



2017

# LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



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Desert Hot Springs  
6/16/2017

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## PLAN ADOPTION/RESOLUTION

The City of Desert Hot Springs will submit plans to Riverside County Emergency Management Department who will forward to California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) for review prior to being submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, we will wait to receive an "Approval Pending Adoption" letter from FEMA before taking the plan to our local governing bodies for adoption. Upon approval, the City of Desert Hot Springs will insert the signed resolution.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this local hazard mitigation plan is to identify the County's hazards, review and assess past disaster occurrences, estimate the probability of future occurrences and set goals to mitigate potential risks to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural and man-made hazards.

The plan was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to achieve eligibility and potentially secure mitigation funding through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs.

The City of Desert Hot Springs' continual efforts to maintain a disaster-mitigation strategy is ongoing. Our goal is to develop and maintain an all-inclusive plan to include all jurisdictions, special districts, businesses and community organizations to promote consistency, continuity and unification.

The City's planning process followed a methodology presented by FEMA and CAL-OES which included conducting meetings with the Operational Area Planning Committee (OAPC) coordinated by Riverside County Emergency Management Department (EMD) comprised of participating Federal, State and local jurisdictions agencies, special districts, school districts, non-profit communities, universities, businesses, tribes and general public.

The plan identifies vulnerabilities, provides recommendations for prioritized mitigation actions, evaluates resources and identifies mitigation shortcomings, provides future mitigation planning and maintenance of existing plan.

The plan will be implemented upon FEMA approval.

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## SECTION 1.0 - COMMUNITY PROFILE

### 1.1 CITY MAP



### 1.2 GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE DESCRIPTION

Desert Hot Springs is located approximately 112 miles from Los Angeles, in the center of Riverside County. The city sits in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, and overlooks the entire Coachella Valley. The southern city boundaries are adjacent to Palm Springs and Cathedral City, predominately divided by Interstate 10. To the east of the city is the unincorporated community of Sky Valley. To the west are the unincorporated areas of North Palm Springs and White Water. To the north of the city is predominately Joshua Tree National Monument governed by the National Park System and lands governed by the Department of Interior,

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The City also sits at two entry points of the recently recognized, Sand to Snow National Monument.

The area has sparse vegetation, which is consistent with the Southern California lower desert. Annual grass and desert flowers are dependent on annual precipitation averaging just over 5 inches a year. Temperatures during the summer can reach 115 degrees during the peak day and the high 80's during the night. Winter temperatures are in the high 70's to low 80's and lows at night average in the 50's. Summers tend to produce occasional monsoonal thunder storms, while the winter tends to be windy, depending on the low pressures systems reacting with the local mountain ranges.

### **1.3 BRIEF HISTORY**

In 1913 Cabot Yerxa arrived in the City. He was the first Homesteader and discovered hot water on Miracle Hill. Due to the San Andreas Fault bisecting the hill, one side has cold water, the other has hot. His large adobe, hand built by Yerxa, is one of the oldest adobe structures in Riverside County and is listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places.

The town was founded by L. W. Coffee on July 12, 1941. The original site was centered on the intersection of Palm Drive and Pierson Blvd. and was only a square mile in area. He named it Desert Hot Springs in honor of the waters Yerxa had discovered.

The City of Desert Hot Springs incorporated in 1963, with 1,000 residents. Since that time, Desert Hot Springs has solidified itself as a tourist destination through its small spa hotels. In its early days the city's seclusion appealed to move-in urban "escapees." Realtors arrived to speculate real estate appraisal of thousands of vacant lots and over time, homes were bought by sun-seeking retirees.

Desert Hot Springs experienced periods of dizzying growth in the 1980s and 1990s when most of the vacant lots were filled with new houses and duplex apartments. The city's population doubled in the 1980s and increased by another 5,000 in the 2000 census. Between 2000 and 2010 the population grew by 9000 residents resulting in a final population count of 25,938 full time residents following the 2010 census. With much of the City's land undeveloped, development in the city and population is expected to steadily grow for many years to come.

The City is the home to (5) Elementary Schools, (2) Middle Schools and (1) High School, (3) Parks and a Health and Wellness Center serving residents of the Community. In 2014 the City Council adopted Ordinances allowing for Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and the large scale Cultivation of Medical Marijuana. Development of this rapidly growing industry is permitted in the Industrial Zone of the City.

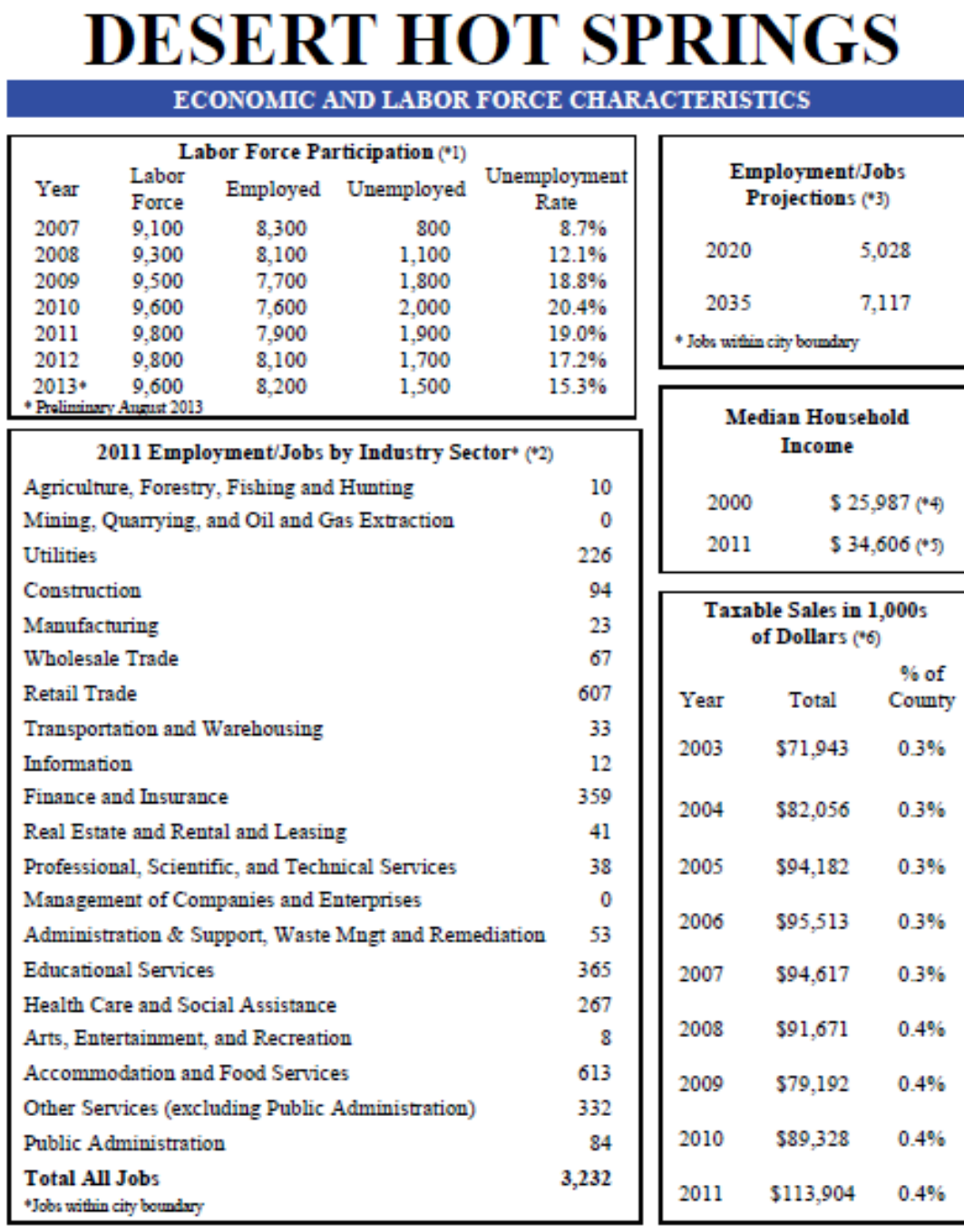
### **1.4 ECONOMY DESCRIPTION**

The City of Desert Hot Springs is primarily a bedroom community. Development in the City is 75 percent residential, 17 percent commercial, and 8 percent industrial, which limits the sales and property tax base. The largest employers are the City, Water District, a large grocery store,



and a large retail store. The City was in negotiations with Wal-Mart for a future sight within its city limits and finally got approved in 2016. The Walmart will be built off of the streets Palm Drive and Camino Aventura and is in hopes of having the building process take place as early as summer of 2017. With this new retail store, it is estimated to bring half a million dollars in tax revenue for the City. In addition, the City recently completed an annexation of approximately 6 square mile to increase the opportunity for commercial development and creating addition open space. The City is in the process of annexing additional lands to support additional economy with in The City. Unfortunately, the majority of residents travel to other areas to shop, decreasing the taxable income of the City. However, the increased availability for commercial land hopes to attract new investors by creating highly desirable locations.

