RESOLUTION NO. 14-150

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
ADOPTING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 14-003
AN UPDATE TO THE CONSERVATION & SAFETY ELEMENTS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH AB 162 & SB 1241

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 162 (2007) and Senate Bill 1241 (2012) require cities and counties to update General Plan Conservation and Safety Elements upon the next revision of their Housing Element; and

WHEREAS, AB 162 and SB 1241 are intended to address flood and fire hazards, mapping, and the establishment of flood and fire risk management goals, policies, and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared amendments to the 2003 General Plan Conservation and Safety Elements, as provided in Exhibit A, that include the required policy language regarding flood and fire hazards, storm-water management, and ground water recharge; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the proposed General Plan Amendments on October 28, 2014, and recommended the amendments be approved by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Statutes and Guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the City's Procedures for Implementing CEQA, the City has determined that this amendment is exempt from environmental review per Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines since this project could not result in environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, based upon the facts and analysis presented in the staff report and the attachments thereto, and public testimony received, the City Council makes the following findings:

1. The amendments to the Conservation and Safety Elements of the 2003 General Plan are consistent with the directives of Assembly Bill 162 and Senate Bill 1241.

2. Modified amendments to the Safety Element of the 2003 General Plan includes modified language to update policies related to the Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of El Paso de Robles does hereby adopt General Plan Amendment 14-003 amending the Conservation and Safety Elements, as provided in Exhibit A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th day of November, 2014 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Steinbeck, Strong, Martin, Hamon, Picanco
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk

Exhibit A
GPA 14-003

The Conservation Issues in the Conservations Element and Policies, Action Items, and Safety Issues in the Safety Element are hereby amended as set forth below. New issues, policies, and action items are indicated in **bold text**; deletions are indicated in ~~strike-through text~~.

Conservation Element

1. 3.0 Conservation Issues, is hereby amended to read as follows:

   The Conservation Element Appendix contains discussions of public utilities and services, air quality, vegetation and wildlife, mineral resources, visual resources, and energy issues.

   3.1 Hydrology

   This section provides an overview of existing hydrology in Paso Robles, including ground water conditions. Consistent with State law Assembly Bill 162 (AB 162), this section identifies rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitat, and other lands that may accommodate floodwater for the purposes of groundwater recharge and storm water management.

   Hydrological Features

   The Salinas River watershed covers approximately 4,600 square miles and crosses two counties. Also known as the "Upside Down River," the Salinas River flows northward originating in San Luis Obispo County, through the Salinas Valley into Monterey County, and empties into Monterey Bay. The river's flow is seasonal, dictated by local rainfall. Several significant tributaries flow into the Salinas River through or north of Paso Robles including, the Nacimiento River, Estrella River, and Huerhuero Creek (Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan, 2004). Several perennial creeks flow through parts of Paso Robles to converge with the Salinas River including Dry Creek, Mountain Spring Creek, Turtle Creek, Peachy Canyon Creek, and Unnamed Creek No.1 & No. 6.

   Water Resources

   The City of Paso Robles currently relies upon the Salinas River underflow and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin water for much of its municipal water supply. Basin Wells tap groundwater in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin while River Wells divert the subterranean flows of the Salinas River. The Paso Robles 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) highlights two additional water sources that should be available to the City by 2015, these include; 1) 4,000 AFY of raw water from Lake Nacimiento, and 2) upgrading of the wastewater treatment plant to include recycled water irrigation, possible groundwater recharge, and discharge to the Salinas River (UWMP, 2010). The addition of these water sources will reduce the City's dependence on ground water, protecting and stabilizing groundwater levels for future use.

   Floodwater Accommodation

   AB 162 requires the Conservation Element of the General Plan to identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitat, and other land that may accommodate floodwater

for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm water management. The purpose is to conserve areas used for groundwater recharge and storm water management and to minimize urban development in these areas.

Figures C-1 and C-2 show the major rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitat, and other land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm water management.

