as a result of a seismic event. Liquefaction increases water content in surface soils until the soil reaches a semi-liquid state, contributing to a reduction in support, and ultimately resulting in shifting or subsidence of buildings and utilities. Ground failure typically occurs when the following conditions exist:

- Loose, unconsolidated granular soils
- Shallow groundwater
- Strong seismic ground shaking

While the Rolling Hills has moderate to high seismic shaking potential, the subsurface soils generally lack saturated alluvial deposits and thick, granular soils. Figure 4 shows the liquefaction hazard areas, which are located in the low-lying areas to the east and north, generally surrounding the Los Angeles Harbor and Harbor Lake. Liquefaction potential for Rolling Hills is low, as shown in Figure 4.

### **Earthquake Induced Landslides**

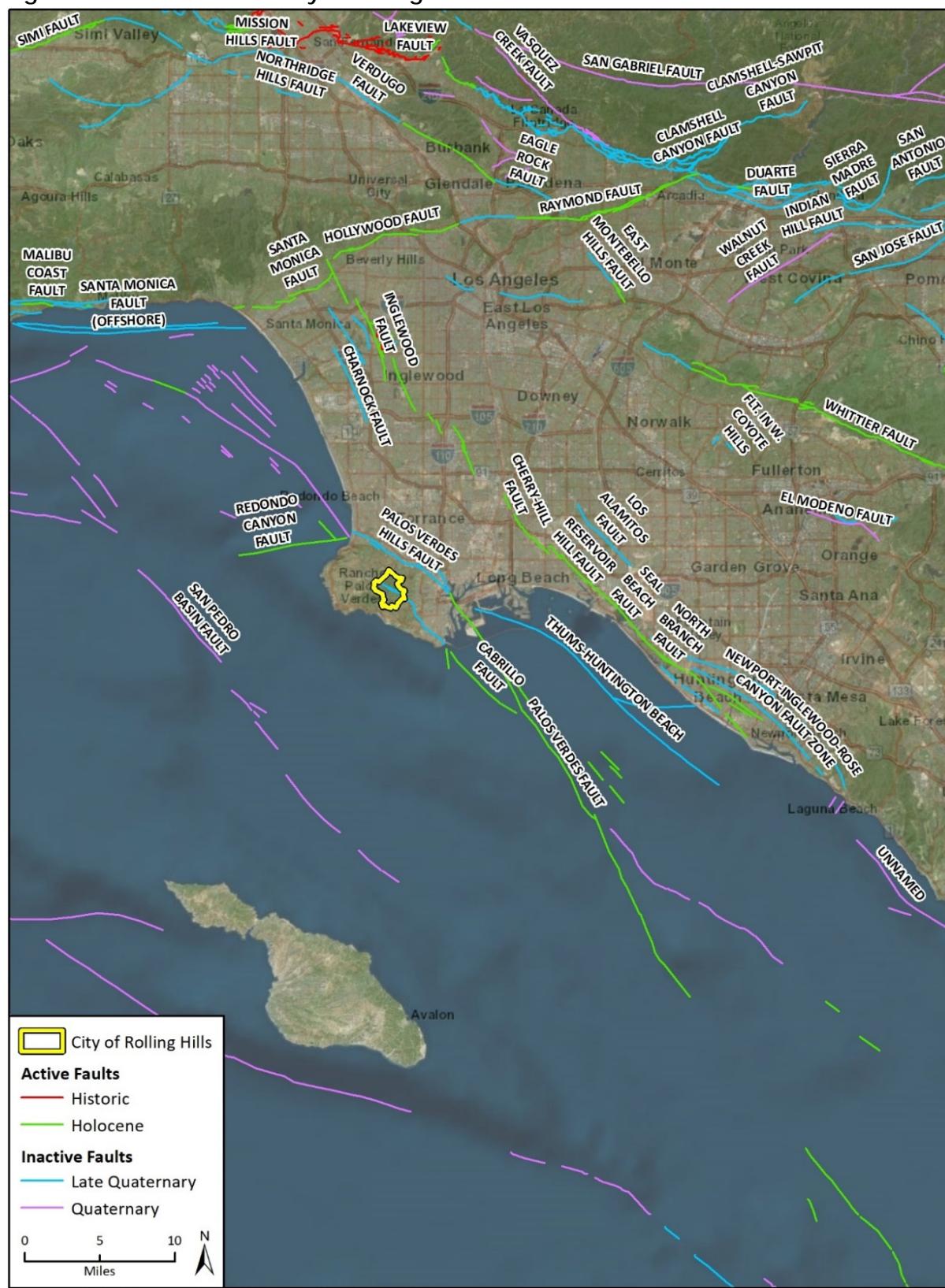
Ground failure or destabilization of slopes resulting from an earthquake can also occur following seismic activity in the form of Earthquake-Induced Landslides. Earthquake-induced landslides typically occur in areas with steep slopes or unstable soil conditions. As discussed above under Landslide Hazards, the risk of landslide activity in Rolling Hills is high. Much of the city overlies areas that have been identified as landslide zones by the California Geological Survey. Risk of landslide activity increases following rainfall events that result in saturated soils. Both shallow and deep seated landslides have historically occurred in the city.

## **Flooding**

Rolling Hills participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. According to the FEMA flood maps, the city is not located in a flood hazard area and currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2008). Overall, the city is not in any immediate risk from flooding caused by overflowing water bodies or heavy rains. However, runoff and minor flooding pose a risk if drainage systems fail along canyon bottoms, where natural drainage leads to.

City of Rolling Hills  
Rolling Hills General Plan Safety Element

Figure 3 Faults in the Vicinity of Rolling Hills



Imagery provided by ESRI, Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020. Additional data provided by California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, 2016.

Fig X Active Faults in Vicinity

Figure 4 Rolling Hills Liquefaction Hazard Areas



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.  
Additional data provided by California Geologic Survey, 2015.

Fig X Liquefaction Zones

## Dam Inundation

No water storage facilities that the State of California identifies as dams are located in Rolling Hills. Just outside city limits are three water storage facilities identified as dams, which include:

- **Palos Verdes Reservoir:** Owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and located at the southeast corner of Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive North. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the reservoir can hold approximately 1,100 gallons of water and has an extremely high downstream hazard.
- **10 MG Walteria and 18 MG Walteria:** Two reinforced concrete tanks which are owned by the City of Torrance and located at Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road. The tanks can hold 31 and 58 acre-feet (AF) of water respectively.

Senate Bill 92, adopted in 2017, is a new dam safety requirement that requires dam owners to map the downstream inundation areas for dams governed by the Department of Water Resources. Figure 5 shows the inundation areas for the nearby water storage facilities. Due to their locations and the topography of the area, the inundation areas do not enter or affect any portion of the city.

## Wildland and Urban Fires

The entire City of Rolling Hills is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), as shown in Figure 6. Rolling Hills terrain is comprised of several large and steep canyons that limit and challenge vegetation management and present conditions where a fire can quickly travel up and down slope to nearby homes. Due to the rural nature and large residential lots, many homes are surrounded by substantial vegetation and dense brush than in more suburban settings. The bridle trails for hikers and equestrian access also contain dense vegetation and management difficulties, which contributes to the fire risk of the city. Electrical power lines pose a hazard to starting fires in the city if lines are not automatically de-energized when knocked down by extreme weather or if the surrounding vegetation is not adequately managed.

There is a history of fires in the city and the surrounding Palos Verdes Peninsula. Three major fires have been documented on the Peninsula and in the city in:

- 1973: almost 1,000 acres burned, and 13 homes destroyed
- 2005: 212 acres burned near Del Cero Park
- 2009: 230 acres burned and forced 1,200 residents on the Peninsula to evacuate

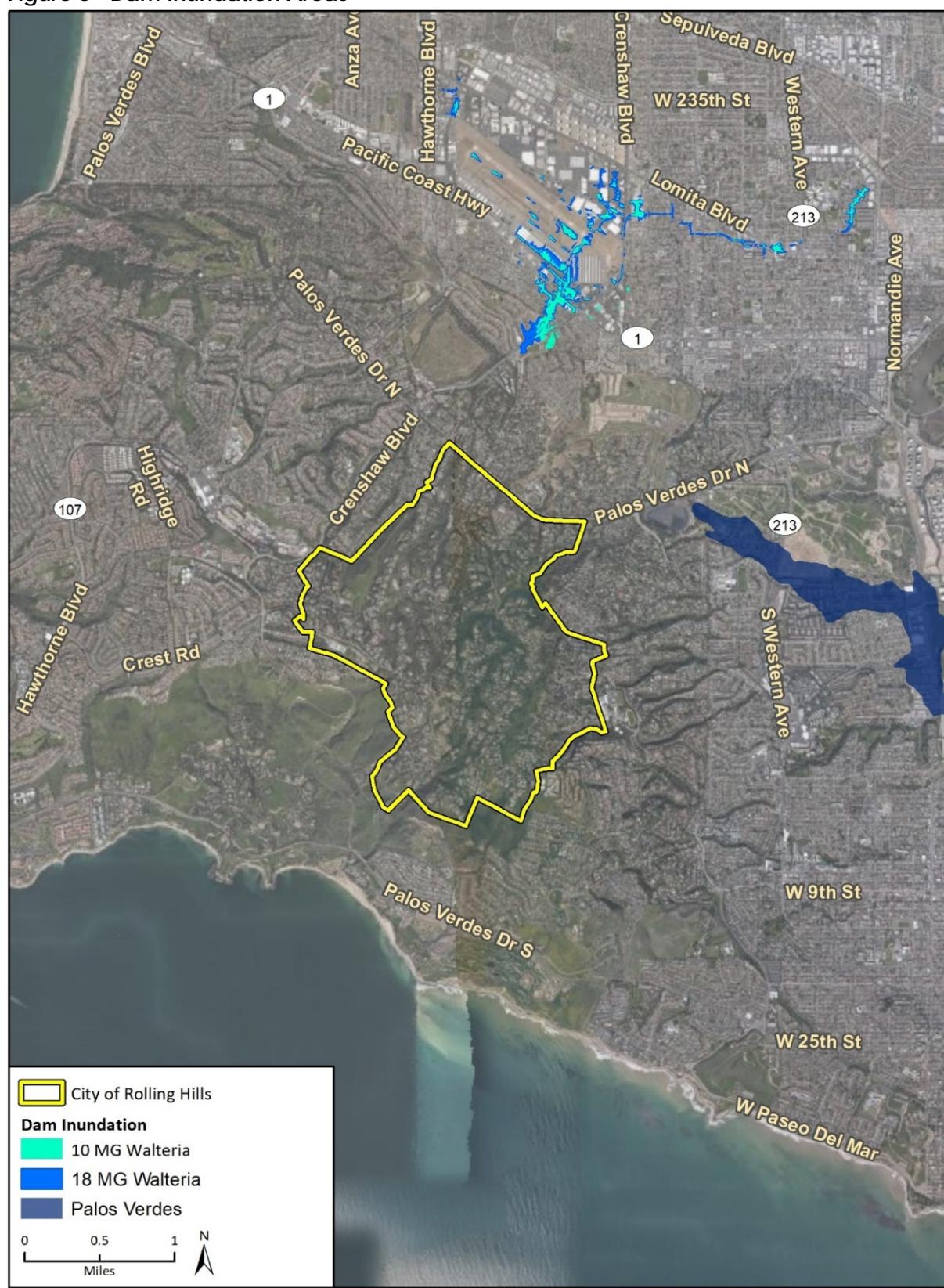
For many of the developed residences in the city that are vulnerable to fires, their risk may increase with the presence of construction techniques that may not meet current wildfire standards. Rolling Hills Building Code and Los Angeles County Fire Department, under the VHFHSZ standards, require new development to include more stringent design and material standards for roofing, eaves, and rafter tails as well as exterior finishes and fire buffer zones. While compliance with these standards reduces the vulnerability to new structures, existing structures that have not complied with these standards may be susceptible to undue fire risk.