Figure 1.4.1 – Economic and Labor Force Characteristics



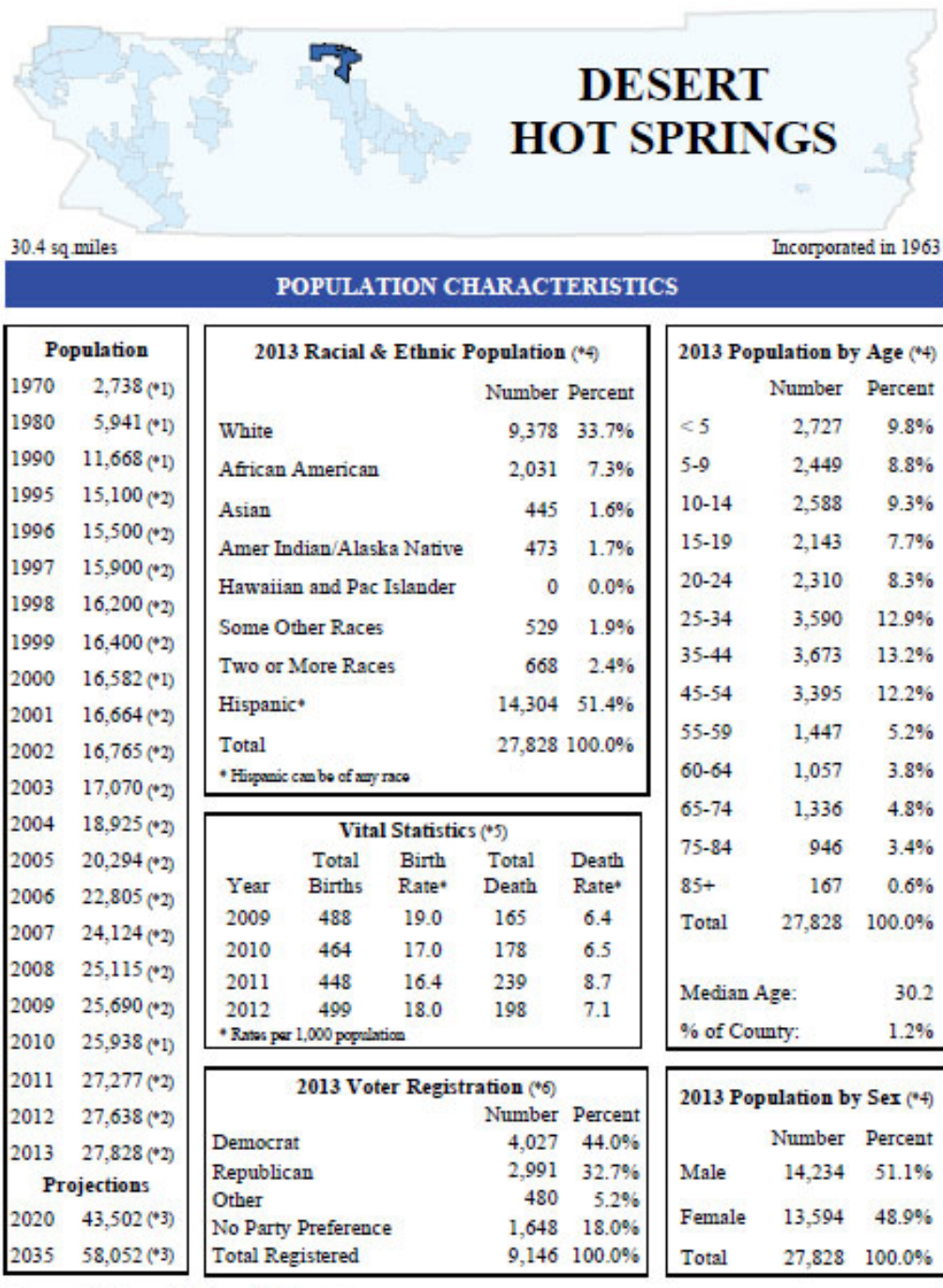
Sources: (\*1) CA Employment Development Department (City residents working anywhere. Data are not seasonally adjusted)  
 (\*2) U.S. Census Bureau Local Employment Dynamics  
 (\*3) Riverside County Projections (RCP10)  
 (\*4) Decennial Census, US Census Bureau (in 1999 inflation-adjusted dollars).  
 (\*5) 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars).  
 (\*6) State Board of Equalization  
 Note: Totals might not add up due to rounding.  
 Comparing data between years may be problematic because of incorporations & annexations.  
 Projections are based on April 1, 2010 boundary; therefore, current or future employment in the annexed area may not be reflected in these projections.

## **1.5 POPULATION AND HOUSING**

The City, after a recent annexation, now encompasses nearly 29 square miles and a major interstate is now within the southern city limits. The additional opportunities available for future development have been made available by the annexation and the newly created enterprise zone. As the economy rebounds the City of Desert Hot Spring will have the potential to be one of the fastest growing communities, bringing the needed tax revenue back to the citizens to support critical infrastructure. Limited housing starts have occurred in the past several years because of the economic down turn. The City population is currently estimated at nearly 28,000 residents.

The population of Desert Hot Springs from the 2013 Census was estimated at 27,828. This was an increase in the population from 16,582 in 2000.

Figure 1.5.1 – Population Characteristics



Sources: (\*1) Decennial Census, US Census Bureau

(\*2) January Estimate, CA State Department of Finance

(\*3) Riverside County Projections (RCP10)

(\*4) American Community Survey 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates and CA State Department of Finance

(\*5) Riverside County Department of Public Health

(\*6) California Secretary of State, February 2013

Note: Totals might not add up due to rounding.

Comparing data between years may be problematic because of incorporations & annexations.

Projections are based on April 1, 2010 boundary; therefore current or future dwelling units in the annexed area may not be reflected in these projections.

Figure 1.5.2 – Housing & Household Characteristics

# DESERT HOT SPRINGS

## HOUSING & HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Housing Units			Housing Units by Type				
Year	Units	Source	2010 (*1)	Percent	2013 (*2)	Percent	
1970	1,832	(*1)	Single Detached	7,135	65.4%	7,210	62.8%
1980	3,590	(*1)	Single Attached	189	1.7%	188	1.6%
1990	5,494	(*1)	Multi-Family: 2 to 4	1,574	14.4%	1,671	14.6%
2000	7,034	(*1)	Multi-Family: 5 Plus	1,418	13.0%	1,535	13.4%
2001	7,046	(*2)	Mobile Homes	586	5.4%	871	7.6%
2002	7,068	(*2)	Total Units	10,902	100.0%	11,475	100.0%
2003	7,171	(*2)	Occupancy	8,650	79.3%	9,104	79.3%
2004	7,947	(*2)	Vacancy	2,252	20.7%	2,371	20.7%
2005	8,583	(*2)	<b>Median Home Price (*4)</b>				
2006	9,751	(*2)	2002	\$98,000			
2007	10,427	(*2)	2003	\$132,750			
2008	10,907	(*2)	2004	\$175,000			
2009	11,054	(*2)	2005	\$268,000			
2010	10,902	(*1)	2006	\$302,500			
2011	11,419	(*2)	2007	\$281,250			
2012	11,481	(*2)	2008	\$131,750			
2013	11,475	(*2)	2009	\$89,500			
			2010	\$95,000			
			2011	\$90,000			
			2012	\$96,500			
			2013*	\$137,500			
			*August 2013				
			<b>Housing Unit Building Permits (*5)</b>				
			Year	Single-Family Structure	All Multi-Family Structure	Total Units	
			1995	23	0	23	
			1996	16	3	19	
			1997	4	0	4	
			1998	2	0	2	
			1999	3	0	3	
			2000	23	0	23	
			2001	39	0	39	
			2002	149	0	149	
			2003	540	10	550	
			2004	1,132	122	1,254	
			2005	1,006	40	1,046	
			2006	558	169	727	
			2007	113	35	148	
			2008	23	4	27	
			2009	2	0	2	
			2010	3	0	3	
			2011	0	0	0	
			2012	0	0	0	
			2013*	3	0	3	
			* Preliminary August 2013				
			<b>Persons Per Household</b>				
			2000	2.80	(*1)		
			2010	2.98	(*1)		
			2013	3.04	(*2)		
			<b>Projections</b>				
2020	20,229	(*3)					
2035	26,501	(*3)					