Groundwater Recharge

There are a number of existing and proposed storm drain detention and retention basins located within the City. These basins are designed to reduce peak runoff from developments to pre-development rates for a 10-year storm event. Detention basins are areas where excess storm water is stored or held temporarily to slow water flow, decreasing flood damage. Retention basins store storm water on a more permanent basis, often indefinitely, with the exception of volume lost to evaporation or absorption into soils. Retention basins help to recharge underground water aquifers and reduce sedimentation. The location of existing basins can be seen in the Paso Robles Storm Drain Master Plan, Section 6, Figure 6-1. In addition, subsurface basins may be used for either retention or detention of site runoff.

The Downtown Paso Robles Watershed Plan (DTWP), prepared in 2014 and awaiting formal approval from the Central Coast Water Board, identifies a variety of projects to increase bioretention and infiltration for purposes of groundwater recharge. The proposed "Green Street" solutions include; 1) bioretention swales within the parkways or medians; 2) bioretention bulb-outs; 3) and/or pervious pavement surfaces as the primary mechanism for treatment and retention of storm water. The locations of these projects can be seen in the DTWP, Appendix A, Exhibit 6.

Safety Element

1. Policy S-1A, Hazard Education, is hereby amended to add Action Item 4 as shown below.

   POLICY S-1A: Hazard Education. Continue to inform the public about hazards, hazard avoidance, and disaster response.

   Action Item 1. Distribute informational handouts.

   Action Item 2. Support volunteer training aimed at assisting police, fire, and civil defense personnel during and after a major earthquake, fire, or flood.

   Action Item 3. Support/sponsor exhibits and presentations in secondary schools.

   Action Item 4. Support the Department of Emergency Services' Weed Abatement Program to remove all combustible vegetation from yards or larger land parcels to reduce fire hazard.

2. Policy S-1B, Disaster Response, is hereby amended to read as follows and to add Action Item 4 as shown below.

POLICY S-1B: Disaster Response**. Review/Update** ~~Develop a~~ **the community-wide** ~~Disaster Response Plan~~ **Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Plan on a periodic basis.**

- **Addresses** heavy search and rescue, major medical response, hazardous material response, interim morgue, emergency shelter, traffic and utility impacts, and debris removal and disposal; and
- **Identifies** procedures for access, traffic control, emergency evacuations, and security of damaged areas.

Action Item 4. Coordinate with emergency services to evaluate the potential vulnerability of wildfire hazards including accumulation of fuels (such as brush, etc.), and implement measures consistent with the Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to reduce the risk from fire hazards.

3. Policy S-1D, Structural Safety, is hereby amended to add Action Item 8 as shown below.

   Action Item 8. Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, or identify construction or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in a "state responsibility area," or very high fire hazard severity zone.

4. Goal S-1, Minimize exposure to natural and manmade hazards, is hereby amended to add Policy S-1G as shown below.

   POLICY S-1G: Maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding by taking safe guards such as locating new facilities outside of flood zones or areas subject to localized flooding, and audit existing facilities in these areas to determine if building upgrades should be considered to reduce the potential for future flooding.

5. 2.0 Safety Issues, is hereby amended to add Sections 2.3 & 2.4 as shown below:

2.3 Flood Hazard

This section contains information regarding flood hazards for the City of Paso Robles. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines flooding as, the rising and overflow of a body of water, submerging of two or more acres of normally dry land that is not normally covered by water (FEMA Definitions). Potential hazards for Paso Robles include riverine flooding, also known as overbank flooding due to excessive rainfall, and localized flooding. Localized flooding may occur outside of recognized drainage channels or delineated floodplains due to a combination of locally heavy precipitation, increased surface runoff, and inadequate facilities for drainage and stormwater conveyance (LHMP, page 4-13). The Paso Robles area is subject to flood hazards from the Huerhuero Creek, Dry Creek, the Salinas River floodplains, and their tributaries. This has the potential to occur in events where runoff is too great for the system, or the storm water system is disrupted by vegetation or other debris causing excess water to remain on the surface.