## Existing Fire Risk Reduction Strategies

- Rolling Hills Municipal Code (RHMC) Chapter 8.30: Fire Fuel Abatement
- VHRHSZ building requirements

- Los Angeles County Fire Department property line and structure vegetation buffer requirements
- Rolling Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan vegetation management standard recommendations
- Rolling Hills Community Association

Figure 5 Dam Inundation Areas



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.  
Additional data provided by California Department of Water Resources, 2020.

Fig X Dam Inundation

Figure 6 Fire Hazard Zones



Fig X Fire Hazard zone

## Hazardous Materials

According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), there are no hazardous waste sites or facilities in Rolling Hills (DTSC 2020). The city and surrounding area do not contain heavy industrial uses that would create a hazardous material risk in the event of a spill, release, or natural disaster.

The city is not located near any major transit routes involving transport of a substantial quantity of hazardous material through the city. However, the nearby oil refineries (located along Sepulveda Boulevard approximately six miles northeast) and Port operations (located approximately three miles to the east) could create air quality impacts if wind patterns and release events occur. Air quality impacts are discussed in the *Open Space and Conservation Element* of the Rolling Hills General Plan.

## Emergency Response and Evacuation

### Police Response and Crime

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is contracted with the city to provide police services and protection to the city. The Lomita Station of the Sheriff's Department located at 26123 Narbonne Avenue, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Portuguese Bend Road entrance, serves the city.

According to the Lomita Station crimes report from January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020, Rolling Hills had three reported crimes (LACSD 2020). The crimes were related to theft, assault, and burglary. Outside the city limits and in the Lomita District, 433 crimes were reported during this same period, 71 of which were violent crimes (LACSD 2020). The difference in crimes in the city and the surrounding area is attributed to the private nature of the City. There are three entrances to the city, all of which are gated and staffed 24 hours a day. Visitors are required to be on a resident's guest list in order to enter city limits. This reduces crime within the city and demand on Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

### Fire Response

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides emergency operations support to the City. Fire Station 56, located at 12 Crest Road West, serves the city under Battalion 14, which also serves the remaining Palos Verdes Peninsula, Lomita, and Catalina Island. Fire response constraints in the city include ability to access certain homes or areas due to inadequate road widths for fire maneuvering. One of the major topics of concern related to fire response in the city relates to vegetation clearing along roadways. Ten-foot clearance on each side of the roadway, especially the limited access roads, is important for fire response and evacuation during a fire, according to Scott Hale, Assistant Fire Chief.

### Evacuation Strategies and Routes

Because a variety of hazards could affect city residents, it is vital to identify critical routes for evacuation in the event of a major event. Figure 7 identifies the existing evacuation routes in the city, which are limited to:

- Main Gate at Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North

- Crest Gate at Crest Road near Crenshaw Blvd
- Eastfield Gate at Eastfield Drive and Palos Verdes Drive East
- Crest Road East Gate at the end of Crest Road East

Crest Road East Gate at the end of Crest Road East gate has recently been updated with a motor and has no guards. This gate is available as an emergency exit to the city during emergencies. The recently adopted Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the city establishes evacuation strategies and methodologies for the city, which include:

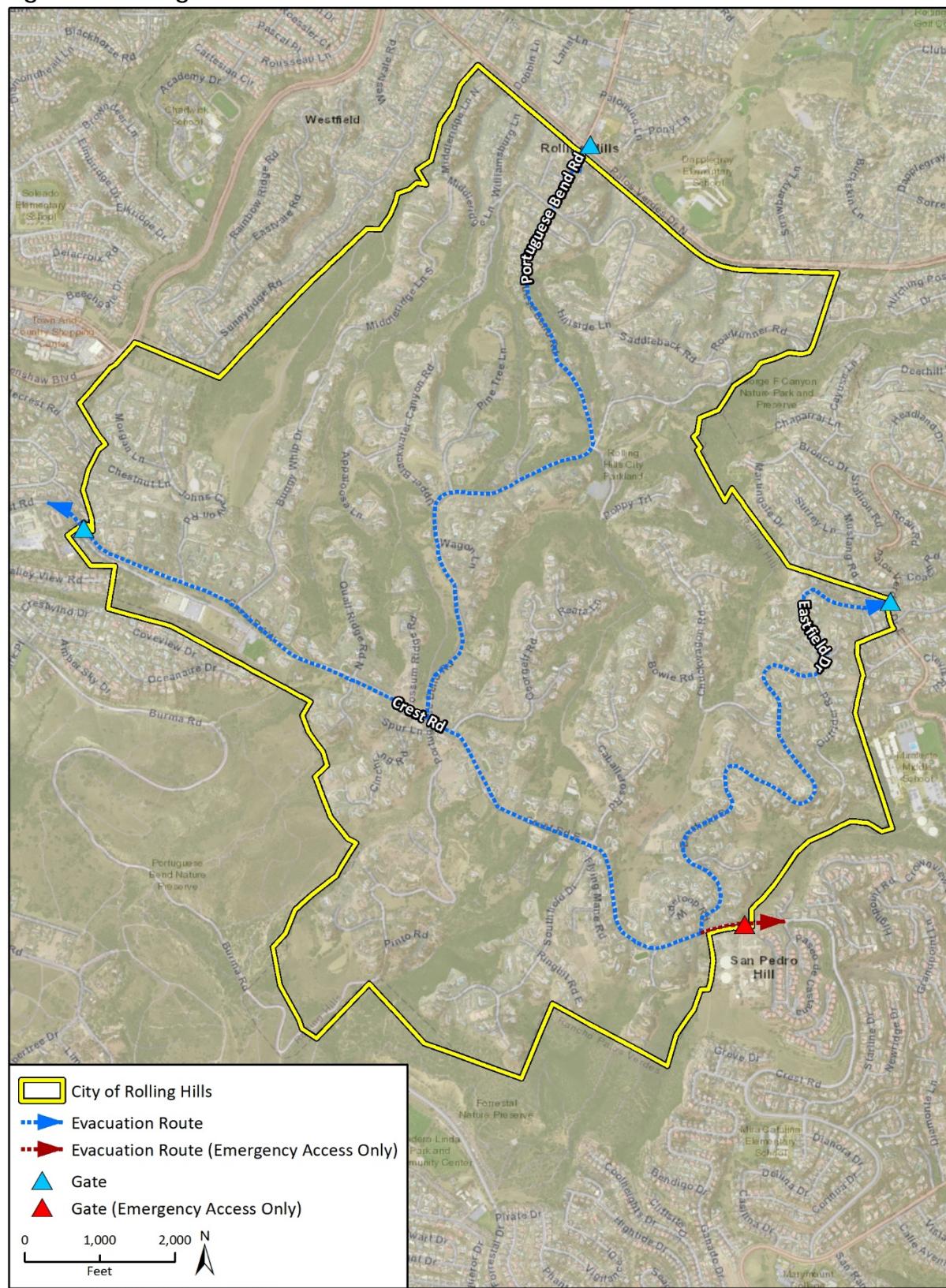
- Using the City's Block Captains as important coordinators and managers of residents in the 24 City zones<sup>3</sup>
- Communication goals between the City, emergency responders, Rolling Hills Community Association, and residents
- Details for residents regarding how people get notified during an actual evacuation and the responsibilities and operations of the Emergency Operations Center
- Traffic control responsibilities and levels
- Identification of special need residents who may need specific attention and/or assistance

---

<sup>3</sup> The city is divided into 24 zones and each zone has 2-3 block captains to represent the residents within the zone.

City of Rolling Hills  
Rolling Hills General Plan Safety Element

**Figure 7 Existing Evacuation Routes**



Imagery provided by ESRI and its licensors © 2020.

Fig X Evacuation Routes

# Climate Change Vulnerability

---

In accordance with Senate Bill 379, this section provides a climate change vulnerability assessment for Rolling Hills, which evaluates the potential impacts of climate change on community assets and populations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report defines vulnerability as “the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected.” It adds that vulnerability “encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt” (IPCC, 2013). Understanding the vulnerabilities that the city may face due to climate change provides a foundation to define future adaptation strategies for the Safety Element update and other planning efforts in Rolling Hills and the region.

Consistent with the California Adaptation Planning Guide (Cal OES 2020) the assessment is comprised of the following five elements:

- **Exposure** – the nature and degree to which the community experiences a stress or hazard;
- **Sensitivity** – the aspects of the community (i.e., people, structures, and functions) most affected by the identified exposures;
- **Potential Impacts** – the nature and degree to which the community is affected by a given stressor, change, or disturbance;
- **Adaptive Capacity** – the ability to cope with extreme events, to make changes, or to transform to a greater extent, including the ability to moderate potential damages and to take advantage of opportunities; and
- **Vulnerability Scoring** – systematic scoring based on potential impacts and adaptive capacity, to inform major climate vulnerabilities to address adaptation framework strategies.

In addition to City data, Cal-Adapt was used to complete the assessment. Cal-Adapt is an interactive, online platform developed by the University of California and Berkeley to synthesize climate change projections and climate impact research for California’s scientists and planners. This assessment uses Cal-Adapt to study potential future changes in average and extreme temperatures, precipitation, wildfire, and storms. Cal-Adapt is consistent with State guidance to use the “best available science” for evaluating climate change vulnerability.

This assessment uses two greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenarios included in Cal-Adapt’s analysis: Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5. RCP 4.5 describes a scenario in which GHG emissions peak around 2050, decline over the next 30 years and then stabilize by 2100 while RCP 8.5 is the scenario in which GHG emissions continue to rise through the middle of the century before leveling off around 2100. The climate projections used in this report are from four models selected by California’s Climate Action Team Research Working Group and the California Department of Water Resources. These models include:

- A *warm/dry* simulation (HadGEM2-ES)
- A *cooler/wetter* simulation (CNRM-CM5)
- An *average* simulation (CanESM2)

- The model that presents a simulation most unlike these three and incorporates 10 other models, for full representation of possible forecasts (MIROC5)<sup>4</sup>

The average of the model projections is used in this analysis.