Sources: (\*1) Decennial Census, US Census Bureau  
 (\*2) January Estimate, CA State Department of Finance  
 (\*3) Riverside County Projections (RCP10)  
 (\*4) DataQuick Reports  
 (\*5) US Department of Housing & Urban Development, State of the Cities Data Systems

Note: Totals might not add up due to rounding.  
 Comparing data between years may be problematic because of incorporations & annexations.  
 Projections are based on April 1, 2010 boundary; therefore current or future dwelling units in the annexed area may not be reflected in these projections.

## **1.6 DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND LAND USE**

Once, the City of Desert Hot Springs was one of the fastest growing cities in the State. Now the City is seeing low housing values, large number of foreclosures and a high unemployment rate. The City is taking care of the past and preparing for the future by updating its general plan.

## **SECTION 2.0 - PLANNING PROCESS**

### **2.1 LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS**

General priorities, appropriate departments, and personnel were identified during the initial meeting. Personnel were invited to participate in the LHMP planning process via email to establish a general staff meeting about the LHMP. At the staff meeting, we were able to inform about the LHMP and generate a game plan to determine how the updating process would be done. Additional emails were sent to the staff that included LHMP materials to review and update with current information. Subsequent meetings identified mitigation strategies, prioritized said strategies, and reviewed preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designated as “High” priority for city-owned-and-operated facilities.

Representatives from multiple city departments met on a regular basis to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation strategies. Personnel involved in these meetings included: District 4 Emergency Services Coordinator from Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Health Education Assistant II from the Riverside County Emergency Management Department LHMP Team, City Manager from City Manager’s Department, Finance Director from City Finance & Administration Department, Fire Chief from Desert Hot Springs Fire Department, Police Chief from City Police Department, Planning Division from City Community Development Department, Building Division from City Community Development Department, Public Works Division from City Community Development Department. Additional organizations include, but are not limited to, Riverside County Emergency Management Department and other local City departments.

### **2.2 PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL (OA) PLANNING PROCESS**

The City of Desert Hot Springs participated in various Riverside County workshops, conferences, and meetings, including:

- Attend the OA Disaster Council meetings.
  - April 5, 2017
- Attend all Quarterly OA meetings.
  - July 14, 2016
  - October 13, 2016
  - January 12, 2017
- Attend Riverside County Local Hazard Mitigation Cities Workshops

- December 8, 2016
- February 7, 2017
- June 6, 2017
- Have One-On-One LHMP Meetings with Riverside County Emergency Management Department
  - May 18, 2017
- Attend Riverside County – CERT planning, and Grant meetings.
- Conduct annual city emergency planning and employee training programs.
- Conduct monthly emergency preparedness meetings involving public, gated communities, and other public service organizations.
- Conduct at a minimum of two Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training classes each year.
- Developing quarterly outreach meetings and training program for all community programs and citizens.

### **2.3 DATES AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **5/24/2017 – 6/7/2017:** Posted on the City of Desert Hot Springs website and informed the public about the 2012 LHMP for the city being updated for 2017. See Appendix A for a screenshot of the city’s website. No comments by the public were made during this public outreach opportunity.
- **06/07/2017 – 06/15/2017:** Placed a copy of the 2012 City’s LHMP at the Desert Hot Springs City Hall desk and created a comments box for the public to drop in any suggestions or comments. See Appendix A for pictures of this public opportunity. No comments by the public were made during this public outreach opportunity.

### **2.4 PLANS ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION**

Upon approval by FEMA, the LHMP will be presented to the Desert Hot Springs City Council in a public meeting (Council Meeting) for adoption via an official Resolution.

## **SECTION 3.0 – MITIGATION ACTIONS/UPDATES**

### **3.1 UPDATES FROM 2012 PLAN**

There are minor changes since approval of the 2012 LHMP Plan. The hazards that were listed in the 2012 LHMP, will still remain the same. Since Desert Hot Springs is a fairly small city located in a deserted area, not many new changes occur, other than the main ones that are already listed.

### 3.2 LIST OF COUNTY AND CITY HAZARDS

Below is the comparison between the County’s hazards for 2017 and the City of Desert of Hot Springs’ main hazards for 2017.

2017 Riverside County Hazards	Ranking	2017 Desert Hot Springs Hazards	Ranking
Earthquake	1	Earthquake	1
Pandemic Flu	2	Flood	2
Wildland Fire	3	Wildfire	3
Electrical Failure	4	Extreme Weather	4
Emergent Disease/Contamination	5	Wind Event	5
Cyber Attack	6	Power Outage	6
Terrorist Event	7	HazMat Incidents	7
Communications Failure	8	Transportation Failure	8
Flood	9	Pipeline Disruption	9
Civil Disorder	10	Drought	10
Drought	11	Civil Unrest	11
Nuclear/Radiological Incident	12	Dam Failure	12
Extreme Weather	13	Aqueduct	13
Transportation Failure	14	Landslides	14
Dam Failure	15	Jail/Prison Event	15
Aqueduct	16	Nuclear Accident	16
Tornado	17	Terrorist Event	17
Insect Infestation	18	Pandemic Flu	18
Jail/Prison Event	19	Emergent Disease/Contamination	19
Pipeline Disruption	20	Insect Infestation	20
Landslide	21		
HazMat Incident	22		
Water Supply Disruption/Contamination	23		

### 3.3 NEW HAZARDS OR CHANGES FROM 2012

No potential new hazards have been identified since the approval of the 2012 plan. During the last 7 years, the City of Desert Hot Springs has had two Federally Declared Disasters:

- January 2010 winter storms caused localized flooding, including property damage to roads, debris flow and accumulation, mud flows and road closures.
- Additional storms in December and January 2012 cause similar damage throughout the City, again causing over one million dollars in damage. During both of these



events the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated in accordance with state and federal guide lines.

### **3.4 BRIEF STATEMENT OF UNIQUE HAZARDS**

The City of Desert Hot Springs has numerous hazard threats, including earth quakes, flooding and fire. In addition The City has two major highways and a rail road line running in or next to the City hauling hazardous materials on a daily bases. Another concern is the San Andreas Fault running beneath and next to the City. We have the same threats as Riverside County Operational Area including wildland fires, flooding, earthquakes, extreme weather (heat and wind), hazardous materials incidents, debris flows, blackouts, transportation incidents, pipeline emergencies, civil unrest and terrorism.

### **3.5 MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATES**

- **Master Drainage Study**

In the past 10 years The City and County have spent over 2.3 million dollars to improve drainage and flooding in the hillside and in the central city areas, part of which is in the Mission Creek Channel, The Little Morongo Channel, and the Verbena Channel. The City's Civic Center and Local Disaster Centers are located in parts of Flood Zone AO and Zone X. We have significantly reduced the Flood Hazards for this area by implementing Flood Control Devices. We are currently in the process of updating our Flood Plain Maps for the eastern portion of The City. The last map was created in May of 1985.

- ✓ Completed a plan of the project (Master Drainage Plan); Stage one of the project is expected to be advertised in the first quarter of 2017

- The City of Desert Hot Springs has many ongoing mitigation programs throughout the City. The following list highlights programs identified as Existing Programs. It is the City's priority to find additional funding to support and sustain these programs.