Flood Hazard Zones

The City of Paso Robles participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program, and consults with the Department of Water

Resources (DWR) Division of Flood Management, for support in obtaining the most current floodplain mapping information. This information includes Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that identify regulated flood hazard zones, which are then used to assign risk and insurance rates for homeowners and businesses.

Non-regulatory maps published by DWR containing floodplain information include, Awareness Floodplain Maps, Best Available Maps (BAM), Levee Flood Protection Zone (LFPZ) maps, and the Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation (CVFED) maps. Only FIRMs and DWR Awareness Floodplain maps have been prepared for the area of the City of Paso Robles (FEMA 2012; DWR 2012).

Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Flood hazard zones are defined as an area subject to flooding that is delineated as either a special hazard area or an area of moderate or minimal hazard according to the FIRMs issued by FEMA. This designation, however, does not imply that areas outside the flood hazard zones or uses permitted within flood hazard zones will be free from flooding or flood damage.

The 2012 FIRMs for San Luis Obispo County identify two floodplain zones in Paso Robles for 100-year and 500-year flood events:

- **Zone A: 1 percent annual chance of flood hazard area. This area includes the floodplains of Huerhuero Creek, Dry Creek, and the Salinas River.**
- **Zone B: 0.2 percent annual chance of flood hazard area. Floodplain boundaries for the 500-year flood include the northwest area of the City to the west of the Salinas River and east of the Salinas River between Creston Road to the south and Union Road to the north.**

As shown in Figure S-5, the FIRMs highlight 100-year and 500-year floodplain boundaries for identified flood hazards. Within the City limits, 1.50 square miles are in the 100-year floodplain with an additional 4.08 square mile area within the 500-year floodplain.

Table S-2 identifies the number of existing residential buildings and vulnerable residents subject to 100-year and 500-year floodplains. A complete list of critical facilities found to be located in flood hazard zones can be found in Section 5, Table 5-6. Exposure Analysis – Critical Facilities Flood in the Paso Robles Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Table S-2 Vulnerable Population and Residential Buildings to 100-year and 500-year Floodplain Events

Hazard Area	Population Count	Residential Building Count
500-Year Floodplain	18,061	6,912
100-Year Floodplain	496	188

Paso Robles, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), 2014

Communities, insurance agencies, and others use FIRMs to identify properties and buildings in flood insurance risk areas (DWR 2014). Local officials use the FIRMs to administer floodplain management regulations and to mitigate potential flood damage (DWR 2014).

DWR Awareness Floodplain Mapping

The intent of the Awareness Floodplain Mapping project is to identify all pertinent flood hazard areas (by 2015) that are not mapped under the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This also provides the community and residents an additional tool in understanding potential flood hazards currently not mapped as a regulated floodplain (DWR 2014). The DWR Awareness Floodplain maps present 100-year flood hazard areas using approximate assessment procedures. These floodplains are shown as "flood prone" areas without specific depths. As displayed in Figures S-6a through S-6d, one area within Paso Robles is designated under the Awareness Floodplain Mapping project: the northern end of Paso Robles, specifically areas of the Paso Robles Municipal Airport.

DWR Best Available Maps (BAMs)

DWR BAMs provide 100-year and 200-year floodplains located within the City of Paso Robles. The development of these maps is based on best available information from FEMA FIRMs and DWR Awareness Floodplain maps. The intent is to identify potential flood hazards that may warrant further study and consideration in land use decision making (DWR 2014). There are no delineated 200-year floodplains for the City of Paso Robles.

DWR Levee Flood Protection Zones (LFPZs)

LFPZs estimate the maximum area that may be inundated if a project levy fails when water surface elevation is at the top of a project levee (DWR 2011). There are no levees within the City of Paso Robles, therefore there are no LFPZs within the City (DWR 2011).

DWR Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation (CVFED) Maps

DWR CVFED maps represent 100-year and 200-year floodplains for the Central Valley State-Federal Project Levees within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley watershed (SSJV). Since Paso Robles is not located within the SSJV watershed, CVFED Maps are not designated for the City.

