



# GENERAL PLAN SAFETY ELEMENT

This Safety Element incorporates the 2021 San Mateo County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Foster City Annex within this plan was adopted by the City on December 13, 2021. Information from the LHMP provides the basis for the local hazards, vulnerabilities, noise, and emergency preparedness discussions, goals, and policies within this element.

ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON  
AUGUST 21, 2023

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# CITY OF FOSTER CITY

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## SAFETY ELEMENT

REVISED 2023

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## A. CONDITIONS IN FOSTER CITY AND FOCUS OF THE SAFETY ELEMENT

The City of Foster City is located in San Mateo County, California. Incorporated in 1971, the City is situated on the eastern shoreline of the San Francisco Peninsula between San Francisco and San Jose, east of U.S. 101. Originally designed as a "Planned Community" that is home to over 33,000 residents, the City has a character defined by nine residential neighborhoods supported by commercial centers and light industrial uses. Foster City covers approximately 20 sq. miles, of which 4 sq. miles include existing land and reclaimed marshland. The remaining area is comprised primarily of waters of the San Francisco Bay and Belmont Sloughs. With an elevation of approximately 7 ft above sea level, the city relies on a system of levees and sea walls to manage tidal and flood waters from both the Bay (east of the City) and Peninsula (west of the City).



*Foster City aerial view*

The City faces several challenges to overall community safety, including seismic hazards, sea level rise, flooding (including dam inundation), climate change (extreme heat, drought), urban fires, and hazardous materials release. Since incorporation, the city has experienced several of these types of events. Looking into the future, several of these hazards could be further exacerbated by changing climatic conditions due to increased temperatures and changing precipitation patterns.

The Safety Element focuses on identifying public safety risks and creating a unique set of goals, policies, and implementation actions that address these risks. The Safety Element allows the City to address these conditions by reducing the impacts associated with these hazards or preventing hazardous conditions in the future. The Safety Element also addresses emergency evacuation in the City and creates policies designed to enhance and streamline the evacuation process during emergency events. This Safety Element is one component of the Foster City General Plan, which, once adopted, strives to align itself with other elements, as required by the California Government Code, including (1) Land Use and Circulation Element, (2) Housing Element, (3) Parks and Open Space Element, (4) Noise Element, and the (5) Conservation Element.



## B. PURPOSE OF SAFETY ELEMENT

The Safety Element is one of seven mandatory elements of the General Plan. The principal purpose of the element is the identification of potential risks within the city that pose a threat to the community's welfare, public health, and overall safety. Recurrent updates to the Safety Element ensure that the goals, policies, and implementation actions remain relevant and responsive to the community's changing needs. **Table S-1** displays the California Government Code Section 65302(g)(1) requirements, which includes a list of safety concerns that should be examined in each Safety Element.

**Table–S-1: Required Safety Element Hazards (CA Gov Code Section 65302(g)(1))**

Hazard Topic	Location in the Element
Seismically Induced Surface Rupture	Not a significant hazard for Foster City
Ground Shaking*	Page 16-17 (Seismic Shaking)
Ground Failure*	Page 17
Subsidence	Not a significant hazard for Foster City
Liquefaction (areas with shallow groundwater [<50 feet]) *	Page 17
Slope Instability leading to Mudslides and Landslides	Not a significant hazard for Foster City
Other Geologic Hazards known to the legislative body	Not a significant hazard for Foster City
Flooding*	Page 23
Tsunami*	Page 20
Seiche	Not a significant hazard for Foster City
Dam Failure*	Pages 24, 26
Wildland Fires	Not a significant hazard for Foster City
Urban Fires*	Page 28
Climate Change*	Pages 31-32
Evacuation*	Appendix A
Other Seismic Hazards identified under Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code	
<b>Hazards denoted by an (*) are potential hazards relevant to Foster City.</b>	

Each Safety Element must also geographically identify each hazard's risk location and potential extent using a map. The hazards mapped in this element include flooding, dam inundation, seismic/ geologic hazards, and evacuation.

## C. MOVING FORWARD

The City reaffirms the importance of protecting the community from potential natural hazard risks. The City's location and history with hazards make it likely that Foster City will experience risks from flooding, seismic, and geologic events in the future. Foster City can also expect some of these risks to be exacerbated as climate change accelerates. The Safety Element, in conjunction with the 2021 San Mateo County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, is the best avenue to understand and address natural hazard risks within the community of Foster City.



# INTRODUCTION

## A. PURPOSE

Foster City takes great pride in its responsibility to safeguard the well-being of its community members. Among other things, this includes adequately anticipating potential emergencies caused by natural and human-caused hazards and planning response strategies in the event of emergencies and disasters. This element provides the necessary context to understand the hazards that threaten the community and outlines policies and practices that take tangible steps toward ensuring the community's continued prosperity.

## B. SCOPE

The Foster City Safety Element addresses the relevant planning hazards mandated by California Government Code Section 65302(g). Under state planning law, this element identifies and discusses the following hazards as they relate to the City:

- Seismic and geologic hazards such as seismic shaking, liquefaction, seiche, and tsunamis
- Urban fire hazards
- Flood hazards, including dam inundation
- Climate adaptation and resiliency strategies (addressing extreme weather and drought)

The element also identifies and addresses the following safety issues, as required by law:

- Disaster and emergency preparedness, including evacuation
- Hazardous materials and waste

## C. ELEMENT ORGANIZATION

This element is organized to be consistent with the other General Plan Elements. The goals, policies, and implementation programs provide declarative statements about the City's approach to safety-related issues. A definition of these key terms is provided below:

**Goal:** A general statement of the desired community outcome. It is denoted as *Goal S-X* in this element.

**Policy:** Policies are actions a community will undertake to meet its goals. They are denoted as *Policy S-X.X* in this element.

**Implementation Action/Programs:** A list of recommended programs and future actions necessary to achieve the declared element goals and policies.



Many of the previous elements' policies have been incorporated into this element either as a new policy or an implementation action. Some previous goals and policies have been modified from the previous text language to ensure new goals, policies, and implementation actions meet City needs and best practice standards. Together, this element's goals, policies, and implementation actions/programs provide a framework for decision-making that promotes greater safety and resilience for the Foster City community.

## D. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER ELEMENTS

Integrating safety considerations throughout the General Plan creates a consistent framework that prioritizes the community's well-being. The Foster City Safety Element is an essential component of the General Plan and works in tandem with other elements to guide these efforts.

### Land Use and Circulation

The Land Use and Circulation Element focuses on past, present, and future development issues affecting Foster City. The element guides the layout of the City's development patterns and transportation infrastructure that existing and proposed developments will rely upon. Understanding the natural and human-caused hazards that threaten a community can help reduce the possibility of disaster by avoiding the designation of sensitive land uses in hazard-prone areas. Several goals within the element focus on protecting and enhancing the community as part of the development and entitlement process. The circulation portions of the element identify enhancements to the transportation network to accommodate future traffic. Addressing these conditions may ensure adequate capacity during future evacuation events. Key policies that may address safety element issues include LUC D-11, LUC H-5a, LUC-L-10, and LUC-L-11.

### Housing

The Housing Element is more closely associated with land use and incorporates many safety considerations into its goals and objectives. Building practices and codes addressed in the Housing Element contribute to community safety by improving the built environment's resiliency to natural and human-caused hazards. Additionally, the Housing Element can help identify vulnerable populations and inform the Safety Element to ensure proper protections are in place.

### Parks and Open Space

The Parks and Open Space Element addresses the preservation of parks and open space within the City. By design, the open space areas of the City are primarily park spaces, which are intended to enhance residents' quality of life. With 429.4 acres for recreation (156 parklands, 212 waterways, 46.4 walkways/pedways, and 15 acres of satellite facilities from local schools), parks and open space play a key role in the community and provide valuable services to visitors and residents.



## Noise

The Noise Element seeks to limit the community's exposure to excessive noise levels by identifying sources and acceptable thresholds for noise and establishing policies to ensure compatibility between land uses and the community's noise environment. It also provides a basis for comprehensive local programs to control and abate environmental noise and protect residents from excessive exposure.

## Conservation

The Conservation Element addresses preserving and conserving natural resources in Foster City. In accordance with the City's vision, this element aims to (1) Preserve and Improve the Quality of Life within Existing Neighborhoods, (2) Assure the Proper Development of Undeveloped Property, and (3) Assure that Redevelopment of Developed or Underutilized Property Occurs in an Appropriate Manner. The key issues discussed in this element include human life-sustaining elements, wildlife habitat, and the recycling of renewable resources.

## E. CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The 2021 San Mateo County Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) serves three primary purposes: 1) it provides a comprehensive analysis of the natural and human-caused hazards that threaten the City, with a focus on mitigation; 2) it keeps Foster City eligible to receive additional federal and state funding to assist with emergency response and recovery, as permitted by the federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 and California Government Code Sections 8685.9 and 65302.6; and 3) it complements the efforts undertaken by the Safety Element. The San Mateo County MJHMP complies with all requirements set forth under the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2021. **Sections of the Safety Element are supplemented by the MJHMP, which is incorporated by reference in this element, as allowed by California Government Code Section 65302(g).** To access the MJHMP, visit the City's website, [Foster City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Maps](#).

## F. CONSISTENCY WITH AIRPORT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLANS

An Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) is the primary document used by an airport land use commission to help promote compatibility between an airport and its surrounding environment. An ALUCP acts as a guide for the airport land use commission and local jurisdictions in safeguarding the general welfare of the public as the airport and the area surrounding the airport grows.



Airport planning boundaries define where height, noise, hazards, and safety standards, policies, and criteria are applied to certain proposed land use policy actions. ALUCP height standards for determining obstructions to air navigation are defined in Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77, Objections Affecting Navigable Airspace. The FAR Part 77 criteria limit the location and height of structures both on and off airport property. The criteria are intended to prevent buildings and other objects from penetrating the airspace required for safe aircraft takeoffs and landings.

Foster City is located within two ALUCPs, as described below.