- Vulnerability assessments of city owned properties and critical infrastructure.
  - Update The City's general plan through incorporating parts of the Hazard Mitigation Plan as necessary.
  - Provide The City community groups, service groups, staff and citizens with up to date information pertaining to The City's Emergency Response Procedures.
  - Participate in development of The City's Capital improvement Plan, the City's General Plan and The City's Emergency Operations Plan.

- ✓ On-going based on any updates that are being made

- The City has a safety element in its general plan that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, landslide hazards and identification of evacuation procedures. This plan was adopted in 2000 by resolution. The City has used these pre-existing elements as a basis for identifying gaps that lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation. Please see page 16 “Location Jurisdiction Proposed Mitigation Action and Strategy Proposal” in the 2017 Inventory Worksheet.
  - ✓ On-going based on any updates that are made in the City’s General Plan, specifically in the safety element. This could be due to any findings that the City makes in regards to any hazards or safety issues that could affect its jurisdiction.
- The City of Desert Hot Springs hazard mitigation planning team has identified the following mitigation activities and actions based on the current risk assessment. Background information and information on how each action will be implemented.

Issue/Background: Mission Creek road crossing during severe storms cause the crossings to become impassable and limit access by residents and emergency vehicles. There are additional locations within The City that have the same concerns.

*Other Alternatives: No action*

*Responsible Office: City Engineer and county flood control*

*Priority: High*

*Cost Estimate: Not complete at this time, \$1,000,000+*

*Potential Funding: FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants and other grants.*

*Benefits: Increase accessibility throughout The City during severe storms*

Schedule: During the economic downturn a schedule is not available at this time.

- ✓ Still pending due to lack of funding availability
- The City has installed auxiliary power sources at the police and fire station.
  - ✓ Completed installation; this is also in the City Hall
- The City has designated cooling centers and secondary sites if needed during a heat emergency.
  - ✓ Completed; may add additional centers and sites only if the ones that are already set up for this purpose exceed its capacity or if they are no longer available

- The City is also participating in the County’s Mass Care and Shelter program in which they are providing a 100 person trailer for city use from a grant.
  - ✓ On-going participation

## SECTION 4.0 - HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 CRITICAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES

CRITICAL FACILITIES TYPE	NUMBER
Police Station	1
City Hall	1
Fire Stations (EOC)	2
Health Care Facilities	5
City Yard	1
Schools and Care Facilities	15
Public Utilities – Water/Sewer	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>

### 4.2 ESTIMATING POTENTIAL LOSS

The most vulnerable structures in the City are downtown fire station, City Hall, downtown unreinforced structures and Cabots Pueblo Museum. These facilities are the weakest in the City. The close proximity to the San Andreas Fault is sure to cause damage to any of these facilities in the event of a major earth quake.

### 4.3 TABLE REPLACEMENT VALUES

The City of Desert Hot Spring has identified in the table below a list of critical facilities and other community assets identified as important to protect in the event of a disaster. An inventory of critical facilities in the City of Desert Hot Springs is kept in the City Emergency Operations Center.

Name of Asset	Replacement Value (\$)	Occupancy/ Capacity #	Hazard Specific Info.
City Hall	\$500,000	30	Module buildings near major fault
Fire Department— Downtown Station	\$2,500,000	n/a	Modular metal near major fault
Fire Dept.— Sky Bourne Station	\$4,000,000	n/a	Near major fault
Police Station	\$3,500,000	n/a	Near major fault

Palm Springs Unified School District	n/a	4,000	Some campuses do not have secured facilities near major fault
Cabot's Pueblo Museum	Historical site	50	Adobe Const., near major fault

#### 4.4 IDENTIFICATION OF RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

Below is a description of some of the hazards that affect the City of Desert Hot Springs, such as Wild fire, flooding, earthquakes, extreme weather (heat and wind), hazardous materials incidents, debris flows, blackouts, transportation incidents, pipeline emergencies, wind events, and extreme weather. The City of Desert Hot Springs chose to not include some of its listed hazards due to their low ranking number and instead only address its top ten hazards. For more in depth information of previous occurrences for each of the hazards mentioned below, please see Section 5 of Riverside County OA MJHMP.

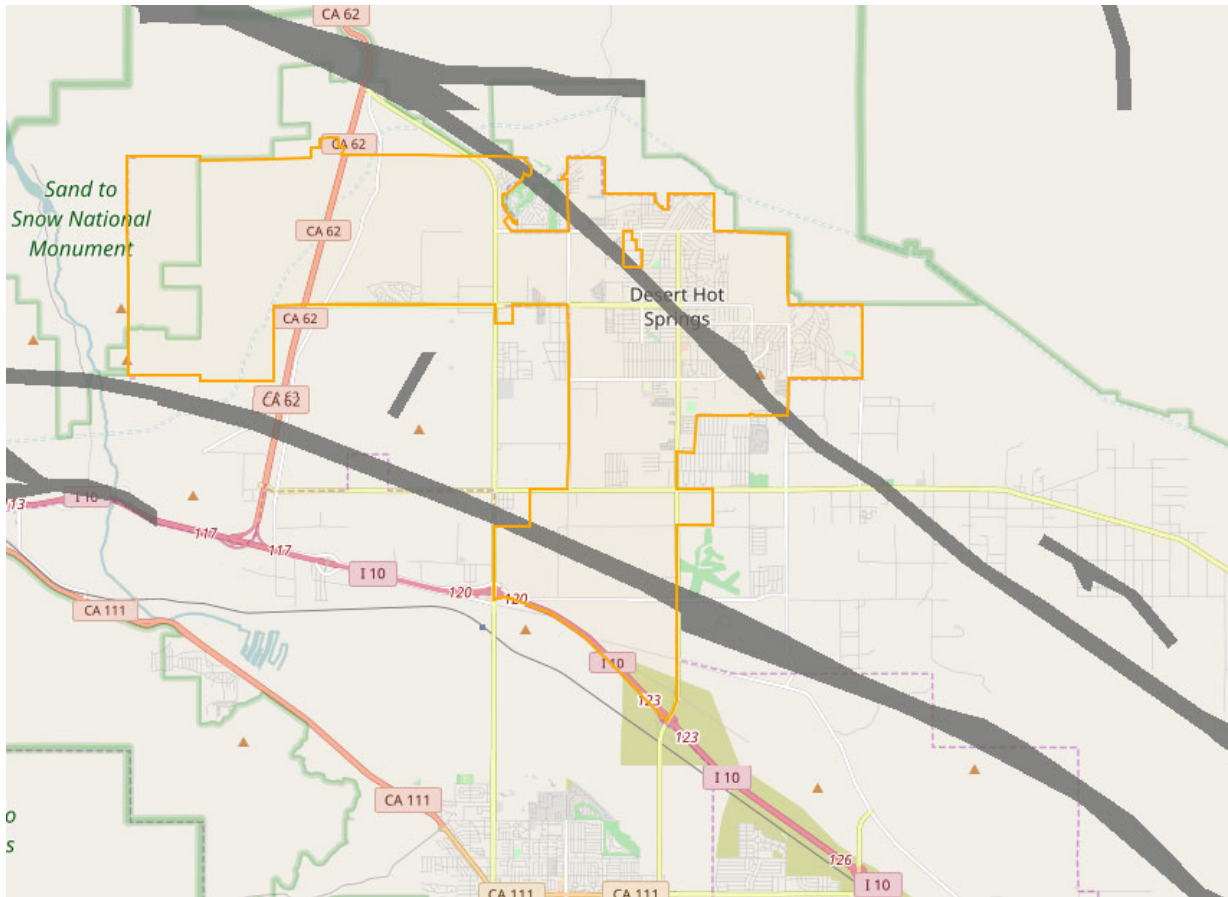
1. Earthquake – Severity - 4, Probability - 4, Ranking - 1

The City of Desert Hot Springs is located between many active faults. The San Andreas Fault zone runs next to the City. The City has experienced different levels of damage from past quakes. January 2001 Landers (7.2)

The planning team has identified approximately 36 unreinforced masonry buildings in the City. The majority of the unreinforced masonry buildings are downtown, which is very much a community asset. The downtown area is the community's major attraction. City Hall is the only critical facility that is an unreinforced masonry building.

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.1 for definition and description).