Flood Control Projects

The Paso Robles Downtown Watershed Management Plan (DWMP) identifies areas within the City's downtown core that experience flooding during moderate to large storm events. The goal of the DWMP is to utilize a watershed planning approach to manage runoff and address existing drainage issues by reducing localized flooding and improving water quality of storm water runoff prior to discharge to the Salinas River or its tributaries.

Regional storm water management projects will be combined with Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) within the DWMP to effectively and efficiently manage storm water. The list of projects included in the DWMP incorporate environmental concerns utilizing "Green Infrastructure" as exemplified through the 21st Street Green Street project, completed in 2013. Streets identified in the DWMP for Green Street upgrades include: 1) 15th Street south of Oak Street; 2) 7th Street south of Oak Street; and 3) 8th Street south of Oak Street.

Dam Inundation

Dam failure involves unintended releases or surges of impounded water resulting in downstream flooding. The water released from dam failure results in the potential for human causalities, economic loss, service disruption, and environmental damage. While dam failure may involve the total collapse of a dam, this is not always the case as damaged spillways, overtopping from excessive rainfall, or other complications, including the unintended consequences from normal operations, can result in hazardous situations. Due to the lack of advance warning, failures from natural events, such as earthquakes, or landslides, may be particularly severe.

The Salinas Dam is located approximately 21 miles southeast of the town of Santa Margarita in San Luis Obispo County. The dam can currently store up to 23,843-acre feet of water. The failure of the Salinas Dam would flood an area of 1.07 square miles along the Salinas River within the Paso Robles City limits as seen in Figure S-7. The depth of flooding due to the failure of this dam is unknown. There have been no recorded dam failures affecting Paso Robles.

Regulatory Agencies

The City of Paso Robles is responsible for flood protection and management within the City boundaries. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) outlines agencies and technical resources available for emergency services in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. There are no other public agencies responsible for flood protection in Paso Robles.

Under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides disaster preparedness and response services and advanced planning measures designed to reduce the amount of damage caused by an impending disaster. USACE responds to natural and man-made disasters through the mobilization of personnel and other resources across the country.

In any disaster, USACE top priorities are:

- **Support immediate lifesaving and life safety emergency response;**
- **Sustain lives with critical commodities, temporary emergency power and other needs;**
- **Initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.**

2.4 Fire Hazard

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) maps areas of significant fire hazards in the state. These areas are identified based on weather, topography, fuels, and other factors. Fire hazards are greatest in areas with steep slopes, volatile vegetation, and windy conditions. Information pertaining to historic records of wildfires for the City can be found in the LHMP, Section 4.3.11.