## Exposure

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has the potential to adversely affect local health, natural resources, infrastructure, emergency response, and many other facets of society. Projected changes to climate are dependent on location. According to Cal-Adapt, climate change could lead to increasing temperatures, temperature extremes, and changes in precipitation patterns in Rolling Hills. These conditions could lead to exposure associated with extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and extreme storms in the region. The climate hazards of concern for Rolling Hills addressed in this analysis are:

- Extreme Heat
- Storms and Extreme Weather
- Drought
- Wildfire

### Extreme Heat

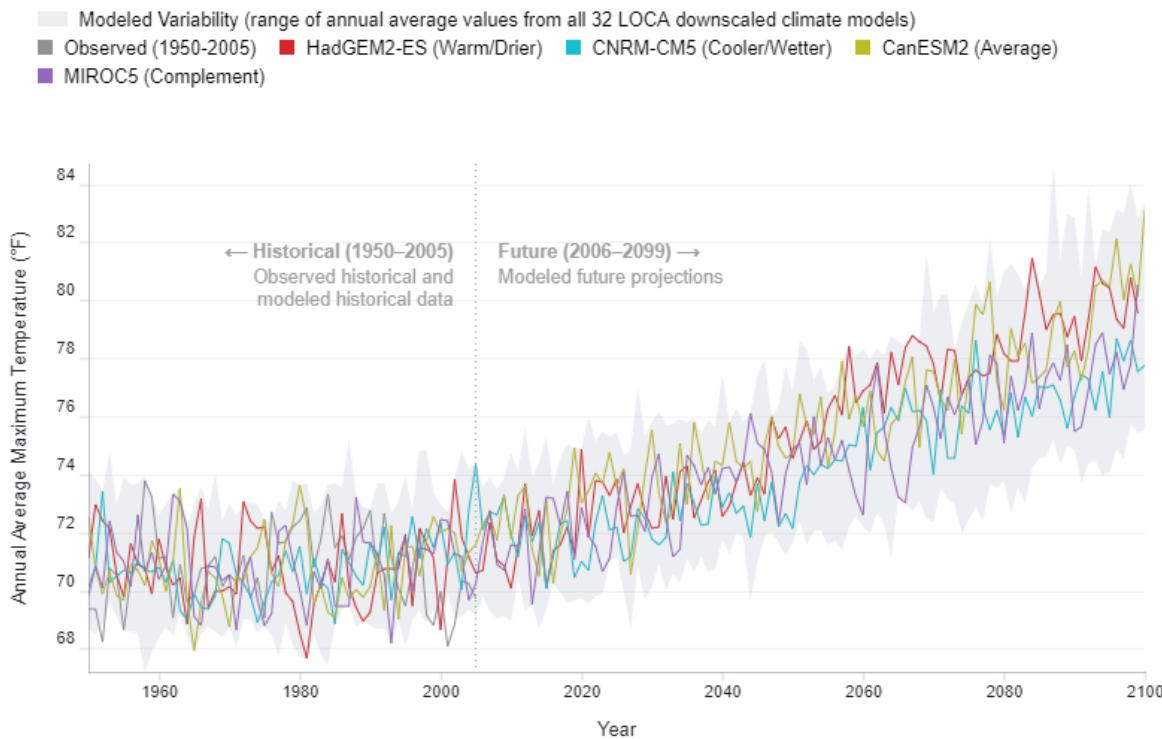
Figure 8 below shows observed and projected annual average maximum temperature in Rolling Hills. As shown in Figure 8, average temperatures in the city and region have increased, which is a trend at both the local scale and the global scale. Compared to 1990, annual average maximum temperatures in Rolling Hills are expected to rise between 1.8°F and 6.6°F by the end of the century, depending on the GHG emissions scenario (CEC 2020).

---

<sup>4</sup> There were 10 California GCM models that were ranked from 1-10 by California's Climate Action Team Research Working Group and the California Department of Water Resources for different temperature and precipitation factors. The models ranged from the "warm/dry" model which had all metrics closest to 1 to the "cool/wet" model which had all metrics closest to 10. The MIROC5 displays a pattern of ranking that is most unlike the other 3 models and therefore, is included to represent the full spread of all 10 model simulations.

---

**Figure 8 Historical and Projected Annual Average Maximum Temperature in Rolling Hills5**



Extreme heat is a period when temperatures are abnormally high relative to the normal temperature range. There are generally three types of extreme heat events:

- **Extreme Heat Days:** a day during which the maximum temperature surpasses 98 percent of all historic high temperatures for the area, using the time between April and October from 1950 to 2005 as the baseline
- **Warm Nights:** a day between April to October when the minimum temperature exceeds 98 percent of all historic minimum daytime temperatures observed between 1950 to 2005
- **Extreme Heat Waves:** a successive series of extreme heat days and warm nights where extreme temperatures do not abate. While no universally accepted minimum length of time for a heatwave event exists, Cal-Adapt considers four, successive extreme heat days and warm nights to be the minimum threshold for an extreme heatwave

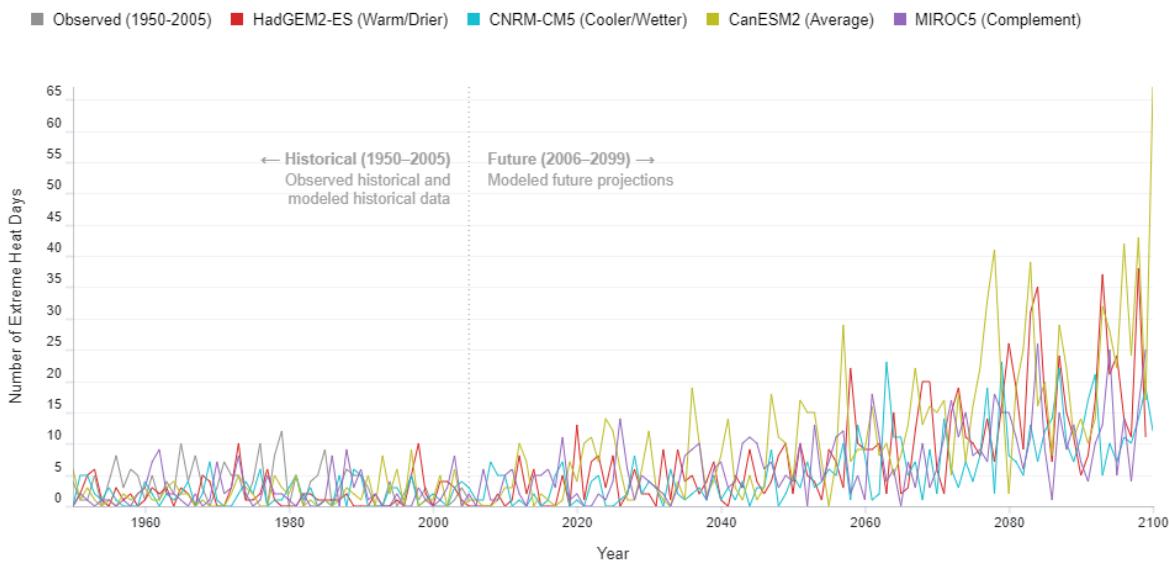
Extreme heat events will feel different from region to region since different areas have different historic high temperatures. For example, an extreme heat day on the coast will feel different than an extreme heat day in the desert. According to Cal-Adapt, an extreme heat day in Rolling Hills involves a temperature that exceeds 91.7°F (CEC 2020).

Historically (between 1950 and 2005), Rolling Hills experienced an average four extreme heat days per year, typically occurring between April and October. As a result of rising average temperatures and climate change as discussed above, the city is projected to experience between 8 and 14 extreme heat days annually from 2030 to 2099 under medium and high emissions projections (CEC

<sup>5</sup> Chart shows annual average maximum temperature for Rolling Hills (Grid Cell 33.78125, -118.34375) under RCP 8.5 (emissions continue to rise strongly through 2050 and plateau around 2100)

2020). As shown in Figure 9, the number of extreme heat days each year is variable, but overall they are increasing from historic averages and would continue to increase through the century.

**Figure 9 Number of Extreme Heat Days by Year in Rolling Hills<sup>6</sup>**



Extreme heat waves are defined as four or more consecutive extreme heat days. These events have been historically infrequent in Rolling Hills, with the historical average being 0.3 heat waves annually. The city is expected to experience a minor increase in heat wave frequency as the climate changes. Between 2030 and 2099, the city is projected to experience between 0.4 and 1.1 heat waves per year (CEC 2020).

## Drought

Droughts are somewhat frequent in California, and currently approximately 42 percent of California's population are in a drought, or in an abnormally dry area (NIDIS 2020). Changes in weather patterns resulting in increases in global average temperatures are already causing decreases in snowpack, which provides as much as a third of California's water supply (DWR 2019). According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Los Angeles County and Rolling Hills are not currently experiencing drought conditions based on this mapping (National Drought Mitigation Center 2020). Southern California is not currently considered to be in a drought condition, while other parts of the State (northern California and the Sierra Nevada mountain range) are experiencing moderate drought conditions due to lower than average precipitation.

The projected changes in annual precipitation for Rolling Hills are shown in Table 4. Under both the medium and high GHG emissions scenarios, Rolling Hills is not expected to experience substantial changes in average precipitation. However, the city would experience increased variability in precipitation. The city's minimum annual precipitation would decrease while the maximum annual precipitation would increase under both emissions scenarios.

<sup>6</sup> Chart shows the number of days in a year when daily maximum temperature is above the extreme heat threshold of 91.7°F for Rolling Hills (Grid Cell 33.78125, -118.34375) under RCP 8.5

**Table 4 Changes in Annual Average Precipitation**

Scenario	Annual Precipitation		
	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
Historical Average (1950-2005)	6.7	19.2	37.0
Medium Emissions Scenario (2030-2099)	6.0	21.3	48.2
High Emissions Scenario (2030-2099)	4.8	22.2	57.0

Source: CEC 2020

While overall precipitation levels are expected to change substantially in the city, a drought may occur when conditions in areas where water sources are located experience drought conditions, even though the local region does not. Rolling Hills obtains its water from the Palos Verdes District of the California Water Service. Water supply from the District to this area is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which imports its water from the Colorado River and State Water Project from northern California.

Recent research suggests that extended drought occurrence could become more pervasive in future decades (CEC 2020). An extended drought scenario is predicted for all of California from 2051 to 2070 under a climate model using business as usual conditions. The extended drought scenario is based on the average annual precipitation over 20 years. This average value equates to 78 percent of the historic median annual precipitation averaged for the North Coast and Sierra California Climate Tracker regions. Overall precipitation levels in the city are not expected to be significantly impacted. However, variability in precipitation and drought conditions in other areas of the state could impact water supply.

## Wildfire

Wildfire hazards to the city are widespread and discussed above under Hazards of Concern. Wildfires in the city are influenced by a range of factors including droughts, severe winds, wildfire fuel (i.e. dry vegetation), and previous wildfire suppression activity. Climate change is expected to exacerbate wildfire risk by creating hotter and drier landscapes, as discussed above under Extreme Heat, which are more susceptible to burning.

Cal-Adapt provides projections for annual mean hectares burned. This projection only accounts for areas that could experience wildfire events. Los Angeles County wildfire occurrence is anticipated to increase under all emissions and population scenarios from historic averages (CEC 2020). In 2020 alone, California has experienced six of the 20 largest fires in modern history and as of the date of this report, over three million acres of land have burned. These fires arose during extreme fire weather conditions and record-breaking heat waves across California. The observed frequency of autumn days with extreme fire weather, which are associated with extreme autumn wildfires, has more than doubled in California since the early 1980s (Goss et al. 2020). Due to the increases in factors that contribute to wildfires (variability in precipitation, hotter and dryer landscapes) and because the city is in a VHFZSZ, it is expected to see an increase in wildfire hazards due to climate change.