### **Comprehensive Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for the Environs of San Francisco International Airport.**

This ALUCP identifies portions of Foster City within Airport Influence Areas A and B. As described in the ALUCP, for Area A, a real estate disclosure is required. For areas of the city within Area B the Airport Land Use Commission (the C/CAG Board) would exercise its statutory duties to review proposed land use policy actions, including land development proposals. The real estate disclosure requirements would also be required.

The ALUCP also identifies a number of airspace protection policies to protect the navigable airspace around the airport for the safe and efficient operation of aircraft in flight that are applicable to Foster City:

- Policy AP-1 requires jurisdictions to notify sponsors of proposed projects to file Form 7460-1 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for any proposed project that may exceed the FAA notification height. Policy AP-1 also requires the local jurisdiction to consider FAA determination study findings as part of its review and decision on a proposed project.
- Policy AP-2 requires project sponsors to comply with the findings of FAA aeronautical studies with respect to any recommended alteration in building design, height, and marking and lighting to be consistent with the ALUCP.
- Policy AP-3 requires proposed projects to comply with structure height provisions outlined in the ALUCP including the critical aeronautical surfaces map and the heights determined by the FAA.
- Policy AP-4 requires proposed projects to undergo review for compatibility with other flight hazards as outlined in the policy, including but not limited to, sources of glare, dust, smoke, electrical interference, etc.

### **Comprehensive Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for the Environs of San Carlos Airport.**

This ALUCP identifies the entirety of Foster City as within one of two airport influence areas (AIAs) - Area A or Area B. Applicable policy requirements for projects located within these areas are described below:

**Airport Influence Area Policy 1 – Real Estate Disclosure Area.** Within Area A of the AIA the real estate disclosure requirements of state law apply. Section 11010 (b) (13) of the Business and





Professions Code requires people offering subdivided property for sale or lease to disclose the presence of all existing and planned airports within two miles of the property. The law requires that, if the property is within an “airport influence area” designated by an airport land use commission, the following statement must be included in the notice of intention to offer the property for sale:

**Airport Influence Area Policy 2 – Policy/Project Referral Area.** Within Area B of the AIA, the C/CAG Board shall exercise its statutory duties to review proposed land use policy actions, including new general plans, specific plans, zoning ordinances, plan amendments and rezonings, and land development proposals. The real estate disclosure requirements in Area A also apply in Area B. For the purposes of this policy, parcels along the edge of the Area B Boundary that are split by the boundary shall be considered as fully within Area B.

This ALUCP also identifies overflight policies for the San Carlos Airport. The overflight policies were recently amended and would be applicable to the project. The following is a description of the policy requirement:

**Overflight Policy 2 – Overflight Notification Zone 2.** All new residential development projects, other than additions and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), within the Overflight Notification Zone 2 shall incorporate a recorded overflight notification requirement as a condition of approval to provide a permanent form of overflight notification to all future property owners. The following statement must be included in the notice:

The ALUCP also identifies a number of airspace protection policies to protect the navigable airspace around the airport for the safe and efficient operation of aircraft in flight that are applicable to Foster City:

- Airspace Protection Policy 1 requires local jurisdictions to notify the FAA of proposals related to the construction of potentially hazardous structures and to evaluate proposed projects in accordance with the airspace protection policies identified in the ALUCP.
- Airspace Protection Policy 2 requires jurisdictions to notify sponsors of proposed projects to file Form 7460-1 with the FAA for any proposed project that may exceed the FAA notification height.
- Airspace Protection Policy 3 requires proposed project sponsors to comply with the findings of FAA aeronautical studies with respect to any recommended alterations in the building design and height and any recommended marking or lighting within the property project.
- Airspace Protection Policy 4 sets forth criteria for determining the acceptability of a project with respect to height.
- Airspace Protection Policy 5 requires projects to be compatible with the maximum building height as outlined in the policy.
- Airspace Protection Policy 6 requires proposed projects to undergo review for compatibility with other flight hazards as outlined in the policy, including but not limited to, sources of glare, dust, smoke, electrical interference, etc.



## G. REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

### California Government Code 65302(g)(1)

California Government Code Section 65302(g)(1) establishes the legislative framework for California's safety elements. This framework consolidates the requirements from relevant federal and state agencies, ensuring that all cities comply with the numerous statutory mandates. These mandates include:

- As applicable, protect against significant risks related to earthquakes, tsunamis, seiches, dam failure, landslides, subsidence, flooding, and fires.
- Including maps of known seismic and other geologic hazards.
- Where applicable, address evacuation routes, military installations, peak-load water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures related to fire and geologic hazards.
- Identifying areas subject to flooding and wildfires.
- Avoid locating critical facilities within areas of high risk.
- Assessing the community's vulnerability to climate change.
- Include adaptation and resilience goals, policies, objectives, and implementation measures.

### California Government Code Sections 8685.9 and 65302.6

California Government Code Section 8685.9 (also known as Assembly Bill 2140 or AB 2140) limits California's share of disaster relief funds paid out to local governments to 75 percent of the funds not paid for by federal disaster relief efforts. However, if the jurisdiction has adopted a valid hazard mitigation plan consistent with DMA 2000 and has incorporated the hazard mitigation plan into the jurisdiction's General Plan, the State may cover more than 75 percent of the remaining disaster relief costs. All cities and counties in California must prepare a General Plan, including a Safety Element that addresses various hazard conditions and other public safety issues. The Safety Element may be a standalone chapter or incorporated into another section as the community wishes. California Government Code Section 65302.6 indicates that a community may adopt an LHMP into its Safety Element as long as the LHMP meets applicable state requirements. This allows communities to use the LHMP to satisfy state requirements for Safety Elements. As the General Plan is an overarching long-term plan for community growth and development, incorporating the MJHMP into it creates a stronger mechanism for implementing the MJHMP.

**The 2021 San Mateo County MJHMP and the Foster City Annex to this plan have been incorporated by reference in the Safety Element.**





**California Government Code 65302(g)(3) adopted through SB 1241 (2012)**

California Government Code Section 65302(g)(3) requires the Safety Element to identify and update mapping, information, goals, and policies to address wildfire hazards. As part of this requirement, any jurisdiction that includes State Responsibility Areas or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA), as defined by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board), is required to transmit the updated element to the Board for review and approval. Foster City does not have Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the City limits and is not required to comply with these requirements.

**California Government Code 65302(g)(4) adopted through SB 379 (2015)**

California Government Code Section 65302(g)(4) requires the Safety Element to address potential impacts of climate change and develop potential strategies to adapt/mitigate these hazards. Analysis of these potential effects should rely on a jurisdiction's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan or an analysis that includes data and analysis from the State of California's Cal-Adapt website.

**California Government Code 65302(g)(5) adopted through SB 99 (2019)**

California Government Code Section 65302(g)(5) requires the Safety Element to identify evacuation constraints associated with residential developments, specifically focused on areas served by a single roadway.

**California Government Code 65302.15(a) adopted through AB 747 (2020) and AB 1409 (2021)**

California Government Code 65302.15(a) requires upon the next revision of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on or after January 1, 2022, or beginning on or before January 1, 2022, if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios. The bill would authorize a city or county that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, or other document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives to use that information in the safety element to comply with this requirement by summarizing and incorporating by reference that other plan or document in the safety element. To comply with this requirement, the City has prepared the Foster City AB 747 Emergency Evacuation Assessment (Appendix A).

**National Flood Insurance Program**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created in 1968 to help communities adopt more effective floodplain management programs and regulations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is responsible for implementing the NFIP and approves the floodplain management plans for participating cities and counties. Foster City participates in the NFIP and



uses Chapter 15.36 Floodplain Management Regulations of the Foster City Municipal Code to administer flood/stormwater management regulations throughout the City.

### **Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act**

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (California Public Resources Code [PRC], Chapter 7.5, Section 2621-2699.6) was intended to reduce the risks associated with surface faults and requires that the designated State Geologist identify and map "Earthquake Fault Zones" around known active faults. Per PRC Section 2623 a, cities and counties shall require a geologic report defining and delineating any hazard of surface fault rupture before the approval of a project. If the jurisdiction finds no undue hazard of that kind exists, the geologic report on the hazard may be waived with the State Geologist's approval. For a list of project types, please refer to PRC Section 2621.6.

### **Seismic Hazards Mapping Act**

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (California Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.8, Section 2690-2699.6) created a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program in 1990 to help cities and counties more effectively address the effects of geologic and seismic hazards caused by earthquakes. Under PRC 2697, cities and counties shall require a geotechnical report defining and delineating any seismic hazard before approving a project located in a seismic hazard zone. If the jurisdiction finds that no undue hazard of this kind exists based on information resulting from studies conducted on sites near the project and of similar soil composition to the project site, the geotechnical report may be waived. After a report has been approved or a waiver granted, subsequent geotechnical reports shall not be required, provided that new geologic datum, or data, warranting further investigation is not recorded. Each jurisdiction shall submit one copy of each approved geotechnical report, including the mitigation measures to be taken, if any, to the State Geologist within 30 days of its approval of the report. For a list of project types, please refer to PRC Section 2693.

### **Cortese List**

Government Code Section 65962.5 (typically referred to as the "Cortese List") identifies sites that require additional oversight during the local permitting process as well as compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The list is generally a compilation of properties and businesses that generate, store, and/or have been impacted by the presence of hazardous materials/wastes. Many properties identified on this list may be undergoing corrective action, clean up, or abandoned and in need of these activities. The City regularly checks federal and state agencies that maintain this list to verify any locations within the City that contain these sites.



# HAZARDS / TRENDS

## A. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The ability to anticipate, evaluate, and mitigate potential risks posed by natural and human-caused hazards is paramount to a City's longevity. Although this element specifically addresses natural and human-caused hazards, emergency preparedness involves many more considerations beyond identifying the hazards themselves. The Emergency Preparedness section consolidates and briefly describes Foster City's hazard prevention and response strategies.