Figure 4.4.1 City Fault Lines Map

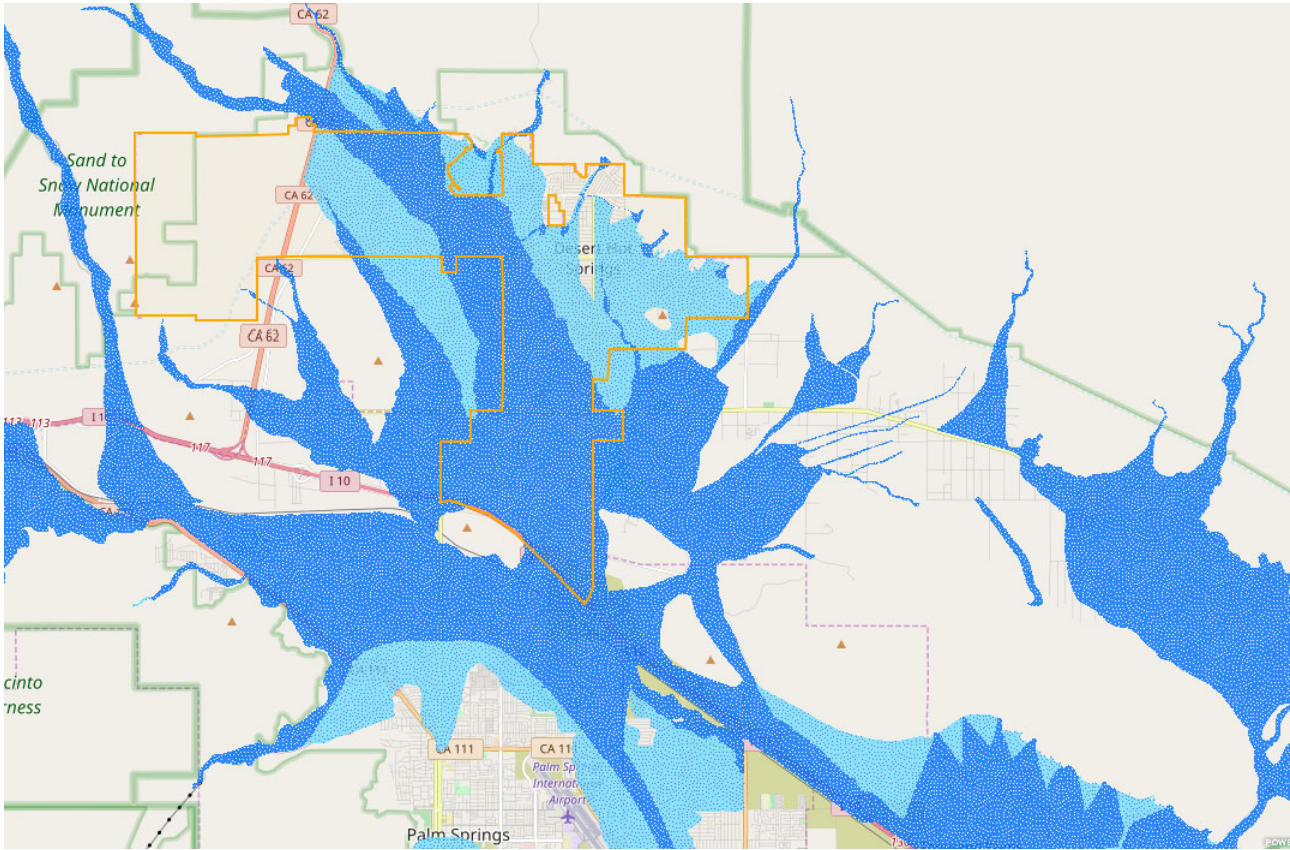


2. Flood - Severity - 3, Probability - 3, Ranking - 2

Heavy rain and rapid snow melts can lead to problems with storm drainage and create localized flood problems. The majority of flooding occurs when heavy down pours occur over a short period of time making the desert unable to absorb runoff. There are many canyons originating outside of The City limits bringing in water as it makes it way to the Salton Sea. Many of these areas are within multi-species' areas or in preserves. The City is currently seeking funding to build overcrossing for the areas that commonly have flows during storms. The needed crossings would reduce the potential of injury of persons attempting to cross during inclement periods of weather. The areas that have no curb and gutter allow low lying damage and are generally in the older residential areas. Debris flowing into residential areas is common because of the lack of vegetation of the desert.

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.9 for definition and description).

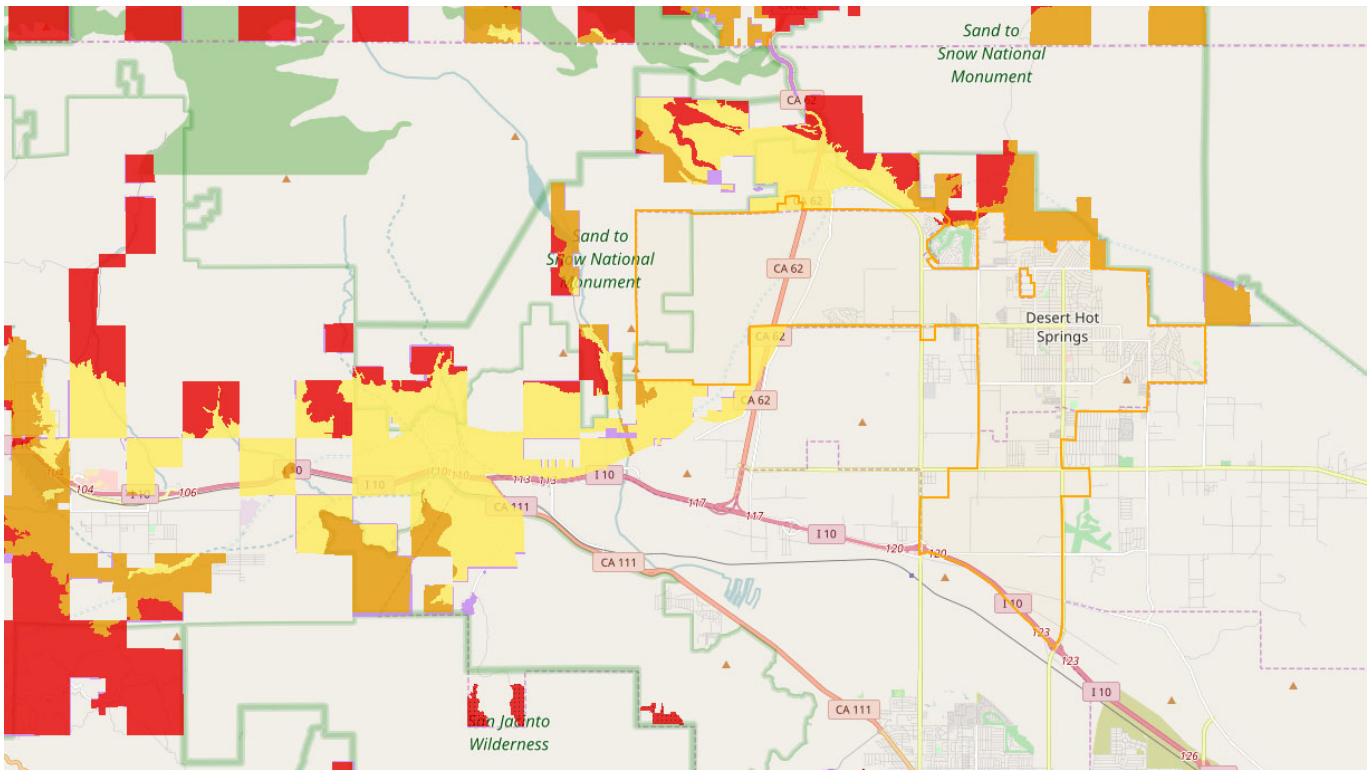
Figure 4.4.3 City Flood Areas Map



3. Wildland Fire – Severity – 2, Probability – 2, Ranking – 3

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.3 for definition and description).

Figure 4.4.3 City Fire Severity Map



4. Extreme Weather - Severity - 3, Probability - 3, Ranking - 4

Extreme Heat: The City has a cooling station identified and is used during peak periods of heat.

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.13 and Section 5.3.13.1 for definition and description).