## Storms and Extreme Weather

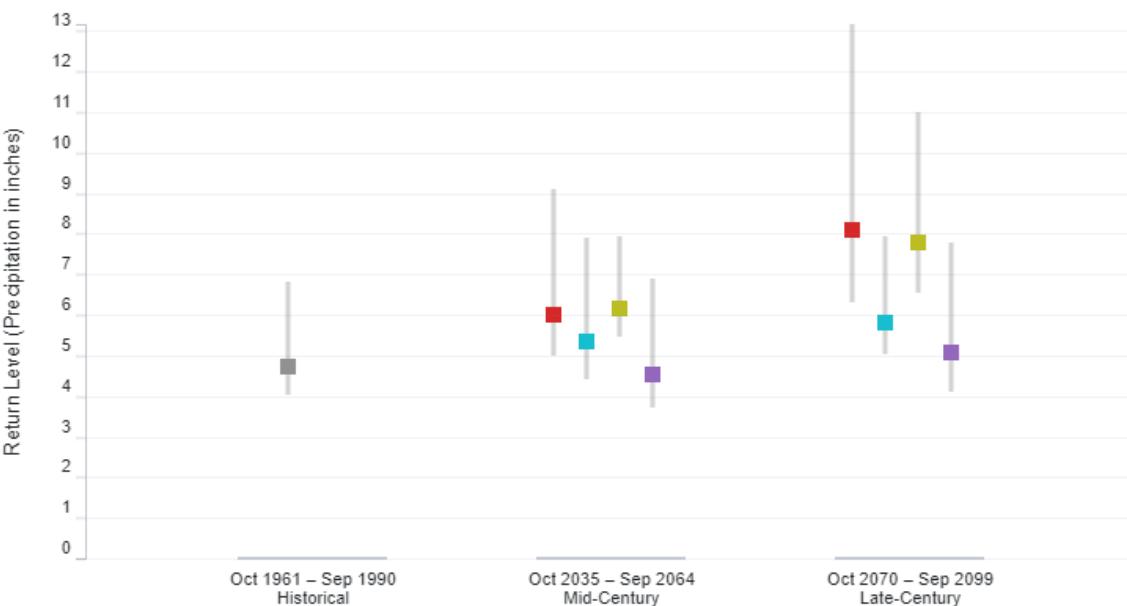
A warming climate is likely to influence the frequency and intensity of storms. Both increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns can lead to altered seasons and intense rainstorms in Rolling Hills. As depicted in Figure 10, there is a high degree of variability in these extreme

precipitation event projections, with some models projecting little to no change while others project increased intensity (CEC 2020). These projections further vary depending on the return period<sup>7</sup> selected. Increasing intensity of rainstorms could result in more flooding, which could adversely affect human safety in Rolling Hills. During years of intense levels of precipitation and storms, the city could also see an increase in the number of landslides or make landslides greater than usual. Due to the number of landslide hazard zones in the city, as shown in 2, Rolling Hills may see an increase in landslides due to changes in precipitation from climate change.

**Figure 10 Changes in Intensity of Extreme Precipitation Events in Rolling Hills<sup>8</sup>**

- Observed ■ HadGEM2-ES (Warm/Drier) ■ CNRM-CM5 (Cooler/Wetter) ■ CanESM2 (Average)
- MIROC5 (Complement)
- 95% Confidence Intervals

Note: Diminished certainty in return level estimates due to infrequent events ( $n < 100$ )



## Community Sensitivity

As climate change occurs, communities will be affected to varying degrees depending on the exposure levels as well as how sensitive the communities are to 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 the identified exposures, and how prevalent they are in the community.

As described in the Exposure section above, the most likely primary impacts of climate change that Rolling Hills may experience include extreme heat, increases in wildfire risk and prevalence, and drought conditions affecting water supply. This section of the Vulnerability Analysis identifies the

<sup>7</sup> Average time between extreme events (e.g., “1 in 100-year event”)

<sup>8</sup> Chart shows estimated intensity (Return Level) of Extreme Precipitation events which are exceeded on average once every 20 years (Return Period) for Rolling Hills (Grid Cell 33.78125, -118.34375) under RCP 8.5 emissions scenario. Extreme precipitation events are described as days during a water year (Oct-Sept) with 2-day rainfall totals above an extreme threshold of 1.02 inches.

sensitive areas of the Rolling Hills community from the demographic and community facility information in the Introduction section above and is based on the following categories:

- Populations
- Infrastructure
- Buildings and Facilities
- Services

## Populations

The vulnerability assessment considers the following population groups that may be disproportionately harmed by the impacts of climate change in Rolling Hills.

**Children:** Approximately 6.6 percent of the total population in Rolling Hills are ten years old or younger.

**Persons in poverty:** This is identified for people living in households with an income below the poverty limit, which is \$26,200 for a household of four people. There are approximately 26 people in Rolling Hills who live in poverty, or approximately 1.6 percent of the total population for whom poverty status can be determined.

**Persons with chronic health conditions:** These are people who have a long-term or permanent health condition that can create regular challenges in their day-to-day lives. These health problems include obesity, cancer, heart disease, and arthritis. In addition, those with any kind of disability, including mobility challenges, hearing, or vision impairments, behavioral disabilities, and challenges living independently or taking care of themselves. Approximately 11.5 percent of the population have identified having a disability.

**Renters:** These are people who live in homes that they (or the head of their household) do not own. Approximately 24 housing units, or 4 percent of the housing units in Rolling Hills, are renter-occupied.

**Older adults:** These are persons 65 years or older are more at risk for climate change impacts, especially those living alone. 28 percent of the population of Rolling Hills are over 65 years, and 15 percent of those over 65 years live alone.

**Limited English proficiency:** Approximately three percent of households have identified being limited English-speaking. Of those, a majority spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages and Spanish.

## Infrastructure

The vulnerability assessment considers the following infrastructure in the city that was identified as being sensitive to climate change impacts.

**Access Roads:** These roadways are one of a few, or the only, ways in and out of some communities or neighborhoods. The single or limited number of entry and exit points does not make the road itself more vulnerable than other roads, but loss of these roadways can effectively cut off large numbers of people from other areas in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the rest of Los Angeles County. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are the primary access roads into and out of the city.

**Bridle Trails:** Throughout the community are over 25 miles of trails available to city residents and non-city residents who obtain permits. The trails are maintained by the Rolling Hills Community Association and located primarily in canyon areas.

**Electrical Substations:** Electrical substations are facilities that convert electricity from one voltage to another, making it suitable for long-distance transmission or for use by homes, businesses, and other electrical customers. There are no electrical substations located within city limits, but three are located near the city in Rancho Palos Verdes and owned/operated by Southern California Edison.

**Electrical Utility Lines:** These lines transmit and deliver electricity from Southern California Edison to the city. The city has both underground and overhead electric utility lines.

**Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines:** Natural gas pipelines carry large volumes of natural gas between communities. There are no transmissions lines in the city. One transmission line ends at the intersection of Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive, adjacent to city limits.

**Water Reservoirs and System:** The system that stores and supplies drinking water for residents. Palos Verdes Water District of the California Water Service supplies water to Rolling Hills. There are two California Water Service water reservoirs within the city limits.

## Building and Facilities

**Residential Structures:** Residential structures in Rolling Hills consist of single-family dwellings and are the main type of building in the city.

**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. Rolling Hills is a private community. Therefore, community and government facilities are available only to its residents, which are the Rolling Hills Community Association and City Hall.

**Community Parks:** Storm Hill is an open space area owned by the City which is utilized for equestrian purposes. The City also has two equestrian rings and tennis courts.

**Schools:** Rancho Del Mar High School is the only school in the city

**Public Safety Facilities:** Public safety facilities include sheriff and fire buildings. Los Angeles County Fire Station 56 is located within the city. The Lomita Station of the Los Angeles County Sheriff serves the city but is not located within the city limits.

## Services

**Public Safety Response:** Public safety services are provided by law enforcement and fire agencies. These agencies include the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Fire Departments.

**Water Services:** These services involve treating and transporting water to be used by customers and transporting and treating wastewater so it can be safely released into the environment. California Water Service provides drinking water to the city.

**Energy delivery:** Energy services in Rolling Hills include electricity and natural gas delivered through utility lines from Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company.

## Potential Impacts

Impact vulnerability is the nature and degree to which the community is affected by a given stressor, change, or disturbance. As climate change continues to progress, increased stress to vulnerable community populations, infrastructure, building and facilities, and services are expected. As described in the Exposure section above, the most likely primary impacts of climate change

Rolling Hills may experience include extreme heat, wildfire, and drought conditions impacting water supply. The vulnerability of Rolling Hills to the primary exposures of climate change is discussed below. The vulnerability scores discussed in the Vulnerability Scoring section are based on the potential impact analysis below. Each of the vulnerable areas in the city were given a low, medium, or high vulnerability to the potential impacts, based off the descriptions in the Vulnerability Scoring section.

## Temperature and Extreme Heat

As described in the Exposure section above, Rolling Hills may experience a variety of impacts from climate change, which include an increase of average annual maximum temperature between 1.8°F and 6.6°F by the end of the century (CEC 2020). This increase in temperature may result in changes in seasonal patterns, an increase in heat waves, drought, and potentially increased storm frequency and intensity. Rolling Hills is expected to experience between 8 and 14 extreme heat days annually. Overall quality of life in the city would be impacted during extreme heat events as outdoor activities would be limited and overall comfort reduced.

The potential direct and indirect impacts to community populations, infrastructure, building and facilities, and services are described below.

### *Populations*

The vulnerable populations discussed above that are most at risk to extreme heat impacts from climate change are older adults, individuals with chronic conditions such as heart and lung disease, diabetes, and mental illnesses, children, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

The primary vulnerable population to temperature increases and extreme heat in Rolling Hills is older adults, as 28 percent of the city's population is over 65 years. 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 (CDC 2017a). Older adults who are 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 and do not have a living partner to assist them. Children are also at risk to extreme heat impacts, especially those under the age of four, due to their less-developed physiology, immune system, and dependence on others (CDC 2019).

Extreme heat can be highly dangerous to persons with chronic health conditions, because very high temperatures can exacerbate diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, respiratory ailments, and other diseases. Some of these people have weakened immune systems which can make them more likely to contract illnesses and vulnerable to human health hazards. In addition, they may be taking medications that make the effects of extreme heat worse (CDC 2017b).

While there are not many households in poverty in the city, those who are have limited financial resources to upgrade their homes and use air conditioning to better resist extreme heat.

Each of the vulnerable populations has a high potential impact from extreme heat.

### *Infrastructure*

Extreme heat and temperature increase due to climate change would not directly impact infrastructure in Rolling Hills. Indirect impacts on electrical substations and utility lines could occur from increased use of the system from running air conditioners, leading to power outages in the

city. In addition, indirect impacts to the water system through increased evaporation or water use could occur. These infrastructure facilities would have a medium potential impact from extreme heat.

### *Building and Facilities*

#### Extreme heat and temperature increase due to climate change

would not directly affect buildings or facilities in Rolling Hills. Extreme heat and temperature increases could impact the ability for residents to enjoy community park facilities. In addition, extreme heat could create wildfire conditions which could indirectly impact all buildings and facilities within the city. Overall, there is a low potential impact from extreme heat to City buildings and facilities.

### *Services*

The important services discussed above that are most at risk to extreme heat impacts from climate change are water services and energy delivery.