### Police Services

The Foster City Police Department (FCPD) is responsible for public safety and law enforcement within the City. The organizational structure of the FCPD was designed to create the most efficient system to accomplish its goals and mission while providing the best possible level of service to the public it



*Foster City Police Department and Officers*

serves. The FCPD is split into two divisions, the Administrative Division and the Patrol Division, each of which is commanded by a Captain, which in turn is overseen, administered, and managed by the Foster City Chief of Police.

### Fire Services

Fire services and protection are provided by the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department (SMCFD), which proudly serves the communities of Foster City, Belmont, and San Mateo. The Department is responsible for protecting people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials exposure; providing emergency medical care; offering programs preparing citizens for emergencies; and providing non-



*San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department Station No. 28 and Engine.*



emergency services, including fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and other valuable services.

### Emergency Management

Emergency Management is also provided by the Fire Department, which includes the Office of Emergency Services and the CERT Program. The Fire Department manages and maintains emergency plans and trains City staff and community members. The Fire Chief and City Manager coordinate planning, training, and preparation for response to major emergencies or natural disasters. The SMCFD also coordinates the volunteer-composed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT training educates the public about disaster preparedness for hazards that can impact their city, workplace, and neighborhoods and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

### Preparedness (Emergency Operations Plan)

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is primarily responsible for informing Foster City's emergency management strategies. These strategies are typically organized under four categories: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Preparedness activities focus on ensuring City Departments are adequately trained and prepared for future hazard events. A key element of preparedness is ensuring the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is adequately supplied and staffed by trained personnel in the event of an emergency.

### Response

Emergency response activities typically focus on actions necessary to save lives and prevent further property damage during an emergency/disaster. Many of these activities are conducted in tandem with the Foster City Police Department and the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department's standard emergency response procedures. To guide response activities, the City will rely on the EOP and work closely with organizations such as CERT, which helps orchestrate internal and external communications, logistics, and assistance during large-scale emergencies. If City resources become overwhelmed, the City will request support through the Operational Area using automatic aid and mutual aid agreements currently in place. However, the City recognizes that mutual aid resources depend on availability and may be limited during a large regional incident. Therefore, consideration for strengthening self-sufficiency is a priority.



*Foster City Police Department and the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department working as a cohesive unit to offer aid to citizens in response after an automobile accident.*





## Recovery

Recovery activities typically occur after an emergency/disaster event. These activities focus on reestablishing services to any impacted areas, repairing and/or reconstructing damaged buildings and infrastructure, and aiding residents and businesses with permitting and approvals of building



plans as part of the reconstruction process. Depending on the scale and type of incident, recovery could occur in specific community locations and/or require specialized expertise to address the issues created. Cleanup of hazardous wastes shall be considered part of the recovery process from a major disaster event (fire, flood, earthquake, tsunami) and is generally handled by the SMCFD.

## Mitigation

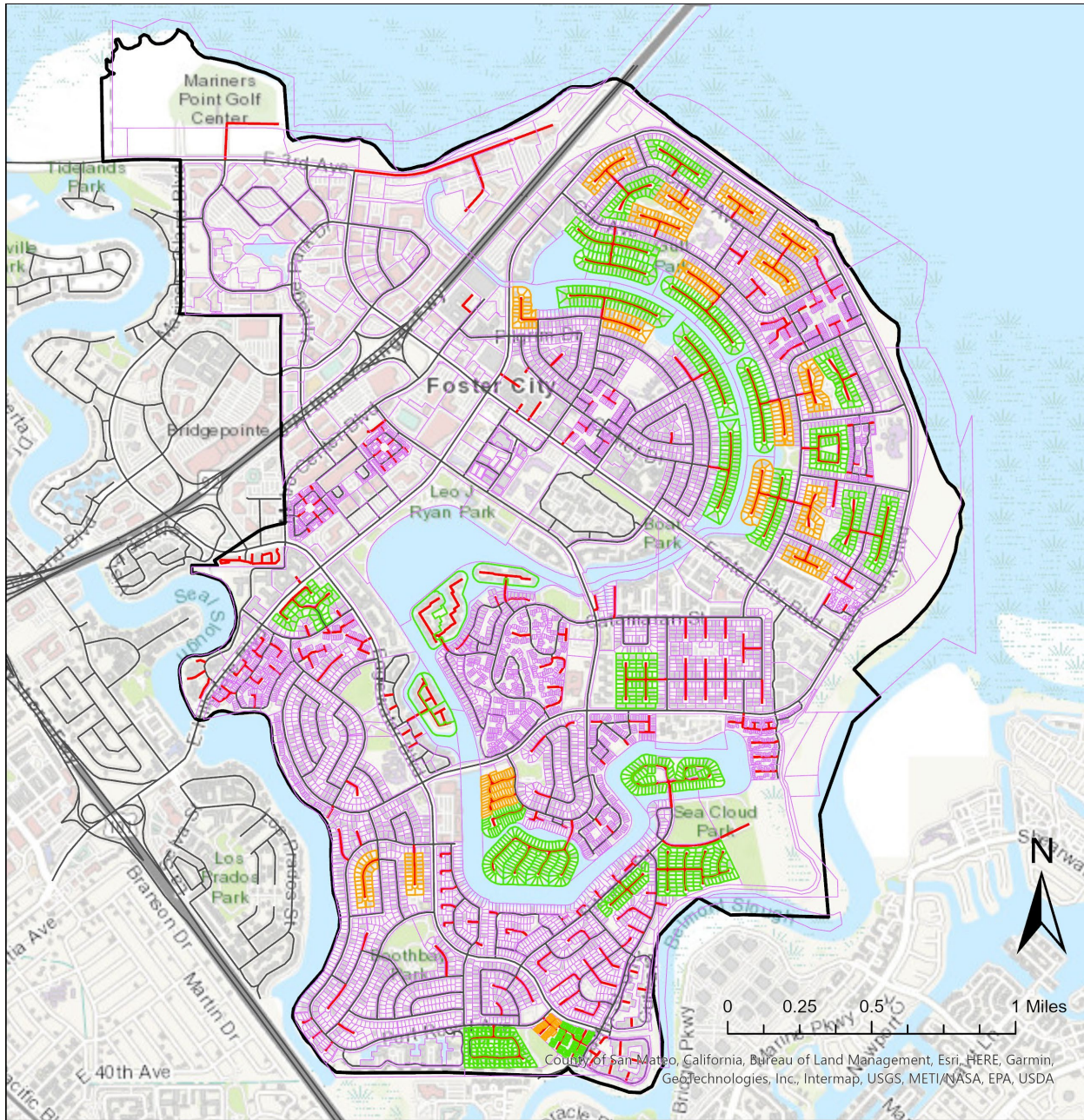
The EOP, in conjunction with the San Mateo County MJHMP, identifies and assesses the natural and human-caused hazards that threaten the City and recommends proactive policy and procedural actions that reduce the risks associated with these hazards. This preemptive planning is intended to decrease the probability of emergency situations and minimize the effects should one occur. Examples of hazard mitigation and prevention can be found in many city policies, but they are most prominently displayed in the numerous codes regulating construction and development in high-hazard areas.

## Evacuation




As part of the City's preparedness initiatives, an Evacuation Analysis has been prepared that identifies the routes used for evacuation purposes. Given the geographical makeup of Foster City (considered an island according to the Land Use Element) and its unique infrastructure, the City already has limited egress and ingress routes, creating potential issues during evacuation scenarios. **Figure S-1** depicts the potential evacuation routes that could be used during a hazard event. These roadways are intended to meet evacuation needs; however, the City recognizes that some constraints may affect evacuation, namely the narrow roadways and bridges that allow access to many parts of the City, including many island neighborhoods bordering the lagoon. These locations may be vulnerable if failure or blockage occurs. Should any of these connections become compromised, a major portion of the City could become cut off, and traffic would need to be re-routed around the potential constraint. This could become further compounded should evacuation out of the City itself be required, as the ingress/egress routes into and out of the City are bridges spanning lagoons, sloughs, and the Bay. **Figure S-1** also identifies constrained roadways (single ingress/egress conditions) and parcels that use these roadways (constrained parcels). These constrained locations are required to be identified by California Government Code Section 65302(g)(5) [SB99]. The current Foster City Municipal Code prohibits dead-end roadways that exceed 600 feet in length.



FIGURE S-1 – SB 99 PARCELS



Legend

-  Constrained Access Parcels
-  Constrained Parcels of Concern
-  Foster City Parcels
-  Constrained Access Roadways
-  Foster City Roadway Network
-  Foster City Limits





**GOAL S-1A: ENSURE THE CITY HAS AN EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM.**

**Policies / Implementation Actions**

<p><b>S-1.1</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure effective emergency response through established procedures, ongoing training programs, periodic exercises of the City's Emergency Operations Plan, and mutual aid agreements.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain the City's Emergency Operations Plan, indicating responsibilities and procedures for responding to an emergency.</li> <li>b. Participate in general mutual-aid agreements and agreements with adjoining jurisdictions for cooperative response to fires, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-1.2</b></p>	<p><b>Plan for and provide facilities and materials anticipated to be needed to respond to emergencies.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain the local government's emergency operations center in a full functional state of readiness.</li> <li>b. As an infrastructure operator, designate a backup Emergency Operations Center with redundant communications systems.</li> <li>c. Pre-position emergency power generation capacity (or have generation rental/lease agreement for these generators) in critical buildings to maintain continuity of government and services.</li> <li>d. Ensure that critical intersection lights function following a loss of power by installing and maintaining battery back-ups and emergency generators.</li> <li>e. Develop a plan for speeding the repair and functional restoration of water and wastewater systems through stockpiling of shoring materials, temporary pumps, surface pipelines, portable hydrants, and other supplies.</li> <li>f. Provide emergency power at critical City facilities such as major sewer lift stations and lagoon pumps.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-1.3</b></p>	<p><b>Provide police services necessary to maintain community order and public safety.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide adequate personnel, training, and equipment to support the provision of police services.</li> <li>b. Review proposals for new and modified buildings for compliance with crime prevention requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-1.4</b></p>	<p><b>Prepare a recovery framework (prior to a disaster event) to help guide actions and priorities during and after a disaster event occurs.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prepare a recovery framework (prior to a disaster event) to help guide actions and priorities during and after a disaster event occurs.</li> <li>b. Consider and adopt regulations to guide response and recovery of City operations following a disaster event.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-1.5</b></p>	<p><b>Anticipate the potential for disasters and ensure the ability to respond promptly, efficiently, and effectively, to provide continuity of services during and after an emergency.</b></p>
<p><b>S-1.6</b></p>	<p><b>Minimize risks of potential hazards in the vicinity of SFO and San Carlos Airports.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Comply with the project referral, airspace protection, real estate transaction disclosure and overflight notification policies of the SFO and San Carlos ALUCPs</li> </ul>