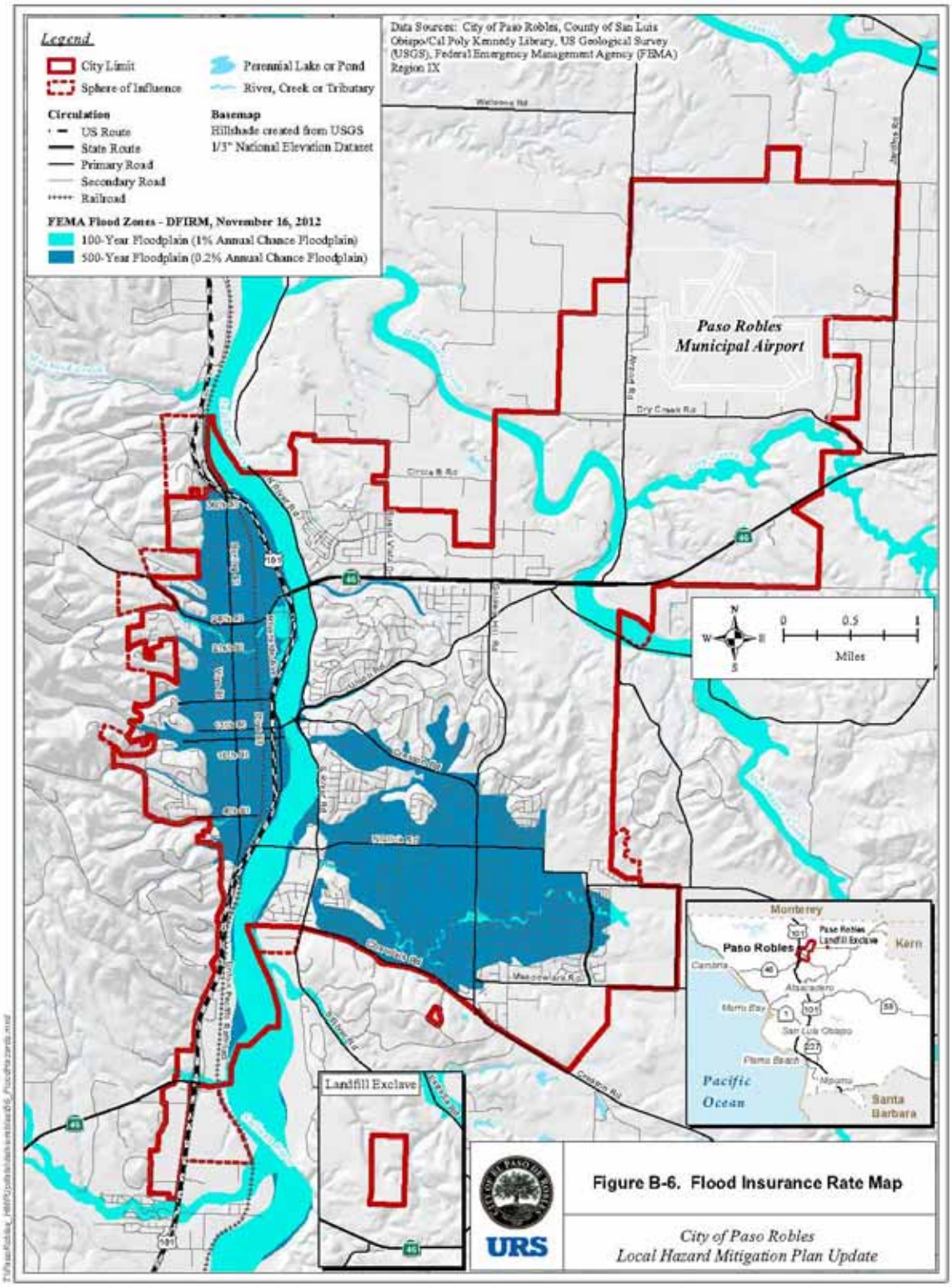
Figure S-8 shows fire hazard severity zones for the City. CAL FIRE's Fire Severity Zone Maps highlight 6.40 square miles (33.0 percent) of City limits located within the high fire hazard severity area (and includes 8,660 people, 3,383 residential structures, and 16 critical facilities) while an additional 3.59 square miles (18.5 percent) of the City limits is located within moderate fire hazard severity area (and includes 4,475 people, 1,754 residential buildings, and 22 critical facilities). Land adjacent to the City limits and some land located within the City's Sphere of Influence are designated with a fire hazard severity zone of High in the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

A list of the general locations and distribution of existing uses of land in high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities can be found in the City's LHMP, Section 5, Table 5-11.

The City of Paso Robles is responsible for fire protection and management within the City boundaries. The LHMP outlines agencies and technical resources available for emergency services in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. The City's Emergency Services Growth Management Plan (2000) includes an evaluation of fire and emergency services and a series of options to meet projected needs in 2020.

After careful review of existing San Luis Obispo County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Mapping, as supplied by CAL FIRE, the City has determined neither state responsibility areas nor very high fire hazard severity zones exist within incorporated areas as required by SB 1241.