High temperatures would contribute to a reduced water supply. For instance, higher temperatures will melt the Sierra snowpack earlier and drive the snowline higher. In addition to a reduction in precipitation falling as snow, higher temperatures would result in less snowpack to supply water to California users (CNRA 2009). Increased temperatures could therefore result in decreased potable water supply for the city which relies on imported water from the State Water Project and Colorado River water (Cal Water 2016). Therefore, there is a medium potential impact for high temperatures and drought on 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. During extreme heat events in August 2020, California had its first rolling blackouts since 2001. Therefore, the city will experience greater potential for power outages due to climate change and has a medium potential impact.

### **Storms/Extreme Weather and Drought**

As mentioned in the Exposure section above, the storm and extreme weather projections for Rolling Hills show variability, with some models projecting little to no change while others project increased intensity. This could result in impacts to community populations, infrastructure, building and facilities, and services, particularly related to temporary flooding and landslides which can be triggered from intense rainfall events. The city currently has a less than 0.2 percent annual chance to be inundated by flood waters as a result of a storm event (FEMA 2008). Increases in intense precipitation could result in slope failures in landslide prone areas shown in Figure 2, including the existing Flying Triangle Landslide area.

As discussed in the Exposure section above, Rolling Hills is not expected to experience substantial changes in average precipitation. However, the city receives its water from the Colorado River and State Water Project from northern California, and extended drought scenario is predicted for these areas, which equates to 78 percent of the historic median annual precipitation. Therefore, areas that supply water to Rolling Hills and other jurisdictions are expected to see a 22 percent reduction of their water supply, which could reduce the amount of potable water available for delivery to the city.

### *Populations*

The city's older adults and those with chronic health conditions are the populations in Rolling Hills that are more at risk of injury and or death resulting from minor floods or fallen trees created by more intense storms induced by climate change. Indirect impacts to these populations from impacts to the transportation system could include reduced access to emergency response and health centers for those who need consistent medical care. There is a medium potential for impacts to these vulnerable populations.

### *Infrastructure*

Critical infrastructure most at risk in Rolling Hills to minor flooding impacts and landslides from increased storms would be access roads, bridle trails, electrical utility lines, and water systems. Because Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from the city, any damage or closure can effectively isolate areas of the city, potentially creating severe health and safety risks. Bridle trails are predominantly located in canyon areas, which would be more susceptible to flooding and landslides. Landslides could impact utilities, as seen in the existing Flying Triangle Landslide area, which has moved utility lines above ground in certain areas due to the continuous movement of the earth in this area. Due to the limited accessibility of the city, there is a medium potential impact for access roads and bridle trails and a low potential impact for the remaining vulnerable infrastructure.

### *Building and Facilities*

Buildings and facilities most at risk from impacts of more intense storms would be residential structures and community parks. The proper functioning residential septic systems could be impacted by more intense rainfall and minor flooding. In addition, landslides could be triggered as indirect impacts from more intense storms and rainfall. Residential structures located in landslide hazard areas shown in Figure 2 could be impacted. In addition, the Storm Hill open space area is an important facility in the city and is also located in a landslide area. Due to the variability in weather projections, there is a low potential impact for buildings and facilities.

### *Services*

Increased storm intensity and drought conditions from climate change could impact public safety response, energy delivery and water services in the city. Emergency response systems could be impacted from flooding or landslides within or outside of city limits, which could restrict the ability for emergency response to access the city and impact response times.

More intense storms could adversely affect electricity delivery from Southern California Edison from power outages caused by downed electrical utility lines from wind or landslide events. In addition, water service from the California Water Service Palos Verdes District could be affected by increased drought conditions throughout the state. There is a medium potential impact for buildings and facilities.

### **Wildfire**

Wildfires in Los Angeles County are projected to increase under all emissions and population scenarios. As discussed in the Exposure section above, wildfire hazards to the city are widespread and wildfire conditions are expected to be exacerbated by a range of factors including droughts,

more severe winds, wildfire fuel (i.e., dry vegetation), and hotter and drier landscapes from increased temperatures and extreme heat.

### *Populations*

The vulnerable populations discussed above that are most at risk to increases in wildfire from climate change are older adults, persons in poverty, and persons with chronic health conditions. Older adults are almost three times more likely to die in a fire than the overall population (USFA 2017), and typically have increased mobility issues or mental health. Therefore, older adults, especially those in the city living alone, have more difficulties evacuating to safe areas when there is a need. Those in Rolling Hills with limited financial resources are more unlikely to retrofit their homes to better resist climate-related hazards such as wildfires.

In addition to direct impacts, indirect impacts such as poor air quality also creates public health hazards to the city. Recent California wildfires in August and September 2020 had areas of California recording the worst air quality in the world and highlighted the hazards of secondary impacts from wildfires, which could impact the city from fires throughout the State. Older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions are likely to be impacted most by these secondary impacts. Also, those with limited finances or without air conditioning would be impacted by secondary smoke impacts that occur during local and regional wildfires. There is a high potential for wildfire impacts on the vulnerable populations.

### *Infrastructure*

All city infrastructure is located in a VHFHSZ. The critical infrastructure most at risk to increased wildfire impacts would be access roads, bridle trails, above ground electrical utility lines, and water systems. Portuguese Bend Road and Crest Road are critical for access to and evacuation from many areas of the city. Wildfires may not significantly damage the infrastructure, but they could result in closure or the inability to travel on them during wildfire events, which can isolate areas of the city and create severe health and safety risks. There is a high potential for impacts to access roads from wildfires.

Wildfires are unlikely to substantially damage trails directly, but they can force widespread trail closures which are an important asset to the community. Above ground electrical lines are also at risk from wildfires and could impact electricity services to residents in Rolling Hills. Water systems could be directly affected by wildfires in addition to indirect impacts from water use from firefighting activities and peak load water supply in remote portions of the city. There is a medium potential for impact to these infrastructures.

### *Building and Facilities*

As discussed under Hazards of Concern section, all of Rolling Hills is designated a VHFHSZ. Therefore, all buildings and facilities within the city are at risk of increased wildfires caused by climate change. The greatest potential impact of life and well-being would be to residential structures, which are the primary structures in the city. In addition, impacts to Rolling Hills Community Association and City Hall structures would impact community functions and government services. There is a high potential for impact to buildings and facilities from wildfire.

## Services

Energy delivery, specifically electricity delivery, could be impacted from increased wildfires. Direct impacts to Southern California Edison electricity transmission infrastructure could impact 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. In addition, public safety services could be strained during wildfire events, which are expected to increase. There is a medium potential for impacts to services in the city from wildfire.

## Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is the current ability to cope with climate change impacts to community populations and assets (Cal OES 2020). Specifically, adaptive capacity is the ability to mitigate the potential impacts and damages or take advantage of the opportunities from climate change. Many communities have adaptive capacity in the form of policies, plans, programs, or institutions. Rolling Hills has actively taken steps to increase the city's adaptive capacity, which include preparing a community wildfire protection plan, hazard mitigation plan, undergrounding utility lines, and adopting strict new building standards. Table 5 lists various guiding documents, projects, plans, and policies that have an underlying emphasis on adaptive capacity in the city.

**Table 5 Rolling Hills Existing Adaptive Capacity**

Project, Policy, or Plan	Year Established	Climate Change Impact
City of Rolling Hill Community Wildfire Protection Plan	2020	Wildfire
City of Rolling Hills Safety Element	2003	Wildfire, Storms
California Water Service Palos Verdes Water District Urban Water Management Plan	2016	Drought
Utility Undergrounding Requirement	n/a	Wildfire
Fire Prevention Power Line Undergrounding	2020	Wildfire
RHMC Chapter 8.30: Fire Fuel Abatement	n/a	Wildfire
Hazard Mitigation Plan	2019	Wildfire, Drought, Storm-induced Landslides
Emergency Operations Plan	2020	Wildfire, Storm, Extreme Heat
Emergency Notification and Notify Me	n/a	Wildfire, Storms
VHFHSZ Building Requirements	n/a	Wildfire
Rolling Hills Municipal Code Requirements for lot slope and lot stability	n/a	Storm-Induced Landslides

Rolling Hills has a number of plans and policies specific to wildfire hazards. The city's recently adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plan that includes fire mitigation strategies and evacuations strategies specific for the city. In addition, the Hazard Mitigation Plan provides an analysis of historical hazards, a local hazard assessment, hazard impacts on the community, and recommended mitigation strategies. The City requires the undergrounding of utility lines with specific home upgrades and has a reimbursement program for utility pole replacement. In addition, building code requirements for development within VHFHSZ, such as Class A roofing, would help reduce wildfire impacts to structures in the city.

The Rolling Hills Building and Zoning Codes include controls on development on steep slopes and canyon bottoms. In addition, development requires proof of stability of the property through geotechnical reports and only a percentage of each lot can be disturbed.

The Palos Verdes Water District's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) provides water supply and demand projections and includes a climate change analysis. The 2015 UWMP projected that water supply reductions to the District due to climate change would be small for through the end of the century. In addition, the UWMP includes a water shortage contingency plan and demand reduction measures in the event water supply to the District is impacts from drought due to climate change.

In addition, the city's population has a high degree of adaptive capacity due to the high levels of home ownership, low poverty levels, and high average income levels. These characteristics improve resident's ability to upgrade their homes and come back from potential impacts to their property from wildfire and extreme storm events.

## Vulnerability Scoring

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 accessed on a scale from 1 to 5:

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

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

- **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 6 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 6 Vulnerability Score Matrix**

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

The vulnerability scoring for the identified population and assets for each climate impact is included below in Table 7 and based on Cal OES California Adaptation Planning Guide. For those populations and assets that are not anticipated to be impacted directly or indirectly from the identified climate impacts, no vulnerability score or color is provided. For example, drought impacts on children were determined to not be a threat in Rolling Hills.

For the purposes of this vulnerability assessment, a score of V-4 or V-5 is considered significant. Populations and assets that score at least a V-4 for one or more exposures are considered substantially vulnerable. As shown in Table 7, the potential impacts from climate change the city's population and assets are most vulnerable to are wildfire, extreme heat, and landslides. Vulnerable populations such as older adults, residents with chronic health conditions, and those with financial trouble are most at risk to extreme heat and wildfire impacts and are substantially vulnerable to climate change impacts in the city. Access roads and residential structures are also the most vulnerable to wildfire and landslide impacts from climate change. Overall, climate change impacts on wildfire are the greatest potential impact to the city. While the City has adopted a significant number of adaptation strategies related to wildfire impacts, because they were recently adopted and some of the strategies were included as recommendations, it will be important to determine and monitor if implementation is occurring and which recommendations should be included in the Safety Element update.

This vulnerability assessment and the results in Table 7 will be used to identify specific policies and implementable strategies for adapting to climate change in the Safety Element, thus making the Rolling Hills community more resilient.