**GOAL S-1B: EMPOWER RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO BE BETTER EDUCATED, PREPARED, AND SELF-RELIANT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM HAZARDS THAT MAY AFFECT FOSTER CITY.**

<b>S-1.7</b>	<p><b>Offer information and programs regarding emergency preparedness.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to provide emergency preparedness classes and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.</li> <li>b. Continue educating the public about emergency preparedness, including schools, businesses, and community groups.</li> </ul>
<b>S-1.8</b>	<p><b>Offer information and programs regarding seismic and geologic hazards, potential effects on buildings, and ways to mitigate these risks.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Include seismic safety education in City public education programs.</li> <li>b. Assess non-structural seismic hazards as part of annual inspections of businesses.</li> <li>c. Work with homeowners' associations to educate the need for earthquake-resistant connections when pipes enter and exit bridges and encourage the retrofit of these facilities.</li> <li>d. Maintain a geotechnical report library at City Hall.</li> </ul>
<b>S-1.9</b>	<p><b>Educate the Public about Fire Hazards.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide fire education/prevention programs to the public, including schools, businesses, and community groups, through publications, training classes, and other means.</li> </ul>
<b>S-1.10</b>	<p><b>Educate the Public about Crime Prevention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide crime prevention programs to educate and involve the community, including but not limited to Neighborhood Watch, Apartment Watch, Business Watch, newsletters, security surveys, and programs with community groups and organizations.</li> </ul>
<b>S-1.11</b>	<p><b>All new residential development projects other than additions and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) within Overflight Notification Zone 2 for the San Carlos Airport shall incorporate a recorded overflight notification requirement as a condition of approval pursuant to the San Carlos Comprehensive Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for Environs of San Carlos Airport (San Carlos Airport Final ALUCP).</b></p>

**GOAL S-1C: A COMMUNITY THAT CAN EASILY EVACUATE.**

<b>S-1.12</b>	<p><b>Ensure adequate evacuation capacity and infrastructure is available for existing and new development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop an Evacuation Master Plan that identifies routes, potential hazard incidents, and criteria regarding capacity, safety, and viability.</li> </ul>
<b>S-1.13</b>	<p><b>In areas with inadequate access or without at least two evacuation routes, provide adequate mitigation actions to address the deficiencies required by the Fire Code and State law.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify existing and planned residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.</li> </ul>
<b>S-1.14</b>	<p><b>Identify and map evacuation routes (primary and secondary), evacuation zones, and key constraints for use by emergency management staff and first responders.</b></p>





<b>S-1.15</b>	<b>Coordinate with Caltrans and the County of San Mateo regarding transportation-related projects that can address potential roadway network issues and constraints.</b>
<b>S-1.16</b>	<b>Prioritize roadway and storm drain infrastructure retrofitting and enhancement projects along primary evacuation routes.</b>
<b>S-1.17</b>	<b>Ensure all new development and redevelopment provides adequate ingress/egress for emergency access and evacuation.</b>
<b>S-1.18</b>	<b>Ensure all new developments and redevelopments include multiple points of ingress/egress.</b>
<b>S-1.19</b>	<b>Identify and construct additional evacuation routes in areas of high hazard concern or limited mobility.</b>
<b>S-1.20</b>	<b>Monitor changes to hazard conditions and vulnerabilities to ensure the accessibility or viability of evacuation routes in the future.</b>
<b>S-1.21</b>	<b>Develop an implementation program that identifies areas of the City with limited ingress/egress, limited circulation capacity, and/or critical infrastructure that could impact evacuation efforts.</b>
<b>S-1.22</b>	<b>Develop an education and outreach program on the potential evacuation scenarios and activities that residents and businesses can do to better prepare for these events.</b>
<b>S-1.23</b>	<b>Explore the feasibility of using boats as a potential vessel/vehicle to evacuate from islands should traditional/planned evacuation routes (bridges, causeways) become compromised in a major emergency event where evacuation is necessary.</b>
<b>S-1.24</b>	<p><b>Explore the feasibility of creating alternate or secondary routes out of the city in the event an emergency evacuation becomes necessary.</b></p> <p>a. Identify potential emergency access connections along the city's southern portions and determine the need for reciprocating access agreements with property owners, homeowner associations, neighboring jurisdictions, and resource agencies to ensure emergency access connections can expand in these areas.</p>

## B. SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Seismic and geologic hazards involve the movement of the Earth's surface. This section identifies four common seismic hazards that threaten Foster City and establishes policies and procedures to protect the community during an event. A key consideration for seismic hazards is the potential for cascading effects resulting from an event. When an earthquake occurs, the seismic shaking can cause natural gas and water/sewer pipelines to rupture, which can cause other impacts like flooding, erosion, or fires. The goals, policies, and actions throughout this element are designed to work together to reduce the individual and collective risk of these hazards.

### Seismic Hazards

The Bay Area is a seismically active region that experiences earthquakes regularly. Foster City is prone to seismic hazards due to its location and proximity to active earthquake faults. These hazards can be characterized as follows:



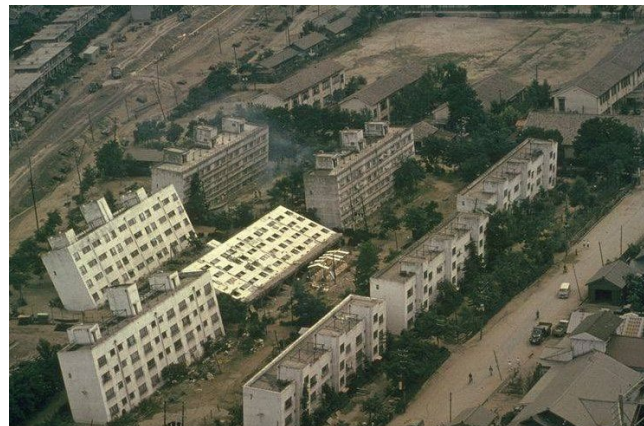
## Seismic Shaking

Seismic shaking is the recognizable movement caused by the energy released from an earthquake. The same mechanism that creates a surface rupture is also responsible for seismic shaking and can produce an equally devastating effect. Earthquakes may occur without surface rupture, which can still cause significant damage to buildings and other structures. Infrastructure such as roads, pipelines, and power lines are also susceptible to damage and pose additional safety concerns. Unlike surface rupture, seismic shaking consequences are not restricted to the area immediately surrounding the fault. Energy resonating through the ground can travel hundreds of miles and cause damage in many locations simultaneously. The closer to the earthquake's source (epicenter), the stronger the shaking.

Seismic shaking is of particular concern for Foster City due to its proximity to active and potentially active faults that can generate significant earthquakes. No Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zones, which identify active earthquake faults by the California Geological Survey, are within the City limits. However, the proximity to the San Andreas (approximately 5.7 miles southwest of the City) and the Hayward Faults (approximately 12.8 miles northwest of the City) increases the probability of severe lateral displacement and ground shaking should an earthquake occur. Other fault systems of concern to Foster City are the Butano fault (approximately 18.1 miles southwest of the city), the San Gregorio fault (approximately 12.4 miles to the west of the city), and the Monte Vista-Shannon fault (approximately 5.45 miles to the southwest of the city). **Figure S-2** identifies the locations of these fault systems and the Alquist-Priolo Special Study zones surrounding the City.