5. Wind Event - Severity - 3, Probability - 3, Ranking - 5

High winds are experienced during passing cold fronts to the west.

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.13.3).

6. Power Outage - Severity - 3, Probability - 3, Ranking - 6

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.4 for definition and description).

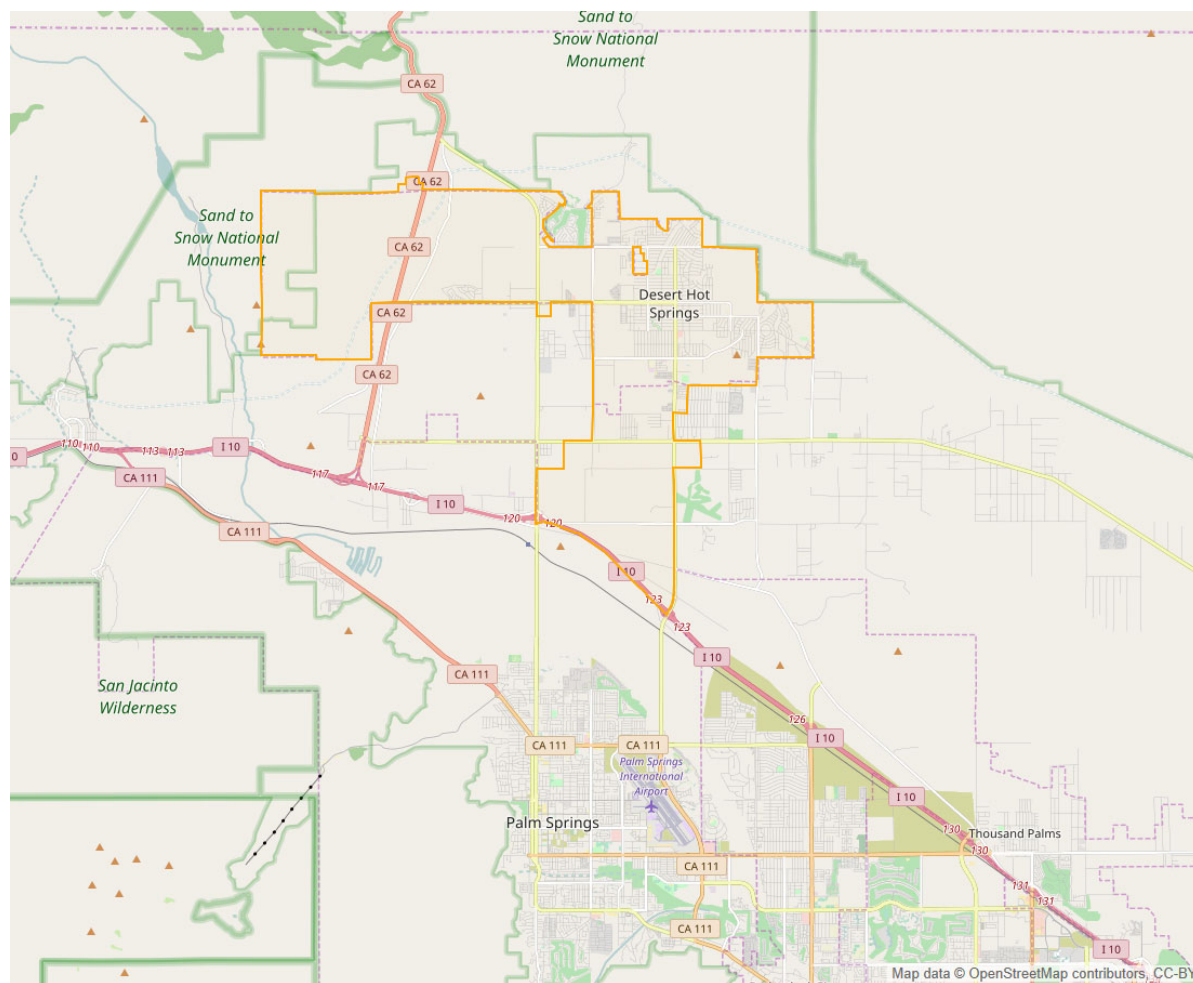
7. HazMat Incidents & Transportation Failure - Severity - 3, Probability - 3, Ranking - 7 & 8

Along with the potential for death and injuries from large-scale motor vehicle accidents, there is the potential for hazardous material spills or fires as numerous commercial transportation vehicles travel the highway and interstate with various types and quantities of hazardous materials.

The Union Pacific Railroad is a predominately commercial freight transportation system but, Amtrak trains also use these track. Large quantities and numerous types of hazardous materials are transported through the jurisdiction by rail on a daily basis. The rail line was closed for multiple days in the area, but the specific closures and damage are no longer known. However, due to the increased rail and vehicle traffic in and near The City, this type of accident may occur again in the future.

Of particular concern is the large number of liquefied petroleum gas vessels that are transported on the system. A derailment and fire, with large exploding liquefied petroleum gas vessels, could cause widespread damage to the City, as has happened in other communities across the country.

Figure 4.4.4 City Outline with Highways





8. Pipeline Disruption – Severity – 2, Probability – 3, Ranking – 9

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.20 for definition of hazard).

9. Drought - Severity - 3, Probability - 3, Ranking – 10

(See Riverside County OA MJHMP Section 5.3.11 for definition of hazard).

(Please refer to Part II-page 8 Local Jurisdiction Vulnerability Worksheet)

## SECTION 5.0 – COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

### 5.1 REPETITIVE LOSS PROPERTIES

The City of Desert Hot Springs participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City has ordinance 15.68.030 in place to address the following:

1. Reduce flood loss
2. Facilitate accurate insurance rating
3. Promote the awareness of flood insurance

### 5.2 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROPERTIES

The City of Desert Hot Springs has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since 1979.

- a. **Describe participation in NFIP, including any changes since previously approved plan.** The City has participated in the NFIP program since 1979 and no changes have been made since the publication of the last plan.
- b. **Date first joined NFIP.** 1979
- c. **Identify actions related to continued compliance with NFIP.** Continually monitor all streets, flood control channels, washes, and hillsides.
- d. **CRS member?** No
- e. **CRS class?** N/A
- f. **Describe any data used to regulate flood hazard area other than FEMA maps.**  
N/A
- g. **Have there been issues with community participation in the program?** None
- h. **What are the general hurdles for effective implementation of the NFIP?** None
- i. **Summarize actions related to continued compliance with NFIP (c-2 and c-4)**
- j. **Repetitive Loss Properties** – None

See Section 6.0 of the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Jurisdictions and Authorities Participating with National Flood Insurance Program Table 6-0-2

## SECTION 6.0 - CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 REGULATORY MITIGATION CAPABILITIES

The City of Desert Hot Springs regulatory mitigation capabilities include planning and land management tools that are typically used to implement hazard mitigation activities and have indicated those that are in place in The City.

Figure 6.1.1 - Table City of Desert Hot Springs Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Regulatory Tool	Yes/No	Comments
General plan	Yes	Adopted in the year 2000 and can updated on a needing basis
Zoning ordinance	Yes	
Subdivision ordinance	Yes	
Site plan review requirements	Yes	
Growth management ordinance	Yes	
Flood plain ordinance	Yes	
Building code	Yes	City adopts State Code
Fire department ISO rating	Yes	Rating: 4
Storm water management program	Yes	In City plan
Capital improvements plan	Yes	Five-year plan; updated annually
Economic development plan	Yes	
Local emergency operations plan	Yes	Emergency Operations Plan, being updated

The City of Desert Hot Springs General plan consists of an integrated consistent set of policies and programs that address the seven areas the State of California requires: Land use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open space, Safety and Noise.

The City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan reflects The City’s long-range aspirations (15-20 years) of physical form and amenity and provides guidance for developmental regulations, such as zoning and subdivision ordinances. Two of the plans goals, in particular, support hazard mitigation. These goals and their policies are included below.

#### Seismic Hazards

Goals for achieving and maintaining safety from seismic events, include preventing moderate Injuries, loss of life, serious damage to critical facilities involving large assemblies of people, and loss of continuity in providing services.