**Table 7 Vulnerability Assessment Results**

Community Sensitivity	Storms/Extreme Weather	Extreme Heat	Wildfire	Landslides
<b>Population</b>				
Children		V-3	V-2	V-2
Persons with Chronic Health Conditions	V-2	V-4	V-4	V-2
Persons in Poverty	V-2	V-3	V-4	V-2
Renters		V-3	V-2	V-2
Older Adults	V-2	V-4	V-4	V-2
Limited English Speaking			V-2	V-2
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Access Roads	V-2		V-4	V-3
Bridle Trails	V-2		V-3	V-2
Electrical Substations	V-1	V-2	V-3	
Electrical Utility Lines	V-2	V-1	V-3	V-2
Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines			V-2	V-2
Water Reservoirs and Systems	V-1	V-2	V-3	V-3
<b>Buildings and Facilities</b>				
Residential Structures	V-1		V-5	V-3
Community Facilities and Government Buildings	V-1		V-4	V-1
Community Parks	V-1	V-1	V-3	V-3
Schools	V-1		V-3	V-1
Public Safety Facilities	V-1		V-3	V-1

Community Sensitivity	Storms/Extreme Weather	Extreme Heat	Wildfire	Landslides
<b>Services</b>				
Public Safety Response	V-2		V-3	V-1
Water Services	V-2	V-2	V-3	V-2
Energy Delivery	V-2	V-3	V-4	V-2

Notes: Drought was not included in this table because the city's vulnerability to drought is primarily low. White boxes indicate very low to now vulnerability.

## Summary of Issues and Opportunities

---

Existing hazards of concern in the city that should be a major focus of the Safety Element update include landslide and wildfire hazards. In addition, emergency response and evacuation should be a focus due to the city's accessibility issues. Climate change is expected to increase potential hazards the city experiences. From the vulnerability analysis, the city is most vulnerable to wildfire impacts, extreme heat, and landslides impacts from climate change.

### Hazards of Concern and Community Sensitivity

While there are a number of hazards that could impact the city, the following are hazards of concern that pose the greatest challenge to the city.

#### Wildfire

The greatest hazard of concern for the city is wildfire as the entire city limits are within a VHFHSZ and the city contains many remote areas and limited evacuation routes. Some existing residential and accessory structures are not built to current standards that apply to VHFHSZ and as a result many of these structures may require mitigation and retrofit to reduce this potential threat. The area's most vulnerable to wildfire impacts include older adults, persons with chronic health conditions, residential structures, government and community buildings, and access roads.

#### Landslides

Landslides are also a major concern for the city, whether they are earthquake induced, induced from high precipitation events, or occur due to the underlying soil conditions. Existing landslides are impacting the southern portion of the city. Climate change has the potential to create more landslide events if Rolling Hills experiences more intense storms and precipitation events. The area's most vulnerable to landslide impacts include access roads, residential structures, and community parks.

#### Extreme Heat

The city is expected to see increases in the number and length of extreme heat days and events due to climate change, which could impact vulnerable people in the city and lead to increased wildfire risks. The area's most vulnerable to extreme heat impacts from climate change include older adults, persons with chronic health conditions, and the energy system.

### Opportunities

The need to further analyze evacuation routes and access is one of the most recent changes in Safety Element requirements. These new requirements focus on the identification of areas where routes are lacking or inadequate. A key opportunity for the Safety Element update is address specific evacuation needs.

The City has recently adopted a number of planning documents, such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan, that seek to reduce the risk of hazards in the city. Many of the strategies included in these documents are recommendations and are used for educational purposes. An opportunity for the Safety Element update would be to include the recommendations

as implementation tools for the Safety Element and to conduct outreach with the community to determine if community preparedness is occurring.

The California Legislature recently adopted Senate Bill 182 (SB 182) and is awaiting Governor approval. SB 182 would require the Safety Element to include a comprehensive retrofit strategy as necessary to reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires. Additionally, in order to reduce development pressures in the VHFHSZ through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, SB 182 requires a lower proportion of state housing allocation to jurisdictions that meet specified conditions. The City should monitor and incorporate these elements as necessary.

## References

---

- California Department of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC). 2020. Envirostor.  
<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=rolling+hills%2C+ca>. Accessed August 2020.
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2019. Climate Change Basics. Available at <https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Climate-Change-Basics>. Accessed September 2020.
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). 2020. California Adaptation Planning Guide. June 2020.
- California Water Service (Cal Water). 2016. 2015 Urban Water Management Plan: Palos Verdes District. June 2016.
- Center for Disease Control (CDC). 2017a. Heat and Older Adults.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/older-adults-heat.html>. Accessed September 2020.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2017b. Heat and People with Chronic Medical Conditions.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/medical.html>. Accessed September 2020.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2019. Heat and Infants and Children.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/children.html>. Accessed September 2020.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2008. Flood Insurance Rate Map 06037C1940F.
- Goss, Michael et al. 2020. Climate change is increasing the likelihood of extreme autumn wildfire conditions across California. Environmental Research Letters 15.094016
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2013. IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2013. Working Group I: The Physical Science Basis. Accessible at:  
<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LACSD). 2020. Lomita Station Part I Crimes.  
<http://shq.lasdnews.net/CrimeStats/CAASS/Patrol-CurrentMonth-YTD.PDF>. Accessed August 2020.
- National Drought Mitigation Center. 2020. U.S. Drought Monitor: California. September 15, 2020.  
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>. Accessed September 2020.
- National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). 2020. Drought in California.  
<https://www.drought.gov/drought/states/california>. Accessed October 2020.
- Rolling Hills, City of. 1990. General Plan Safety Element. June 25, 1990.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2019. Hazard Mitigation Plan. January 16, 2019.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2020. Community Wildfire Protection Plan. July 2020.
- Southern California Earthquake Center. 2013. Hazards and Threats Earthquakes List of Major Active Surface Faults in Southern California. March.
- University of California, Berkeley and California Energy Commission (CEC). 2020. Cal-Adapt.  
<https://cal-adapt.org/>. Accessed August 2020.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2018. Rolling Hills, City 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Rolling%20Hills%20city,%20California&g=1600000US0662602&tid=ACSDP5Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=false>.

Western Region Climate Center (WRCC). 2016. Period of Record Monthly Climate Summary.

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca8973>. Accessed August 2020.

*This page intentionally left blank.*

# Noise Element



June 25, 1990

NOISE ELEMENT  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Purpose of the Element	1
Relationship to Other Elements	2
Inventory of Current and Forecast Conditions	3
Sources of Noise	4
Noise Sensitive Receptors	5
Community Noise Measurement Survey	5
Community Noise Contours	8
Summary of Findings	13
Issues Summary	15
Goals and Policies	16

## **NOISE ELEMENT**

### **LIST OF TABLES**

<b><u>Table</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
N-1 Noise Measurement Results	7
N-2 Distance to Traffic Noise Contours: Existing and Future Conditions	11

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

<b><u>Figure</u></b>	
N-1 Noise Measurement Locations	6
N-2 Existing Noise Contours	9
N-3 Projected Noise Contours Under General Plan Buildout	10

# **NOISE ELEMENT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

---

The Noise Element of a General Plan is a comprehensive program for including noise control in the planning process. It is a tool for local planners to use in achieving and maintaining compatible land use with environmental noise levels. The Noise Element identifies noise sensitive land uses and noise sources, and defines areas of noise impact for the purpose of developing programs to ensure that Rolling Hills residents will be protected from excessive noise intrusion.

The Noise Element follows the revised State guidelines in the State Government Code Section 65302(f) and Section 46050.1 of the Health and Safety Code. The element quantifies the community noise environment in terms of noise exposure contours for both near and long-term levels of growth and traffic activity. The information will become a guideline for the development of land use policies to achieve compatible land uses and provide baseline levels and noise source identification for local noise ordinance enforcement.

### **Purpose of the Element**

The purpose of the Noise Element is to outline methods to reduce and control noise, in order to maintain and enhance Rolling Hills as a quiet residential community. Although the primary emphasis is on transportation noise, this element will also consider noise generated from non-transportation sources, including construction and various domestic origins.

This element embodies three major considerations:

- To provide a guide for the development of the Land Use Element by determining noise compatible land uses.
- To identify noise problems and noise sources in the community.
- To mitigate, regulate and propose alternatives to noise problems within the City.

## **Relationship to Other Elements**

The Noise Element is closely related to the Circulation, Land Use and Housing Elements. The primary noise sources in the City are roadway corridors, with noise levels varying depending on the number of vehicles in operation. Roadway location and classification, as defined by the Circulation Element, will determine the intensity and location of noise in the City. Inseparable from circulation considerations are the locations and types of land uses throughout the City. The location of circulation routes in relation to different land uses is a major determining factor of noise exposure. The high quality residential environment that the Housing Element seeks to maintain could be significantly impacted by noise, requiring close coordination between these elements.

## INVENTORY OF CURRENT AND FORECAST CONDITIONS

---

This section of the Noise Element contains a detailed description of the current and projected noise environment within Rolling Hills. This description of the noise environment is based on an identification of noise sources and noise sensitive land uses, a community noise measurement survey and noise contour maps.

To define noise exposure, the major sources of noise in the community must be identified. The sources of noise in Rolling Hills include: roadways, aircraft overflights, and stationary equipment. To completely assess the noise environment in the City, noise sensitive receptors must also be identified. As mandated by the State, noise sensitive receptors include, but are not limited to, areas containing schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term medical or mental care facilities, or any other land use area deemed noise sensitive by the local jurisdiction.

Based upon the identification of the major noise sources and the location of sensitive receptors, a noise measurement survey was conducted. The function of the survey is threefold. The first is to determine the existing noise levels at noise sensitive land uses. The second function is to provide empirical data for the correlation and calibration of the computer modeled noise environment. A third important aspect of the survey is to obtain an accurate description of the ambient noise levels in various areas throughout the City.

Noise contours for all of the major noise sources in Rolling Hills were developed based upon current and future traffic conditions. These contours were determined from the traffic levels for these sources. The contours are expressed in terms of the day-night noise level (Ldn). The existing conditions scenario is derived from 1987 traffic levels and environmental conditions. The future conditions scenario is based upon future traffic levels.

## Sources of Noise

The most common sources of noise in urban areas are transportation related noise sources. These include automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and aircraft. Motor vehicle noise is of concern because it is characterized by a high number of individual events which often create a sustained noise level and its proximity to areas sensitive to noise exposure. Aircraft operations, though less frequent, may generate high noise levels that can be disruptive to human activity.

The City of Rolling Hills has a very quiet sound environment with very few sources of noise. Noise sources in Rolling Hills fall into three basic categories. These are: minor arterial and collector roadways; aircraft overflights; and stationary sources. Each of these sources and their impacts on the noise environment of Rolling Hills are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Palos Verdes Drive is located on the northern boundary of the City of Rolling Hills. The collector roadways in the city include: Portuguese Bend Road, Crest Road, Eastfield Drive and Southfield Drive. These roadways are the major transportation noise sources within the City. Traffic noise on surface streets is a source of noise within the community. Residences exist along all of these roadways although, pursuant to zoning, most are setback a minimum of 50 feet from the front easement line.

Torrance Airport is a General Aviation Airport located to the north of the City. Operations from this airport occasionally overfly the City and consist primarily of small piston aircraft. While the number of overflights within the City is not significant, these aircraft do result in some occasional single-event disturbance.

Numerous other noises related to human and animal activity can disrupt the quietness of an area. Stationary noise sources in Rolling Hills include pool equipment, air conditioners, music, leaf blowers, tennis courts, paddle tennis courts and various other types of private recreational and athletic facilities. Noise generated by these facilities, e.g., bouncing balls, tennis ball machines and motor noises, have a more pronounced effect on the audible atmosphere in a City like Rolling Hills with a low ambient noise environment. Another source of nuisance noise in the community stems from the outdoor keeping of animals, such as dogs and horses. Such activities can usually be controlled through municipal noise standards.