## Liquefaction

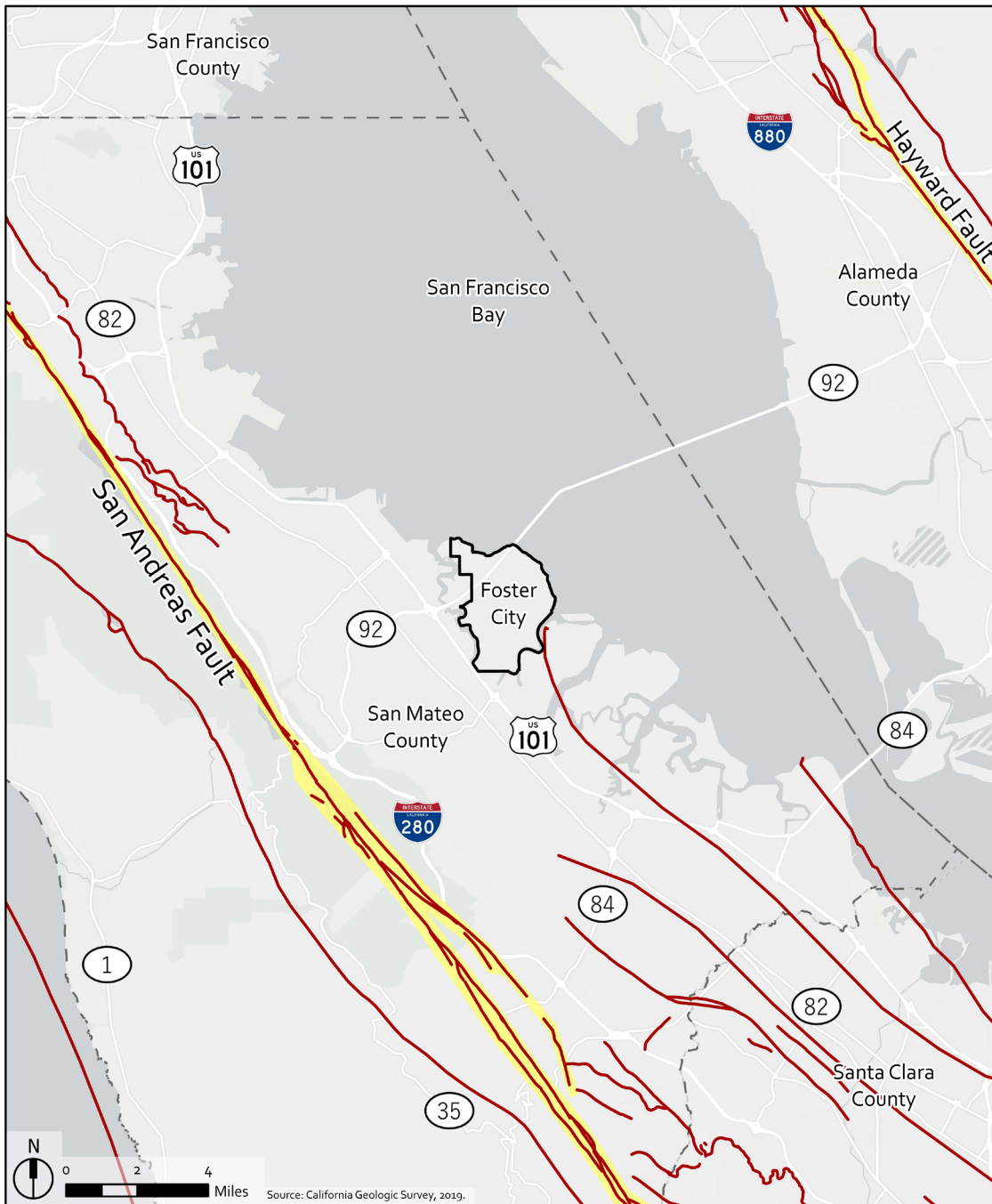
Liquefaction is a phenomenon that occurs when intense vibrations from an earthquake cause saturated soil to lose stability and act more like a liquid than a solid. This poses significant problems for buildings and other structures in areas where liquefaction can occur, as the ground may give way under the weight of the structure and its foundation. In addition, underground structures are vulnerable to liquefaction. Most of the city lies within the very high and medium liquefaction susceptibility zones. The conditions necessary for liquefaction to occur require the presence of water (surface or shallow groundwater) and loose fine-grained soils (sands and silts), and strong seismic shaking, which can lose structural integrity during an earthquake. **Figure S-3** depicts the areas of the city potentially susceptible to liquefaction.



*Liquefaction during the 1964 Niigata Earthquake*



**FIGURE S-2: FAULTS / ALQUIST PRIOLO SPECIAL STUDY ZONES NEAR FOSTER CITY**



- City Boundary
- Counties
- Quaternary Faults
- Alquist-Priolo Fault Zones

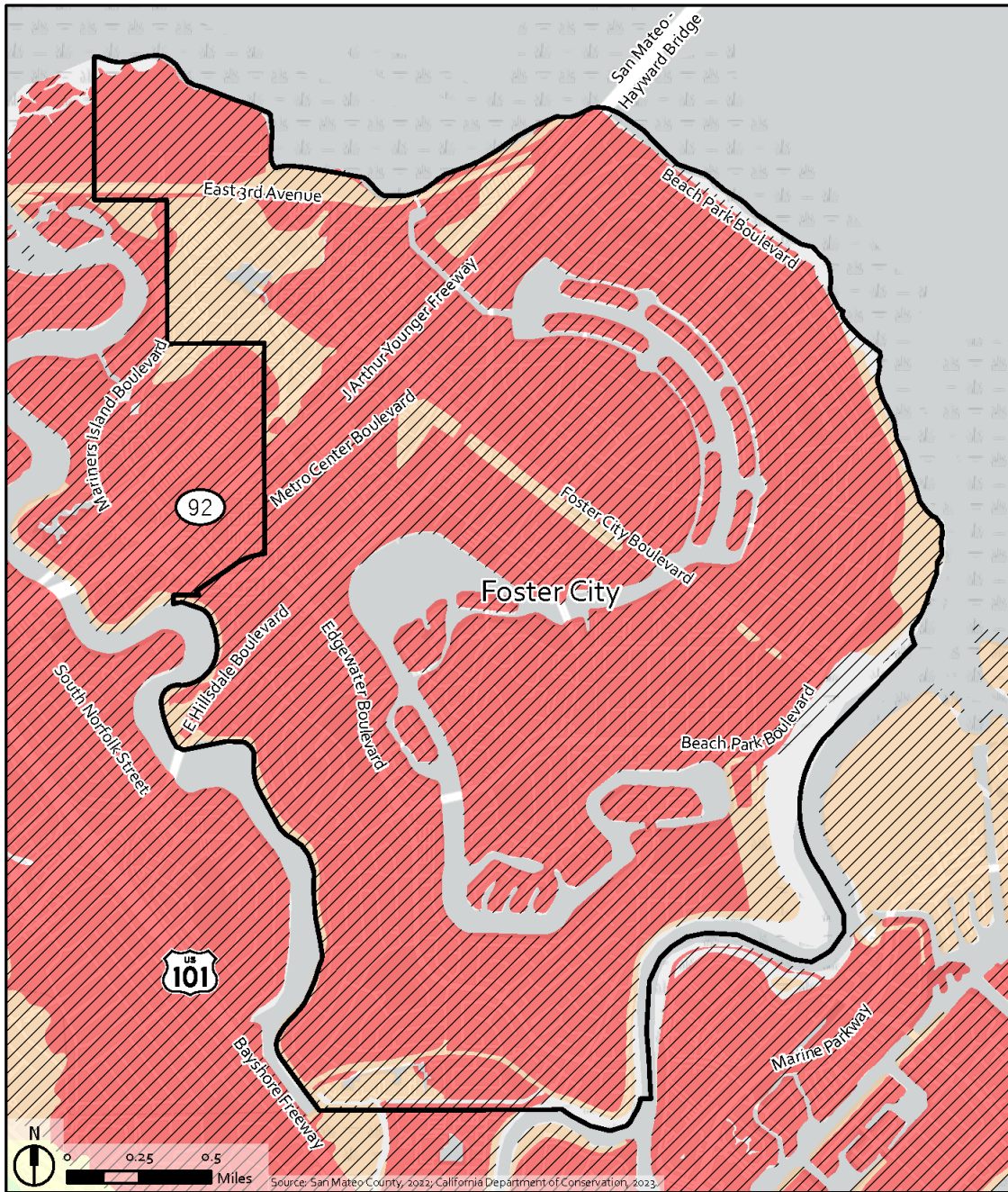
Regional Faults

**Foster City Safety Element Update**





**FIGURE S-3: LIQUEFACTION SUSCEPTIBILITY AREAS**



- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- City Boundary
- Required Liquefaction Zones of Investigation by CGS