5. 2.0 Safety Issues, is hereby amended to add DWR Awareness Floodplain Maps, Figures S-6a through S-6d as shown below:



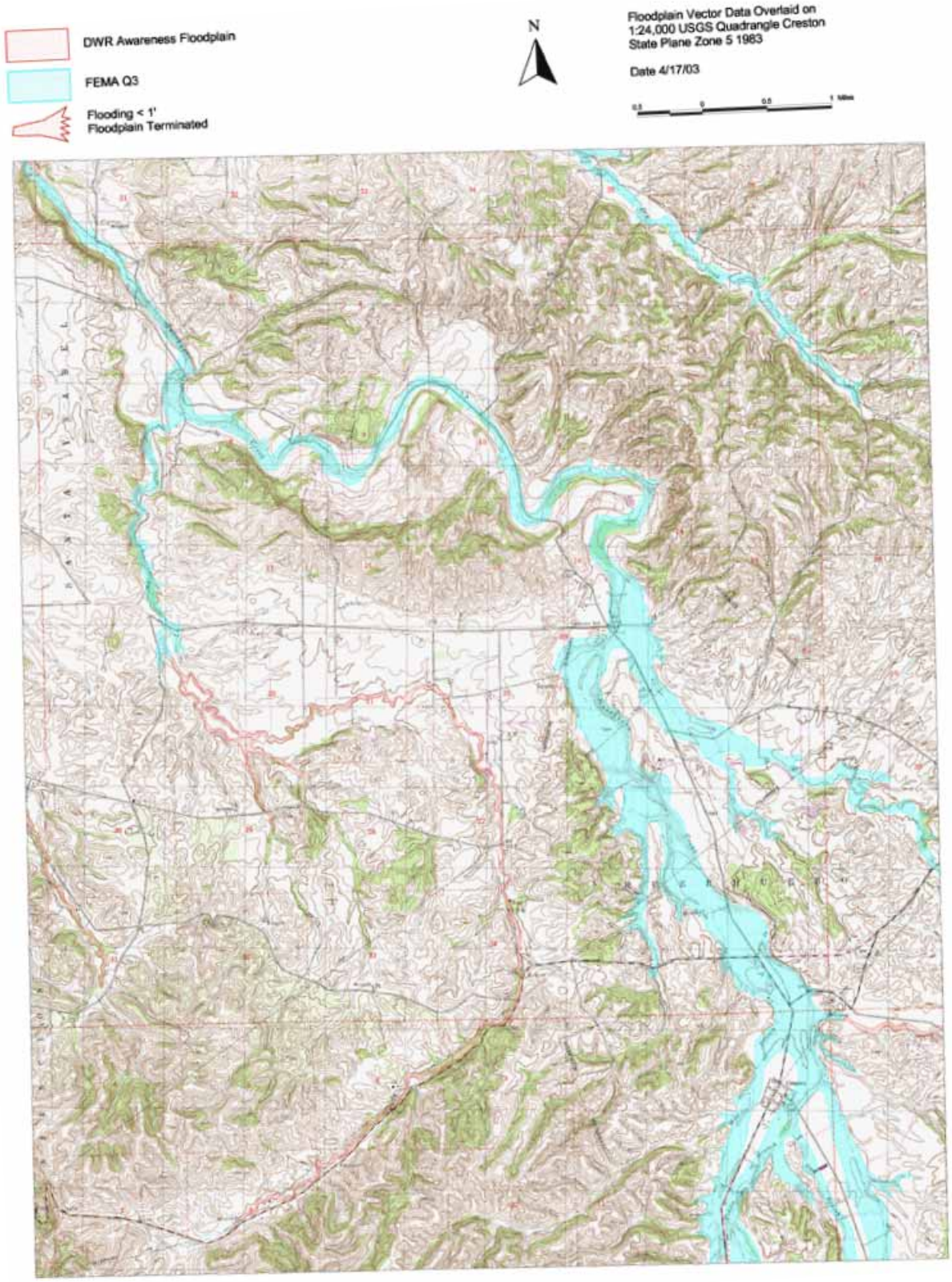