The Noise Element calls for the creation of a municipal noise ordinance to regulate isolated peak noise events. The noise ordinance should include standards for location and screening of noise-generating uses, as well as maximum acceptable noise levels. Hours of operation and permitted activity should also be considered, and sliding scales developed for noise levels which vary by time of day. Noise generating uses should generally be sited at the maximum practical distance from adjacent residences. Screening should be considered in appropriate locations and designs for noise generating uses.

### **Noise Sensitive Receptors**

The City of Rolling Hills has a number of noise sensitive land uses. Within the city is a public school, as illustrated on the Existing Land Use Map (Figure LU-1). In addition, as an entirely residential community, all of Rolling Hills can be considered noise sensitive.

### **Community Noise Measurement Survey**

An assessment of the natural quiet and the noise sources in the City were determined through a community noise survey. The noise measurement survey was conducted at five noise sensitive locations which reflect the noise levels within the City. The locations of noise measurement are illustrated in Figure N-1. The results of the survey are found in Table N-1.

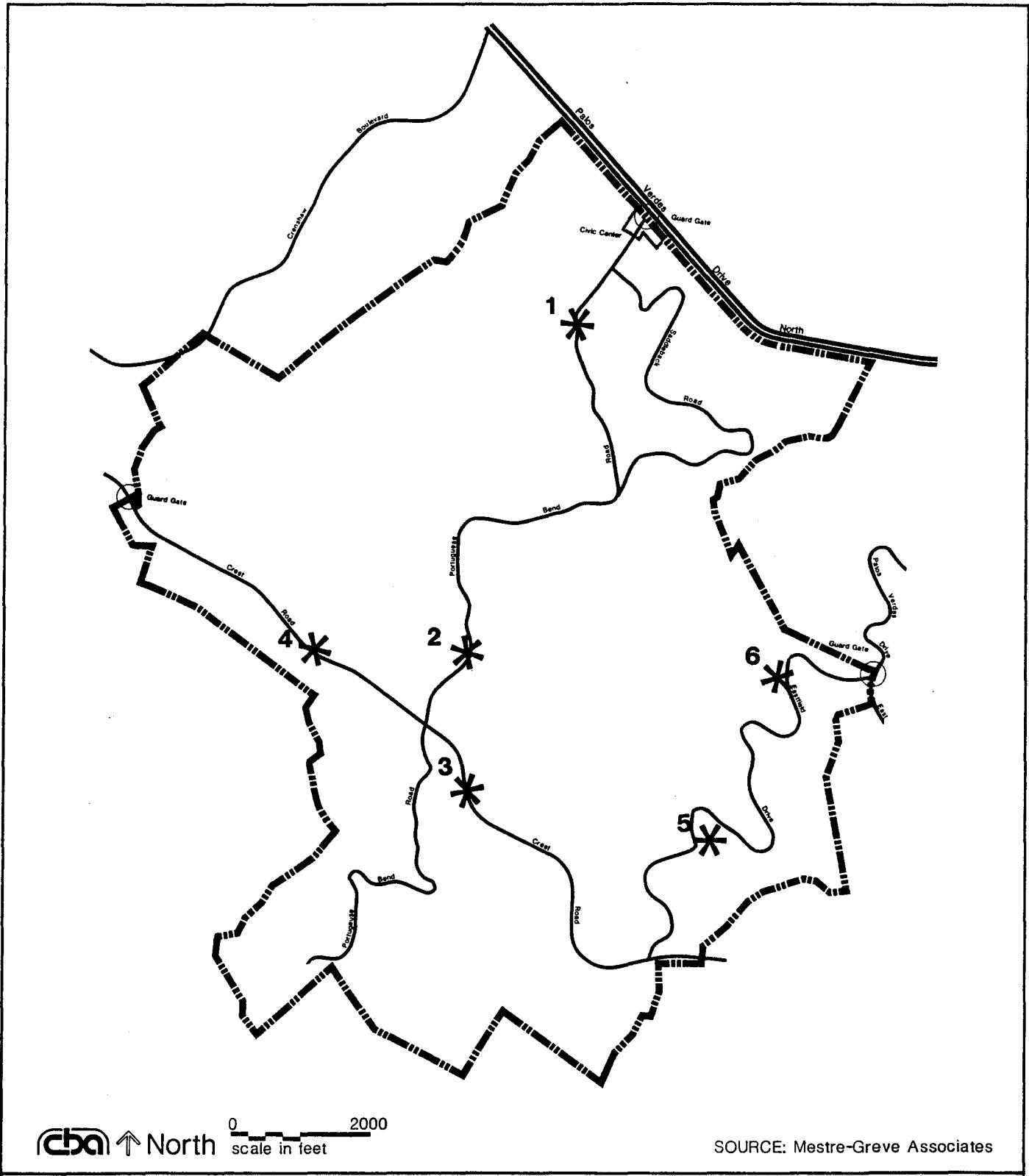


Figure N-1  
Noise Measurement Locations

JUNE 25, 1990

**TABLE N-1**  
**NOISE MEASUREMENT RESULTS**  
**AUGUST 1, 1989**

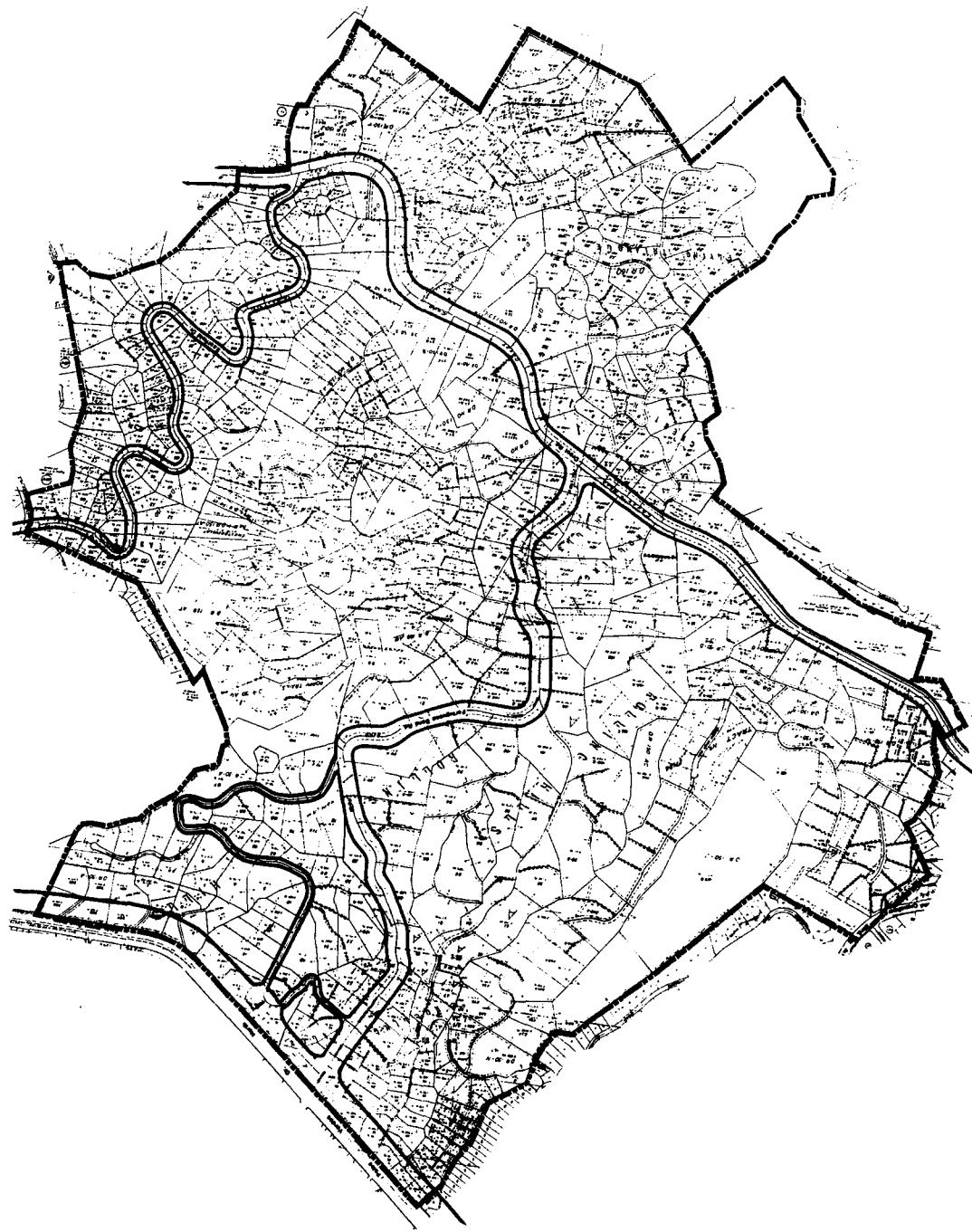
Site	Predominant Land Use	LEQ	Lmax	L1	L10	L50	L90	L99	Major Source of Noise
1. Portuguese Bend Road (S. of Saddle Back)	Residential	56	70	66	61	45	39	38	Local Traffic
2. Portuguese Bend Road (N. of Crest Road)	Residential	53	70	65	56	41	38	37	Local Traffic
3. Crest Road (E. of Portuguese Bend Road)	Residential	59	75	70	63	43	37	36	Local Traffic
4. Crest Road (E. of Portuguese Bend Road)	Residential	59	73	69	63	43	38	37	Local Traffic
5. Eastfield Drive (S. of Chuckwagon Rd.)	Residential	60	78	73	62	38	36	35	Local Traffic
6. Eastfield Drive (N. of Roundup Rd.)	Residential	58	74	70	61	44	40	38	Local Traffic

## **Community Noise Contours**

The day-night sound level (Ldn) is the measurement of noise exposure preferred by government agencies responsible for establishing noise standards and criteria. The Ldn represents an average of the A-weighted noise levels occurring in a 24-hour period, weighting noise that occurs at night (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) to account for the greater sensitivity that people have to noise at night.

The noise environment for Rolling Hills can be described using noise contours developed for the major noise sources in the City. The contours are developed for existing (1987) traffic conditions as presented in Figure C-1, as well as projected conditions under General Plan buildout, and are depicted in Figures N-2 and N-3. The contours are based on the existing and future conditions of traffic volumes. Noise contours represent lines of equal noise exposure, just as the contour lines on a topographic map are lines of equal elevation. The contours shown on the map are the 55 Ldn noise level. The noise contours presented should be used as guide for land use planning. The 55 Ldn contour defines the Noise Referral Zone. This is the noise level for which noise considerations should be included when making land use policy decisions.

The contours presented in this report are a graphic representation of the noise environment. These distances to contour values are also shown in tabularized format in Table N-2. Topography and intervening buildings or barriers have a very complex effect on the propagation of noise. To present a worst case estimate, the topographic effect is not included in these contours.