The City will inventory all buildings which are unsound under conditions of “moderate” seismic activity; buildings having questionable structural resistance should be considered for either

rehabilitation or demolition. Structures determined by the City’s building official to be structurally unsound are to be reported to the owner and recorded with the County Recorder to insure that future owners are made aware of hazardous conditions and risks.

### Public Safety Hazards

The City of Desert Hot Spring continues to seek methods that reduce loss of life or property due to crime, fire, earthquake, or other disasters or hazards. The City also strives to provide adequate medical and emergency services to reduce the effects of natural or manmade disasters. Further, the City promotes citizen awareness and preparedness for emergency/disaster situations or potential for the incidence of crime, and implements adequate interagency disaster planning. The City contracts with Riverside County Fire Department for fire protection services which include hazardous materials services. This agreement also includes a working relationship with the Riverside Counties Environmental Health Agency.

The City General Plan provides a separate safety element identifying the City policies relative to the mitigation of natural and man-made hazards as a means to improve the safety of its citizens.

## 6.2 ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL MITIGATION CAPABILITIES

Personnel Resources	Yes/No	Department/Position
Planner/engineer with knowledge of land development/land management practices	Yes	Planning and Development Director
Engineer/professional trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Yes	City Engineer and Building Official
Planner/engineer/scientist with an understanding of natural hazards	No	
Personnel skilled in GIS	Yes	Planning Department
Full time building official	Yes	Building Official, contracted
Floodplain manager	No	
Emergency manager	Yes	County/City/ Police Chief
Grant writer	Yes	City Hall
Other personnel	No	
GIS Data—Land use		
GIS Data—Links to Assessor’s data	No	
Warning systems/services (Reverse 9-11, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	

### 6.3 FISCAL MITIGATION CAPABILITIES

Financial Resources	Accessible/Eligible to Use (Yes/No)	Comments
Community Development Block Grants	Yes	
Capital improvements project funding	Yes	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	With voter approval
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	Yes	
Impact fees for new development	Yes	
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	With voter approval
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes	With voter approval

### 6.4 MITIGATION OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Desert Hot Springs has an existing water responsibility program and annual fire safety programs in schools and they are also presented throughout the year at special community events. The City has created a Community Emergency Response Training Program (CERT) and provides the community an annual emergency expo.

The City of Desert Hot Springs Fire contracts with Riverside County Fire Department for fire and emergency medical services. Riverside County Fire has many mutual aid agreements with many local, state and federal fire departments.

The following table lists the City of Desert Hot Springs Capabilities Assessment -

Type of Resource	Resource Name	Ability to Support Mitigation
Personnel Resource	Community Development	Community Development is responsible for planning and building related activities including code compliance, planning, and public works. Mitigation activities related to planning and building can be implanted by this department.
Financial Resource	Finance Department	Manages the financial affairs of the City. Provides financial information to the City Manager and City Council regarding fiscal affairs of the City. Mitigation activities include actions related to funding availability for mitigation projects.
Financial Resource	Police Department	Offers public safety awareness and education programs, enforces public safety laws and engages in emergency response activities to protect people,

		property and the environment during and following a disaster.
Personnel Resource	Fire Department	Provides fire safety public awareness and education programs, enforces fire safety laws, and engages in emergency response activities to protect people, property and the environment during and following a disaster.

## 6.5 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Desert Hot Springs has the same funding opportunities as Riverside County Operational Area. Please refer to Section 7.4 and Table 7.4 of the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for list of funding sources available.

## SECTION 7.0 - MITIGATION STRATEGIES

### 7.1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The City of Desert Hot Springs Hazard Mitigation planning team has identified a list of Mitigation Strategies and Goals for potential hazardous issues identified throughout the City which are listed below.

#### Goal 1

Attempt to provide the people protection from all hazard's within the city and the City's sphere of influence.

##### *Objective 1.1*

Ensure necessary means available are used to make notifications and needed direction of an imminent or potential hazard threat to the community. This can be accomplished through the counties Early Warning Notification System (EWNS) or vehicles warning speaker in the area of a potential hazard.

##### *Objective 1.2*

Protect the public's health and safety by preparing for the response and recovery period from the effects from a natural or man-made disaster.

#### Goal 2

Improve emergency preparedness and response level of The City during the economic downturn.

*Objective 2.1*

Provide additional training through grants and other available resources to city staff as economically as possible.

*Objective 2.2*

Attempt to obtain necessary supplies to support the staff and citizens of the community to be sustainable in the event of a major disaster.

*Objective 2.3*

Seek additional resources to fund additional equipment for The City’s EOC.

**Goal 3** - Continue Community awareness and understanding of the need to be prepared for emergencies.

*Objective 3.1*

Increase Community Emergency Response (CERT) training as necessary to enhance community involvement.

*Objective 3.2*

Conduct quarterly public meetings on emergency preparedness in conjunction with the police department’s community policing program.

*Objective 3.3*

Invite community groups and private business to attend meetings on emergency preparedness.

**Goal 4** – Improve roads at locations where the natural river crossings become impassable during storms or snowmelts.

*Objective 4.1* – Seek necessary funding to improve and provide bridges in areas where flood prone crossings can delay emergency responders accessing different parts of the City.

**7.2 MITIGATION ACTIONS**

The City of Desert Hot Springs has a main issue and concern with flooding. Its mitigation actions listed below are focused on flood being a high priority hazard for the City. The City also tries to help its residents increase their preventive skills in dealing with disasters by providing training; this is why two “all hazards” efforts have been made and listed below.

Type of Hazard	Mitigation Action	Lead Department / Jurisdiction	Status Update	Cost	Funding Source
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Flood	<b>Desert Hot Springs MDP Line E-5 Stage 1 Project No. 6-8-00035</b> Approximately 3,700 lineal feet of underground storm drain beginning at District's existing Line E channel near West Drive with upstream end near Mesquite Avenue.	City of Desert Hot Springs	Expected Advertise Date 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017	TBD	TBD / Hazard Mitigation Grant
Flood	<b>Desert Hot Springs Pierson Dam Stage 1 Project No. 6-8-00036</b> The proposed dam is located within the city of Desert Hot Springs, just north of the intersection of Pierson Boulevard and Foxdale Drive.	City of Desert Hot Springs	TBD from when funding is obtained	TBD	TBD / Hazard Mitigation Grant
Flood	<b>Mission Creek Channel Dillon Road Bridge Stage 5 Project No. 6-8-00090</b>	City of Desert Hot Springs/ Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	TBD from when funding is obtained	TBD	TBD / Hazard Mitigation Grant

### 7.3 ON-GOING MITIGATION STRATEGY PROGRAMS

Type of Hazard	Mitigation Action	Lead Department / Jurisdiction	Status Update	Cost	Funding Source
All	CERT Training	City of Desert Hot Springs	On-going for the life of the plan 2018-2023. This plan will be reevaluated during the updating stages of the plan.	TBD	TBD / Hazard Mitigation Grant

All	Emergency Preparedness Training & Drills	City of Desert Hot Springs & Riverside County Emergency Management Department	On-going for the life of the plan 2018-2023. This plan will be reevaluated during the updating stages of the plan	TBD	TBD / Hazard Mitigation Grant
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## 7.4 FUTURE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Type of Hazard	Mitigation Action	Lead Department / Jurisdiction	Completion Timeline	Funding Source
Flood	<b>Desert Hot Springs Pierson Dam Stage 1 Project No. 6-8-00036</b> The proposed dam is located within the city of Desert Hot Springs, just north of the intersection of Pierson Boulevard and Foxdale Drive.	City of Desert Hot Springs	TBD from when funding is obtained	TBD/ Hazard Mitigation Grant
Flood	<b>Mission Creek Channel Dillon Road Bridge Stage 5 Project No. 6-8-00090</b>	City of Desert Hot Springs/ Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	TBD from when funding is obtained	TBD, Hazard Mitigation Grant

## SECTION 8.0 – PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCESS

The City of Desert Hot Springs will integrate its 2017 LHMP into its Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code. This code takes cues from state and federal regulations as well as historical events in the City in promulgating regulations and guidance. As new regulations are passed at the state and federal level, Department staff aware of the new requirements drafts updates to the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code for City Council approval. Changes and ordinances are presented before City Council by way of a public hearing during which comments are sought, considered and recommendations made.