Flood Insurance Rate Map Figure S-5

DWR Awareness Floodplain Figure S-6a

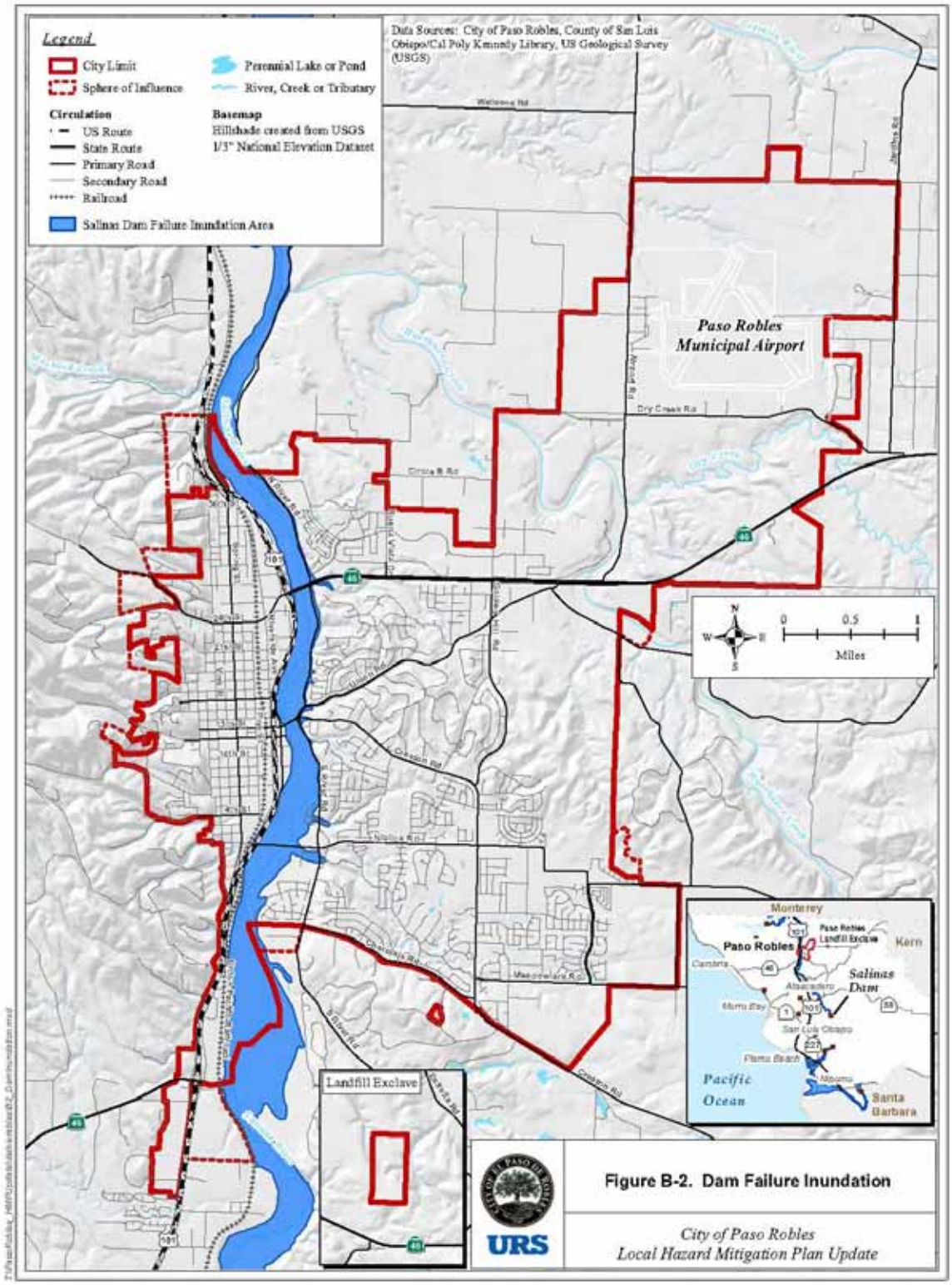
DWR Awareness Floodplain Figure S-6b

Type equation here.