Liquefaction Susceptibility

**Foster City Safety Element Update**



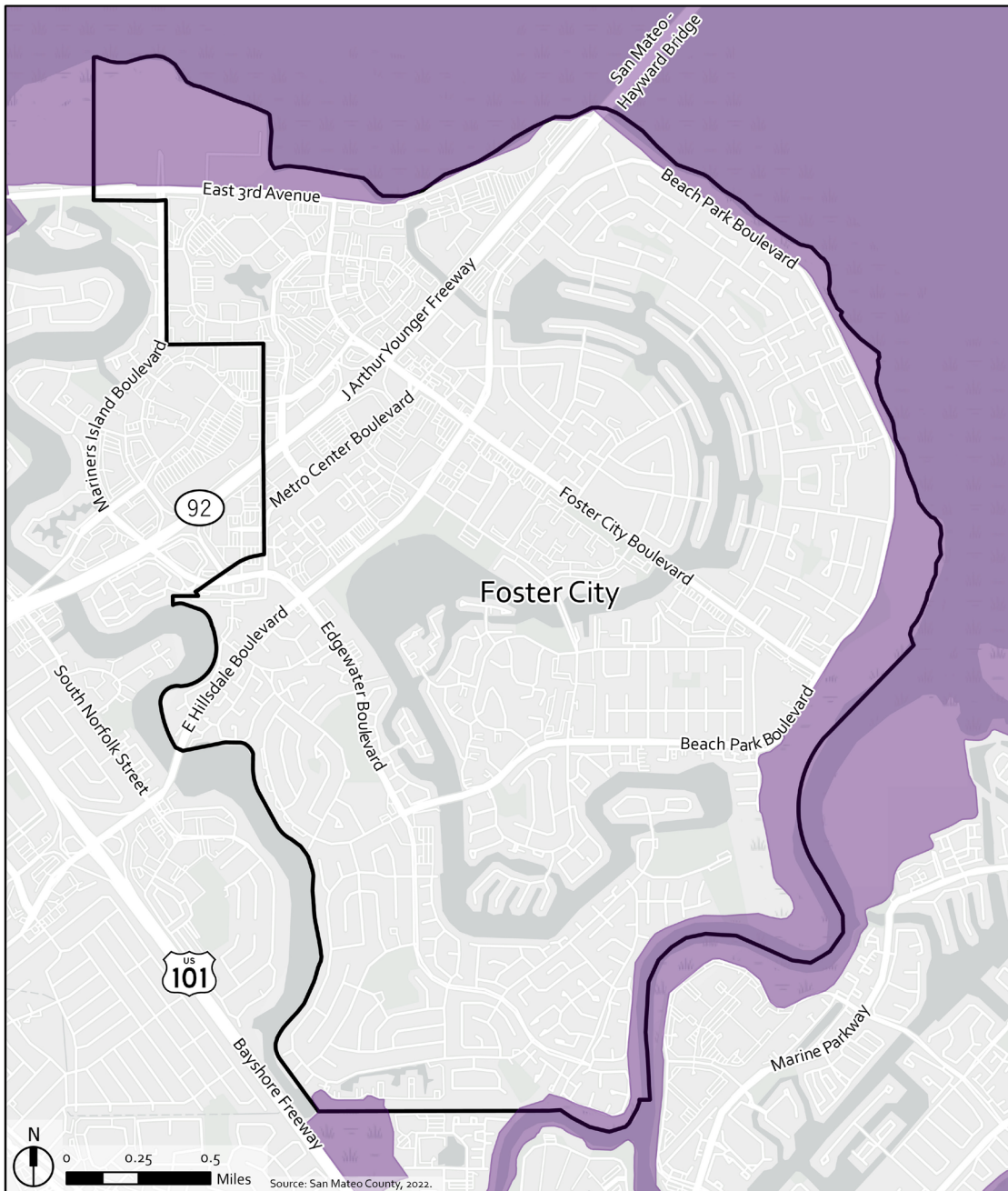
## Tsunami



Tsunamis are giant waves caused by earthquakes, landslides, or volcanic eruptions under the water or along the shore. A large and sudden change in atmospheric pressure can also trigger a rare type of tsunami called a meteotsunami. Out in the depths of the ocean, tsunami waves do not dramatically increase in height. But as the waves travel towards land, they increase in height as the depth of the ocean decreases. The speed of tsunami waves depends on ocean depth rather than the distance from the source of the wave. Tsunami waves may travel as fast as jet planes over deep waters, only slowing down when reaching shallow waters. A seiche occurs when resonant wave oscillations form in an enclosed or semi-enclosed body of water such as a lake or bay. Seiches may be triggered by moderate or larger local submarine earthquakes and sometimes by large distant earthquakes. The greatest hazard is from the inflow and outflow of water, where strong currents and forces can erode foundations and sweep away structures and equipment.

Part of the danger of tsunamis is the ability to cause damage far away from the triggering event. Although tsunamis weaken as they travel and typically cause the most damage near the event's origin, large ones can retain enough energy to be destructive hundreds or thousands of miles away. According to tsunami inundation mapping completed by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), areas outside the City's levee system are at the greatest risk. This includes the marshlands, tidal flats, and former bay margin lands that have been artificially filled but are still either at or below sea level. The San Francisco Bay itself is at minimal risk of tsunamis generated from local faults, as they move from side to side as opposed to up and down. The greater threat comes from tsunamis generated by large earthquakes in other areas of the Pacific Ocean. **Figure S-4** depicts the potential tsunami inundation areas that may impact the City (it should be noted that this map reflects hazard areas based on levee height before the Foster City Levee Project has been completed).



**FIGURE S-4: FOSTER CITY TSUNAMI HAZARD AREAS**



-  City Boundary
-  Tsunami Hazard Area\*

\*Tsunami Hazard Area is based on the levee heights prior to the 2020-2023 Levee Improvements Project.



**GOAL S-2: A COMMUNITY MORE RESILIENT TO SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS.**

**Policies / Implementation Actions**

<b>S-2.1</b>	<p><b>Protect the City's infrastructure and facilities from damage due to seismic and geologic hazards through proper design and retrofitting of older facilities to current standards.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conduct assessments of key critical facilities (Police Department, Recreation Center, City Hall) and their use related to an earthquake to identify strategies to improve facility resilience, including determining the feasibility of retrofitting/ replacing the building.</li> <li>b. Implement recommendations for seismic upgrades to key critical infrastructure (pump stations, water storage tanks, etc.)</li> <li>c. Install specially engineered pipelines in areas subject to faulting, liquefaction, or other seismic/geologic hazards.</li> <li>d. Facilitate biannual inspections by the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) of City-owned bridges (Bicentennial, Foster City Boulevard, Rainbow, and Shell Boulevard) and incorporate needed improvements into the capital improvement program.</li> </ul>
<b>S-2.2</b>	<p><b>Minimize injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption caused by seismic and geologic hazards.</b></p>
<b>S-2.3</b>	<p><b>Require that new development be designed and built per the most recent California Building Code, with additional local requirements, as necessary, tailored to Foster City.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop an inventory of seismically vulnerable structures (unreinforced masonry, soft story construction, and non-ductile concrete).</li> <li>b. Require site-specific geotechnical and engineering reports (that include liquefaction analysis) for new structures, redevelopments, and major remodels.</li> <li>c. Develop a retrofit program and potential funding sources for seismically vulnerable structures.</li> <li>d. Adopt and enforce the most current uniform codes with additional local requirements as necessary tailored to Foster City.</li> </ul>
<b>S-2.4</b>	<p><b>Encourage utility service providers to continue upgrading their facilities and infrastructure throughout the City to improve seismic/geologic resilience and survivability.</b></p>
<b>S-2.5</b>	<p><b>Locate essential and critical facilities (i.e., fire stations, hospitals, police stations, schools, and utility infrastructure), in areas of low seismic and geologic hazard risk, to the greatest extent feasible</b></p>
<b>S-2.6</b>	<p><b>Ensure planning, preparedness, and emergency response capabilities accommodate tsunami hazard events.</b></p>
<b>S-2.7</b>	<p><b>Review shoreline development policies that expose structures to wave attack or degrades natural means of shoreline protection in consultation with the OneShoreline Planning Guidance Policy.</b></p>





## C. FLOOD HAZARDS

Flooding is caused by the accumulation of water on the ground surface. This typically occurs after heavy rainfall but can also result from water delivery/storage infrastructure failures such as pipes, storage containers, and dams/reservoirs. Worsening drought conditions caused by climate change may exacerbate the effects of flooding, as surfaces that typically absorb water can quickly dry out and become less permeable. Flooding presents dangers to people and structures alike. Standing water may be deep enough to cause drowning; even shallow water can easily damage buildings and property. Fast-moving water is hazardous, as it may sweep people or cars downstream or cause damage to structures.



*Lagoon dredging to remove sediment mitigate flood risk.*

### Inland Flooding

Inland floods are a common result of coastal storms; they can also occur after rain falls for many days in a row. Often inland flooding can result from brief periods of intense precipitation that overwhelm infrastructure or result from damaged infrastructure (levee failure or storm drain overflows). When the volume of water on land overcomes the capacity of natural and built drainage systems to carry it away, inland flooding can result. Localized ponding can occur in low-lying areas within the city, especially if storm drain infrastructure or private drainages aren't properly maintained or sized large enough to convey the runoff.

### Coastal Flooding

Coastal flooding normally occurs when low-lying land is submerged by seawater. The extent of coastal flooding is based on the floodwater elevation and the topography of the adjacent coastal land. The majority of the city borders either the San Francisco Bay or the Belmont/San Francisco Bay sloughs (a wetland, swamp, or shallow lake; that is often a backwater to a larger body of water like the San Francisco Bay). Foster City is protected from the Bay by a levee and sea walls owned and operated by the City. These improvements surround much of the city's outer bay-front perimeter, providing necessary flood protection. Foster City recently initiated a Levee Improvement Project designed to increase the height and width of the levee system to increase protection against storm/tidal surges and meet sea level rise projections through 2050 (See Climate Adaptation, Sea Level Rise for more detail).



*High tide coastal flooding in Foster City.*





**Figure S-5** depicts the FEMA flood hazard zones mapped within the City.

### Dam Inundation

When dams designed to hold water fail, the body of water suddenly and abruptly moves downstream. These downstream areas can become inundated depending on how much water is behind the dam and the topography of these areas. The specific areas of land that would become flooded and covered with water resulting from a dam break are considered an "inundation zone." These downstream areas are typically much larger than the areas identified on flood maps because the volume of water released will often overwhelm any stormwater infrastructure in these areas. The Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir is the largest of the dams that affect San Mateo County and the only dam that could potentially inundate Foster City. The dam acts as part of the water system that brings water to the peninsula via San Mateo Creek and forms the Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir, which acts as a water supply for San Francisco and other cities in San Mateo County.