55 Ldn Noise Contour



↑ North

0

2000

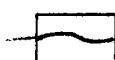
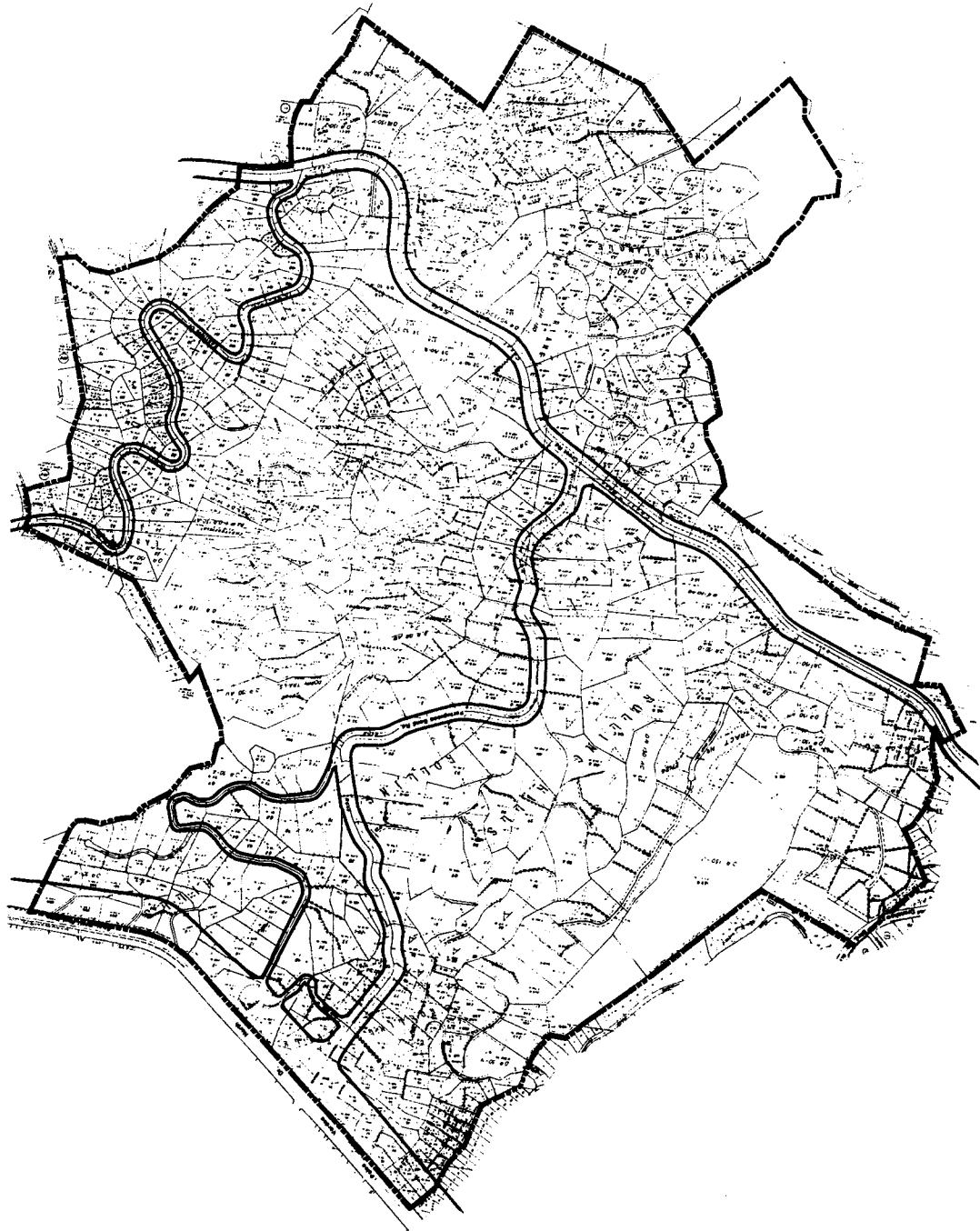
scale in feet

SOURCE: Mestre-Greve Associates



Figure N-2  
Existing Noise Contours

JUNE 25, 1990



55 Ldn Noise Contour

cba ↑ North

0 2000  
scale in feet

SOURCE: Mestre-Greve Associates



Figure N-3  
Projected Noise Contours  
Under General Plan Buildout

JUNE 25, 1990

**TABLE N-2**  
**DISTANCE TO TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS**

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Roadway Name	Index (,000)	ADT	Speed	LDN@ 100 ft.	Distance to Contour (feet)		
					50 LDN	55 LDN	60 LDN
<b>CREST ROAD</b>							
East Gate - Buggy Whip Dr.	1	2.3	35	53.3	167	77	36
Buggy Whip Dr. - Portuguese Rd.	1	1.1	35	50.1	102	47	22
Portuguese Rd. - Southfield Dr.	1	2.6	35	53.9	181	84	39
<b>EASTFIELD</b>							
Southfield Dr. - Chuckwagon Rd.	1	1.4	35	51.2	120	56	26
Chuckwagon Rd. - P.V. Drive East	1	2.0	35	52.7	152	70	33
<b>PORUGUESE BEND ROAD</b>							
P.V. Drive N - Saddleback	1	4.0	35	55.7	241	112	52
Saddleback - Saddleback	1	4.0	35	55.7	241	112	52
Saddleback - Crest Rd.	1	2.5	35	55.7	176	82	38
<b>SADDLEBACK ROAD</b>							
Portuguese Rd. - Portuguese Rd.	1	0.4	35	45.7	52	24	11
<b>PALOS VERDES DRIVE SOUTH</b>							
West - Rolling Hills Rd.	1	28.0	35	64.2	882	410	190
Rolling Hills Rd. - East	1	35.0	35	65.1	1024	475	221

**TABLE N-2**  
**DISTANCE TO TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS**  
**(continued)**

**FUTURE CONDITIONS**

Roadway Name	Index	ADT (,000)	Speed	LDN@ 100 ft.	Distance to Contour (feet) 50 LDN	55 LDN	60 LDN
<b>CREST ROAD</b>							
East Gate - Buggy Whip Dr.	1	2.48	35	53.6	175	81	38
Buggy Whip Dr. - Portuguese Rd.	1	1.21	35	50.5	108	50	23
Portuguese Rd. - Southfield Dr.	1	2.73	35	54.1	187	87	40
<b>EASTFIELD</b>							
Southfield Dr. - Chuckwagon Rd.	1	1.52	35	51.5	126	59	27
Chuckwagon Rd. - P.V. Drive East	1	2.13	35	53.0	158	73	34
<b>PORUGUESE BEND ROAD</b>							
P.V. Drive N - Saddleback	1	4.30	35	56.0	253	117	54
Saddleback - Saddleback	1	4.06	35	55.8	244	113	52
Saddleback - Crest Rd.	1	3.40	35	55.0	216	100	47
<b>SADDLEBACK ROAD</b>							
Portuguese Rd. - Portuguese Rd.	1	0.42	35	45.9	54	25	12
<b>PALOS VERDES DRIVE SOUTH</b>							
West - Rolling Hills Rd.	1	34.00	35	65.0	1004	446	216
Rolling Hills Rd. - East	1	42.70	35	65.0	1169	543	252

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

---

The sound levels in Rolling Hills are generally low and indicative of a rural environment. In most areas around the City, there are no significant noise sources. Where there are noise sources, the predominate sources of noise in Rolling Hills, as in most other communities, come from mobile noise sources including motor vehicles. Minor arterial roadways adjacent to the City and collector roadways within the City expose portions of the City to traffic noise levels. General aviation aircraft operations from Torrance Municipal Airport also contribute to the noise environment. The noise impact due to aircraft are considered minimal but do result in occasional single event disturbance. Other sources of noise within the City are from non-transportation sources including mechanical equipment or construction noise. The primary source of equipment noise is from pool pumps/filters, air conditioners, music and leaf blowers. The noise environment in Rolling Hills is typical of a rural setting, except at locations directly affected by these transportation and non-transportation noise sources. In most locations around the City, noise is limited to the sounds of nature.

Noise affects all types of land uses and activities, although some are more sensitive to high noise levels than others. Land uses identified as noise sensitive include residences of all types, hospitals, rest homes, convalescent hospitals, places of worship and schools. As an entirely residential community, all of Rolling Hills can be considered noise sensitive.

Based on a net potential increase in 59 residential dwellings under General Plan buildout, the quiet noise environment in Rolling Hills will likely remain intact. Nonetheless, the Noise Contour Maps (Figures N-2 and N-3) do illustrate slight increases in traffic noise levels generated by increases in traffic volumes. The 55 Ldn contour illustrated on these maps represents the Noise Referral Zone for which any proposed noise sensitive land use within this zone should be evaluated on a project specific basis. For the City of Rolling Hills, 55 Ldn represents zones where residential development should be discouraged without proper mitigation as part of the project. This is designed to ensure continued quiet living environments within the City.

The sources of noise in Rolling Hills can be divided into two basic categories, transportation sources and non-transportation sources. A local government has little direct control of transportation noise

at the source. State and Federal agencies have the responsibility to control the noise from the source, such as vehicle noise emission levels. The most effective method the City has to mitigate transportation noise is through reducing the impact of the noise onto the community (i.e., noise barriers and site design review) or reducing the level of traffic or speeds.

The most effective method to control community noise impacts from non-transportation noise sources is through application of a Community Noise Ordinance. The Noise Element calls for the development of Community Noise Ordinance to help ensure that City residents are not exposed to excessive noise levels from non-transportation noise sources. The Noise Ordinance should be designed to protect quiet residential areas from stationary noise sources. The noise levels encouraged by the ordinance would be typical of a quiet residential area.

## ISSUES SUMMARY

---

Rolling Hills does not currently experience significant noise conflicts. However, as development and related traffic volumes and noise-generating activities increase, so will potential noise. The following issues have been identified as part of the General Plan Update and will be addressed in the Noise Element goals and policies.

**Transportation Noise Control** - The noise environment in Rolling Hills is indicative of a quiet residential environment without any significant noise sources. Within and adjacent to the City of Rolling Hills are some transportation related noise sources including a minor arterial roadway adjacent to the City, collector roadways within the City, and occasional aircraft overflights. These sources are contributors of noise in Rolling Hills. Strategies to reduce their influence on the community noise environment are part of the Noise Element.

**Noise and Land Use Planning Integration** - Information relative to the existing and forecast noise environment within Rolling Hills should be integrated into future land use planning decisions. The Element presents the noise environment in order that the City may include noise considerations in development programs.

**Community Noise Control for Non-Transportation Noise Sources** - Residential land uses and areas identified as noise sensitive must be protected from excessive noise from non-transportation sources including mechanical equipment and construction. These impacts are most effectively controlled through the application of a City Noise Ordinance.

## **GOALS AND POLICIES**

---

The following goals and policies were developed as part of the General Plan Update and reflect input received from the General Plan Advisory Committee. They have been prepared to ensure noise compatible land use planning in Rolling Hills.

**GOAL 1: Preserve and enhance Rolling Hills' quiet rural atmosphere.**

**Policy 1.1:** Develop and implement a comprehensive community Noise Ordinance to provide mitigation of noise-generating uses.

**Policy 1.2:** Require the location of public and private recreational activities to limit the noise impact on adjacent residences.

**Policy 1.3:** Require the location of animal holding areas to minimize noise spillover onto surrounding properties.

**Policy 1.4:** Promote the use of landscaping to obscure noise production from roadways and adjacent properties.

**Policy 1.5:** Reduce transportation noise through strict enforcement of speed limits in the City.

**Policy 1.6:** Evaluate noise generated by construction activities, and appropriately regulate through a Community Noise Ordinance.