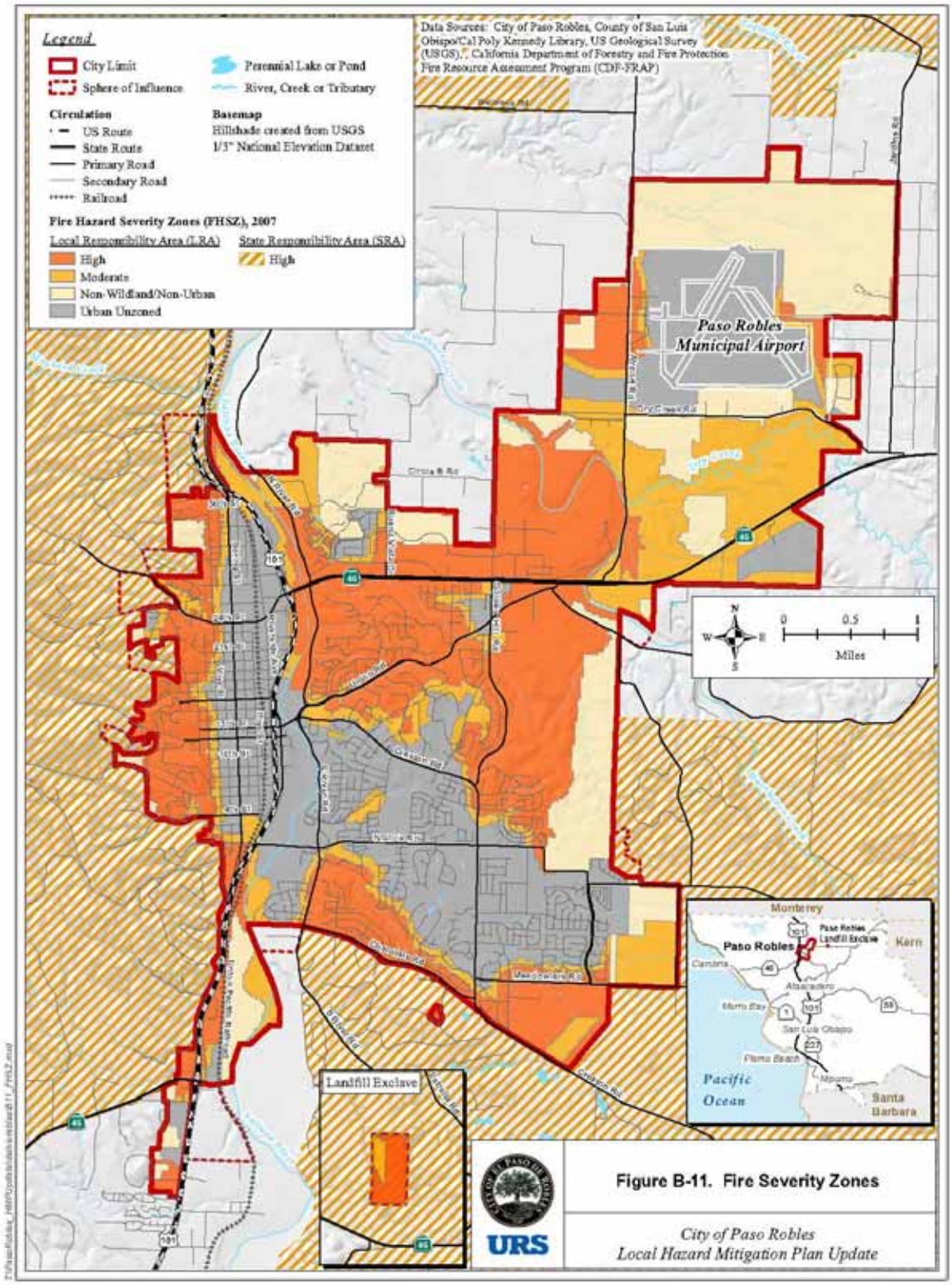
DWR Awareness Floodplain Figure S-6c



DWR Awareness Floodplain Figure S-6d



Salinas Dam Failure Inundation Figure S-7



Fire Severity Zones, Local & State Responsibility Areas Figure S-8