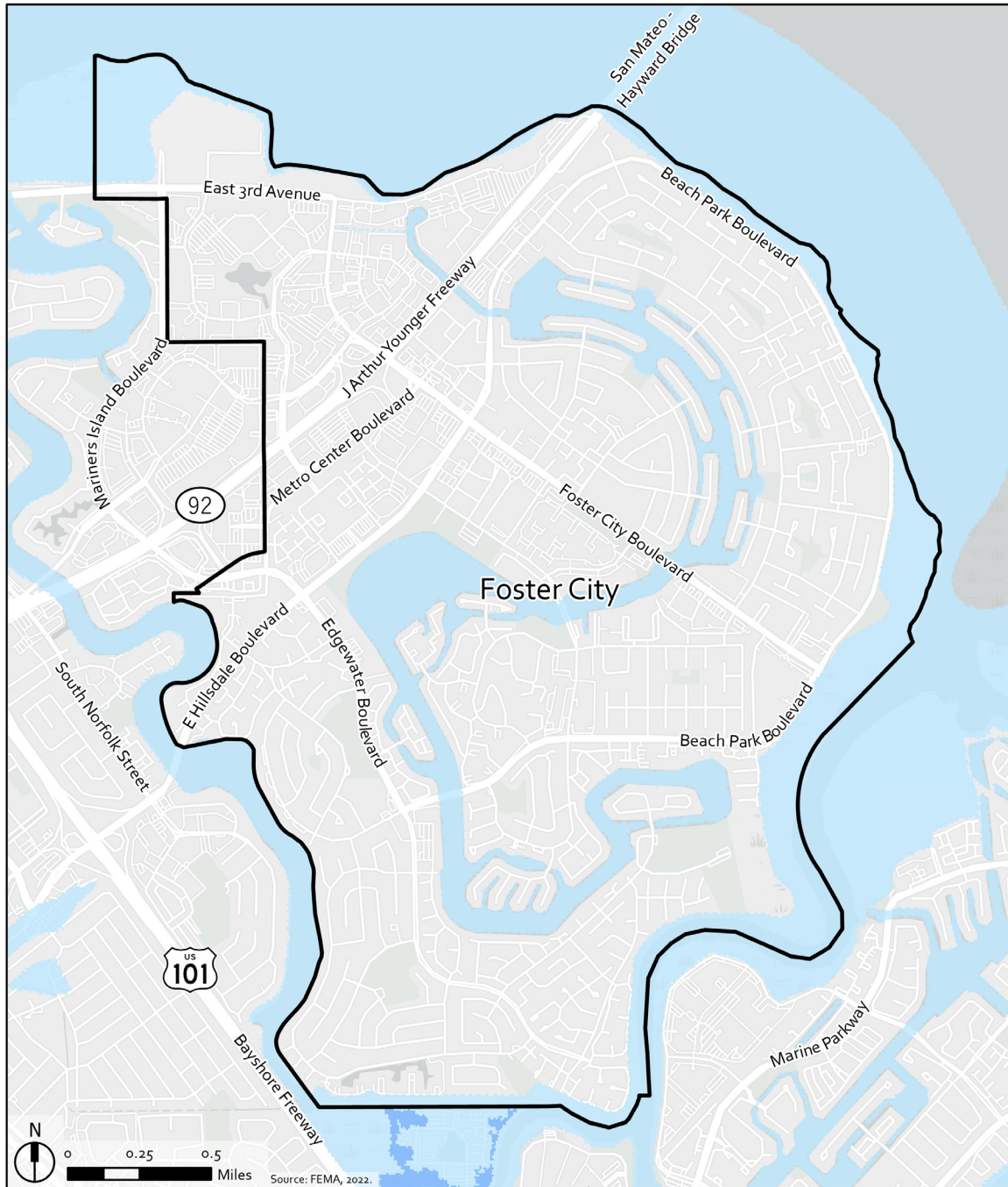





**Figure S-6** depicts the potential inundation area associated with the failure of this dam.

*Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir as viewed from the Sawyer Camp Trail.*



**FIGURE S-5: FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

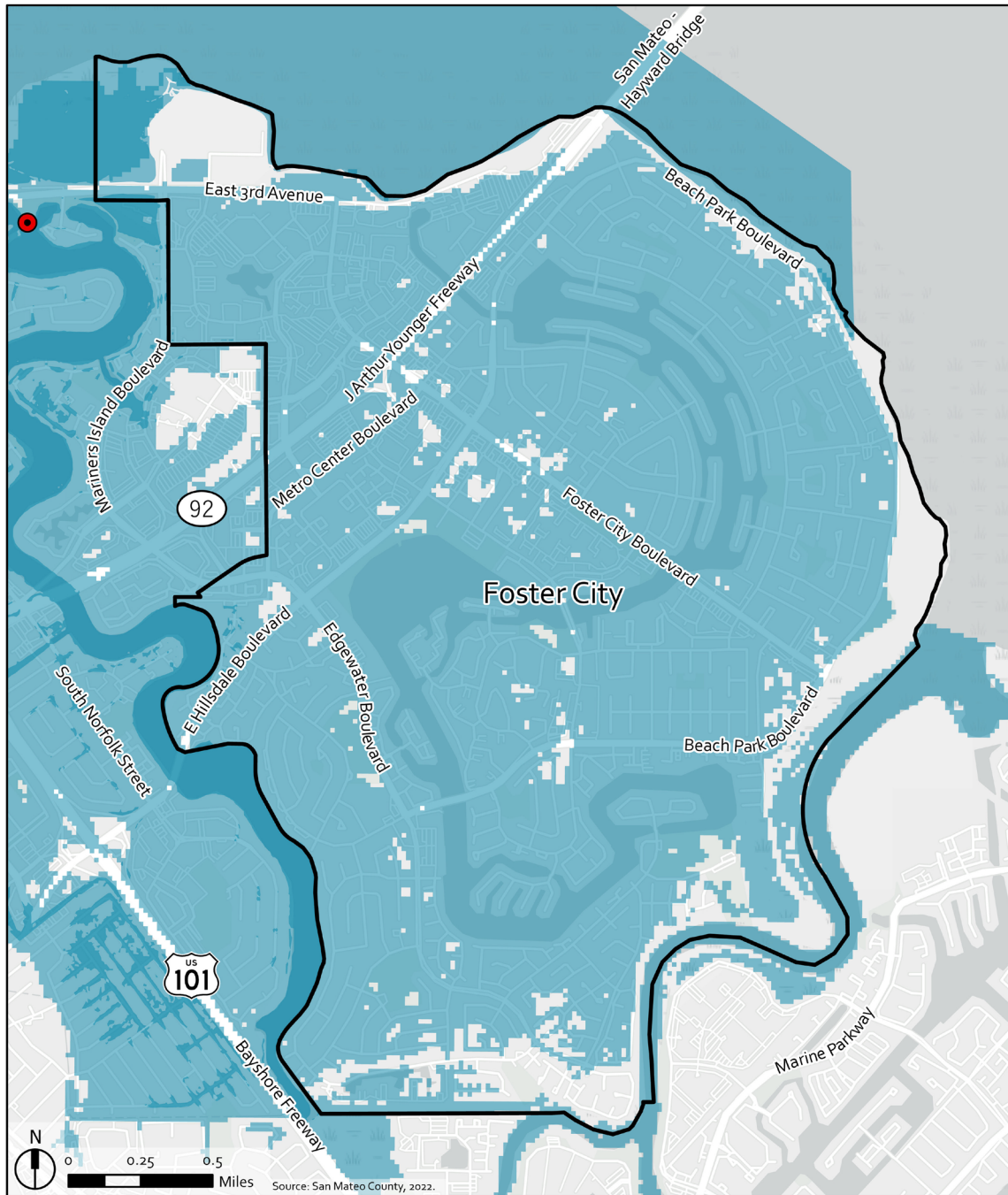


-  City Boundary
-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-Year)\*
-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (500-Year)\*

\*Flood Hazard Area is based on the levee heights prior to the 2020-2023 Levee Improvements Project.



**FIGURE S-6: DAM FAILURE INUNDATION AREA**



- City Boundary
- Dam Failure Inundation Area\*
- Jurisdictional Dam

\*Dam Failure Inundation Area is based on the levee heights prior to the 2020-2023 Levee Improvements Project.

Dam Failure Inundation Area  
Foster City Safety Element Update



**GOAL S-3: A COMMUNITY MORE RESILIENT TO INUNDATION RESULTING FROM FLOOD AND DAM FAILURE.**

**Policies / Implementation Actions**

<b>S-3.1</b>	<p><b>Locate new essential public/critical facilities outside of FEMA flood hazard zones and dam inundation zones to the greatest extent feasible.</b></p> <p>a. Evaluate proposed development within special flood hazard areas for conformance with the City's flood plain regulations as contained in Chapter 15.36 of the Foster City Municipal Code.</p>
<b>S-3.2</b>	<p><b>Continue participation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program for affected properties.</b></p> <p>a. Update the local floodplain management ordinance as necessary to ensure compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements pursuant to Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).</p>
<b>S-3.3</b>	<p><b>Protect and preserve natural features such as wetlands that serve as natural mitigation against the impacts of flooding.</b></p>
<b>S-3.4</b>	<p><b>Maintain and enhance the City's levees and lagoon system for flood protection.</b></p> <p>a. Complete the Levee Improvements Project and continue to work with FEMA to maintain FEMA accreditation and protect the City against sea level rise.</p> <p>b. Maintain the City's levees and lagoon for flood protection pursuant to the "Operation and Maintenance Manual, Foster City Levees and Pump Station" and the "Lagoon Management Plan."</p>
<b>S-3.5</b>	<p><b>Ensure data and information for flood hazards are readily available and up to date.</b></p> <p>a. Monitor and periodically evaluate the community flood protection and evacuation plans to assist persons and property owners and protect properties from 100-year flood threats and dam inundation.</p> <p>b. Monitor and periodically update as required the following mapping and plans to maintain flood and dam inundation hazard resilience within the City:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) prepared by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).</li> <li>• Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to include accurate information and data for all potential Flood Hazards.</li> <li>• Local maps showing areas that are subject to flooding and areas with a history of repeated flood damage.</li> </ul>
<b>S-3.6</b>	<p><b>Require mitigation for new developments, redevelopments, or major remodels within flood and dam inundation zones to reduce future flooding or address evacuation needs.</b></p>





## D. URBAN FIRE

### Urban Fires

The possibility of an urban fire confronts every city. Many urban fires begin as isolated incidents caused by faulty electrical appliances, cooking mishaps, improper storage of chemicals, or industrial malfunction but can spread to other buildings if conditions permit. Buildings in the urban environment are more prone to fires that start inside or grow from a fire in a neighboring structure. Many factors contribute to an urban fire's severity and extent, but modern building codes and practices have helped reduce their effects. Many designs have been implemented to reduce urban fires, including fire sprinklers, which can extinguish small fires and reduce the speed at which large fires spread. Despite these improvements, it is important to acknowledge the risks



*Firefighters on the roof of multi-unit residential structure on fire in Foster City*



*Open House at the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department fire station.*

associated with fires in urban areas. No matter its size, any fire can be fatal or cause people severe harm and can damage buildings and other structures. Foster City adopted stringent fire safety regulations for high-rise buildings (75 feet) and mid-rise buildings four or more stories in height (but below 75 feet) before they were required by later codes. The Fire Department annually conducts fire inspections on high-rise buildings to ensure effective risk reduction measures are implemented.

One unique fire risk is the potential for fire following an earthquake. Natural gas pipelines that connect at the street or shifting gas appliances may break gas lines. Fires ignited by rupture gas lines or electrical failures may produce more ignitions than firefighters can respond to. Some jurisdictions have required the installation of automatic gas shut-off valves to reduce this risk, and improvements to the building code to reduce urban fire risk. These actions have the potential to reduce the impacts of fire following an earthquake.

### Water Supply

The Estero Municipal Improvement District (EMID) provides water services in Foster City. According to the District's Urban Water Management Plan, adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future customer demands within the city during normal years. However, as documented in Table 7-5 in the EMID 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, during single and



multiple dry years, EMID's total annual water demand is expected to exceed EMID's available water supplies from 2025 to 2045. This is especially important in ensuring adequate supplies are available for fire suppression needs. As a standard practice, new developments and major remodels are required to conduct water pressure/flow testing and mitigate issues if the supply is deemed inadequate in normal and dry years.