## SECTION 9.0 – INCORPORATION INTO EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS

City of Desert Hot Springs will monitor and evaluate our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) on an annual basis with input from other city departments. Over the next 5 years, we will review the LHMP. We will assess, among other things, whether:

- The goals and objectives address current and anticipated environments as the City grows.
- The severity of risks have changed, increased or decreased.
- The current available resources are appropriate for implementing the plan given the current economy.
- The outcomes have occurred as expected (a demonstration of progress).
- The agencies and other partners participated as originally proposed or additional participation is needed from other agencies.

If we discover changes have occurred during the evaluation, we will update the LHMP Revision Page as necessary and notify EMD to update our Annex.

City of Desert Hot Springs Fire Department will be in charge of monitoring, evaluating and updating of our LHMP based on the review time frames.

(See the table under Section 6.1 “Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities Table “).

## SECTION 10.0 – CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

After we go through the Scheduled Plan Maintenance Process of reviewing the LHMP annually, we will notify the public of any additions or changes in the LHMP. This will be accomplished through scheduled Public Safety meetings and community outreach meetings which are anticipated to be scheduled for each quarter next year.

# APPENDIX A – PUBLIC NOTICES AND MAPS

## **SEE ATTACHMENTS**

A-1 – City Website Public Opportunity

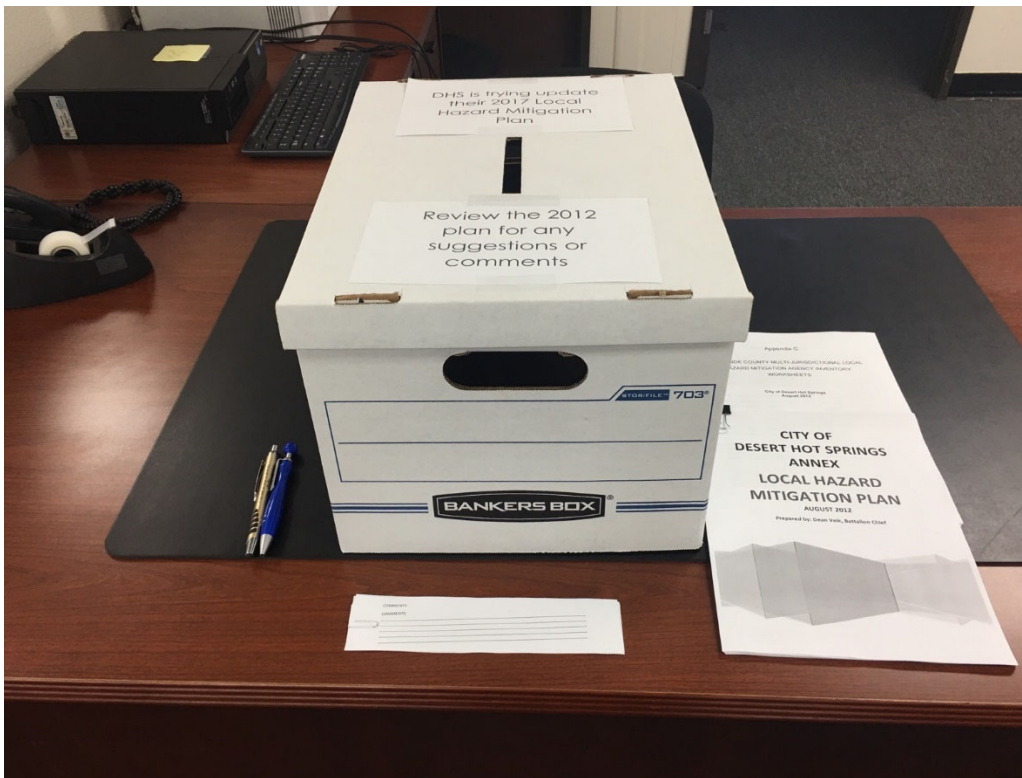
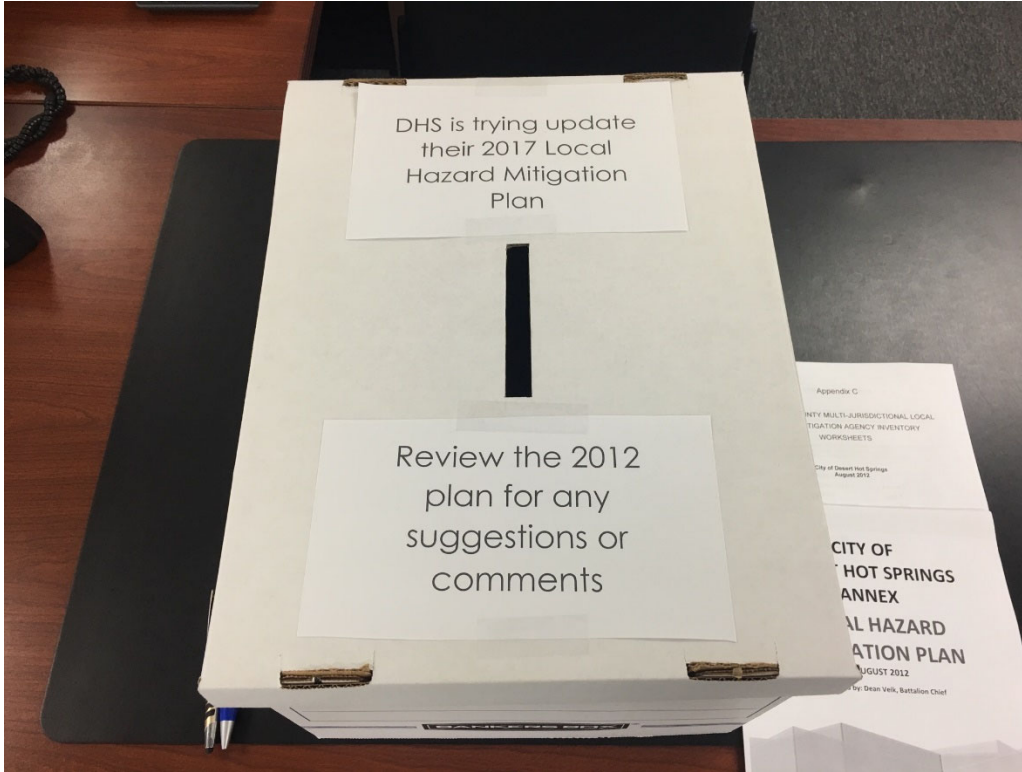
A-2 – City Hall Public Opportunity

Figure A-1 – Public Opportunity on City Website



The screenshot shows the website for the City of Desert Hot Springs, California. The header includes the city seal on the left and navigation links: [Press Release](#), [RFPs](#), [Job Opportunities](#), [About](#), [Services](#), [City Govt](#), [City Depts](#), [Economic Dev](#), [Calendar](#), and [Contact Us](#). The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a section titled "Local Hazard Mitigation Plan" with the following text: "The city is currently working on updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2017. Below is the most recent LHMP for the City of Desert Hot Springs. **2012 DHS Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** For more information please contact: Ralph Mesa - [rmesa@rivco.org](mailto:rmesa@rivco.org)". The right column is titled "Services »" and contains a list of services: Animal Services, Aquatics, Business License Application Documents, CDBG Grants, Dial 211 (Riverside County Information), Emergency Info (with sub-items: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Power Outage Driving Tips, Emergency Preparedness / CERT), Fire Protection, Gas Company Assistance Programs, Housing Program - Riverside County, Liability Claim Form, Live Scan Fingerprinting Services, Mission Springs Water District, Mosquito and Vector Control, Panhandling, PM10, Police Services, SCE - Outage Center, SCE - Rebate Programs, SCE - Stay Safe Around Power Lines, Senior Center, and Trash, Recycling. At the bottom of the page, contact information is provided: "City of Desert Hot Springs · 65-950 Pierson Blvd. Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240" and "Tel: (760) 329-6411 · [webmaster@cityofdhs.org](mailto:webmaster@cityofdhs.org)".

Figure A-2 – City Hall Public Opportunity



## APPENDIX B – INVENTORY WORKSHEETS

**SEE ATTACHMENTS**

# APPENDIX C – PLAN REVIEW TOOL/CROSSWALK

**SEE ATTACHMENTS**