**GOAL S-4: MINIMIZE THE LOSS OF LIFE, INJURIES, AND PROPERTY DAMAGE DUE TO FIRES.**

<p><b>S-4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Minimize loss of life, injuries, and property damage due to fires by reviewing development proposals, public education, and maintenance of well-trained fire suppression personnel.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review proposals for new and modified buildings to ensure that fire safety provisions are included as required by the most current uniform codes and local regulations.</li> <li>b. Conduct annual inspections of businesses and multi-family dwellings in order to ensure compliance with fire safety and hazardous materials requirements.</li> <li>c. Continue to provide inspections of residential care facilities at the request of the Department of Social Services.</li> <li>d. Require fire sprinklers in all new or substantially remodeled housing, regardless of distance from a fire station, to the extent allowed by State law.</li> <li>e. Establish ongoing maintenance and funding for vegetation management and brush clearance along city-maintained roads, open space areas, and waterways.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Design community spaces to minimize pockets, peninsulas, or islands of flammable vegetation to reduce fire susceptibility.</b></p>
<p><b>S-4.3</b></p>	<p><b>Require all redevelopment after a fire to meet current Fire Prevention Code Standards.</b></p>
<p><b>S-4.4</b></p>	<p><b>Maintain access (ingress and egress) for fire apparatus vehicles along public streets for emergency equipment and evacuation.</b></p>
<p><b>S-4.5</b></p>	<p><b>Provide an adequate supply of water for daily use and emergency situations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain a water supply and delivery system that can meet potential firefighting demands through the annual exercise of fire hydrants and periodic review of storage needs.</li> <li>b. Study the adequacy of water storage and/or supply facilities.</li> <li>c. Ensure the adequacy of the water delivery system through periodic testing, flushing, and replacement of parts as needed.</li> <li>d. Continue to evaluate critical water supply transmission mains on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>e. Continue to evaluate the water pressure-reducing stations that reduce SFPUC's supply pressure to EMID system pressure.</li> <li>f. Provide and maintain consolidated remote monitoring capabilities for the water distribution, wastewater collection, and lagoon management systems that can be monitored 24 hours a day.</li> </ul>

**E. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE**

Natural hazards are not the only threat to a community's safety. Human-caused dangers, such as various hazardous materials and wastes, are often found throughout a community and can pose significant risks. Generally speaking, hazardous materials are identified as toxic, flammable, explosive, corrosive, infectious, radioactive, or a combination of these characteristics. Hazardous wastes are categorized similarly but are identified separately from materials because they no longer serve a meaningful use.



### In the Community

Although common household chemicals pose little threat to the community at large, hazardous materials and wastes used by businesses and industry present a greater risk. Mechanical dealerships, repair shops, gasoline and diesel fuel stations, and dry cleaners are examples of businesses that regularly use and store chemicals or other hazardous materials. Pipelines and tanks within the City also transport and store chemicals that could pose a risk if a failure occurs. These releases are anticipated to be isolated to properties where storage occurs. Releases also tend to involve transporting raw materials and their byproducts by pipeline or truck. Regulation of the use, storage, and transportation of hazardous materials and wastes rests on state and federal agencies; however, cities play a large role in minimizing the risks and impacts of exposure through careful planning and preparation. The City's main truck route includes State Route 92 (the J. Arthur Younger Freeway), which allows for transporting chemicals and materials into and out of the City from regional routes like US 101 and Interstate 880.

### In the Home

Exposure to hazardous materials is not uncommon, as many household cleaning products contain chemicals that can harm both humans and the environment. However, proper use can largely avoid the health risks associated with these hazardous materials. Properly storing household cleaning products and other common hazardous materials, such as those used in automotive and home repair, is also an important component of responsible management. Following the manufacturer's instructions on the packaging and keeping products out of the reach of children are two simple steps that can help reduce the risk of exposure.

## **GOAL S-5: A COMMUNITY PROTECTED FROM EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES**

### Policies / Implementation Actions

<b>S-5.1</b>	<b>Protect the community from unreasonable risks associated with hazardous materials.</b>
<b>S-5.2</b>	<b>Continue to enforce applicable codes related to hazardous materials.</b>
<b>S-5.3</b>	<b>Restrict the transport of hazardous materials to identified truck routes throughout the City.</b>
<b>S-5.4</b>	<b>Commercial and industrial facilities shall be required to participate in a hazardous material and waste mitigation and response program.</b>
<b>S-5.5</b>	<b>Control the development of uses that store, transport, or dispose of hazardous materials pursuant to Chapter 8.07 of the Municipal Code.</b> a. Participate in San Mateo County hazardous waste reduction programs consistent with the San Mateo County Hazardous Waste Management Plan.
<b>S-5.6</b>	<b>Promote using non-toxic alternatives for cleaning and pest management in the home and yard.</b>



## F. CLIMATE ADAPTATION

### Climate Effects on Foster City

Although climate change is not a hazard, variations in environmental conditions can impact some of the natural hazards affecting Foster City. Projections of future conditions include increased temperatures, increased extreme heat days, changes in precipitation, sea level rise, more prolonged droughts, and changes in the size and frequency of wildfire incidents. **Table S-2** identifies the current/historical conditions and projected future conditions associated with climate change that could occur in Foster City.

<b>Table S-2: Potential Climate Change effects for Foster City</b>	
<b>Historical/ Current Conditions</b>	<b>Future Conditions</b>
Annual Mean Temperature (1961-1990)	Annual Mean Temperature (2070-2099)
<b>69.3° F</b>	<b>71.3° to 75.6° F</b>
Extreme Heat Days (92.9° F)	Extreme Heat Days (2070-2099)
<b>3 days per year</b>	<b>10 to 43 days per year</b>
Annual Mean Precipitation	Annual Mean Precipitation (2070-2099)
<b>17.5 inches</b>	<b>13.5 to 26.3 inches</b>
Source: <a href="https://cal-adapt.org/tools/local-climate-change-snapshot">https://cal-adapt.org/tools/local-climate-change-snapshot</a>	

### Climate-Related Hazards

#### Temperature

Increasing temperatures associated with climate change can act as a hazard multiplier. By the end of the century, annual mean temperatures are projected to increase between approximately 2 and 6.3 degrees, impacting City residents and businesses. These increases are also anticipated to increase the number of extreme heat days, from 3 days to between 10 and 43 days per year. These potential temperature increases may impact residents living in poorly insulated structures or structures that do not have adequate air conditioning. For residents living in these structures, temperatures above 85 (within the structure) may cause discomfort. By the end of the century, the number of days over this temperature threshold could be nearly 15 times what the City typically experiences.

While climate change is projected to exacerbate many of the hazards already affecting the City, many of these hazards may interact with each other. Increased temperatures can affect both water supplies and vegetation growth. With drier conditions, vegetation growth may be reduced, and soils may dry out, making them less capable of absorbing moisture. If this condition persists, areas of the City may be more prone to flooding if soils are less absorbent.





### Precipitation

While temperatures are anticipated to increase in the coming decades, climate change projections suggest that annual mean precipitation may decrease or increase by several inches. While it is difficult to predict the exact amount of change in any given year, many projections anticipate that future rain events will become more intense, which could increase flooding in some locations. Recent events have generated rain totals of more than six inches in a single month, with 2.6 inches occurring during a 24-hour period. With changes in future precipitation, it is expected that changes to local vegetation may also occur, which could impact drainages and increase the need for flood management activities and drainage infrastructure in some areas. With future temperature increases coupled with fluctuating precipitation amounts, City services and infrastructure may require retrofitting if adequate capacity is not available.

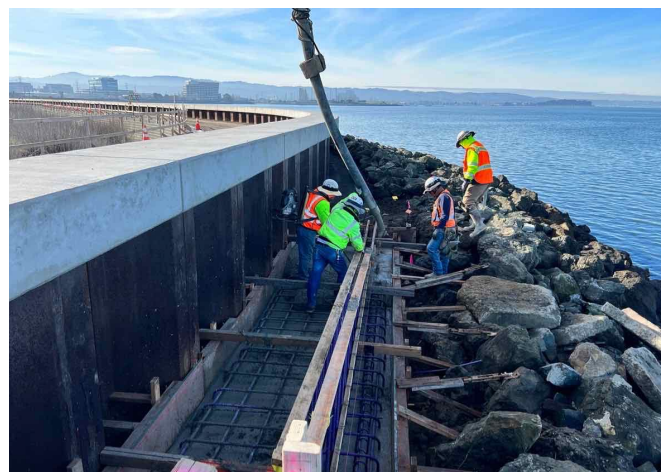
### Sea Level Rise

Sea level is the base level for measuring elevation. Hence, sea level rise is a climate change phenomenon through which the ocean water volume increases. Sea level rise is caused primarily by two contributing factors related to global warming: the addition of water from melting ice sheets and glaciers and the thermal expansion of seawater as it warms. Higher sea levels mean that storm surges can push farther inland than storms were able to before, leading to a potential increase in the frequency of nuisance flooding and greater destruction of property and structures. Sea level around the globe is increasing as a result of human-caused global warming activities,

with recent rates being unprecedented over the past 2,000-plus years. With continued ocean and atmospheric warming, sea levels will likely rise for centuries at rates higher than the current century. In October 2020, Foster City began the Levee Improvements Project, which will raise the height of the levee system protecting the City from the ocean waters of the San Francisco Bay. This project not



*Levee retaining wall under construction*



*Concrete being poured into newly reinforced levee and sea wall as part of the Levee Improvements Project.*



only protects the citizens and properties of Foster City, but also maintains FEMA accreditation. Scheduled for completion in January 2024, the improved levee system increases the protection afforded from sea level rise while simultaneously making the levee system more resistant to earthquake damage. **Figure S-7** identifies a worst-case scenario of 9 feet of sea level rise along the San Francisco Bay shoreline (It should be noted that this map reflects hazard areas based on levee height before the Foster City Levee Project has been completed).

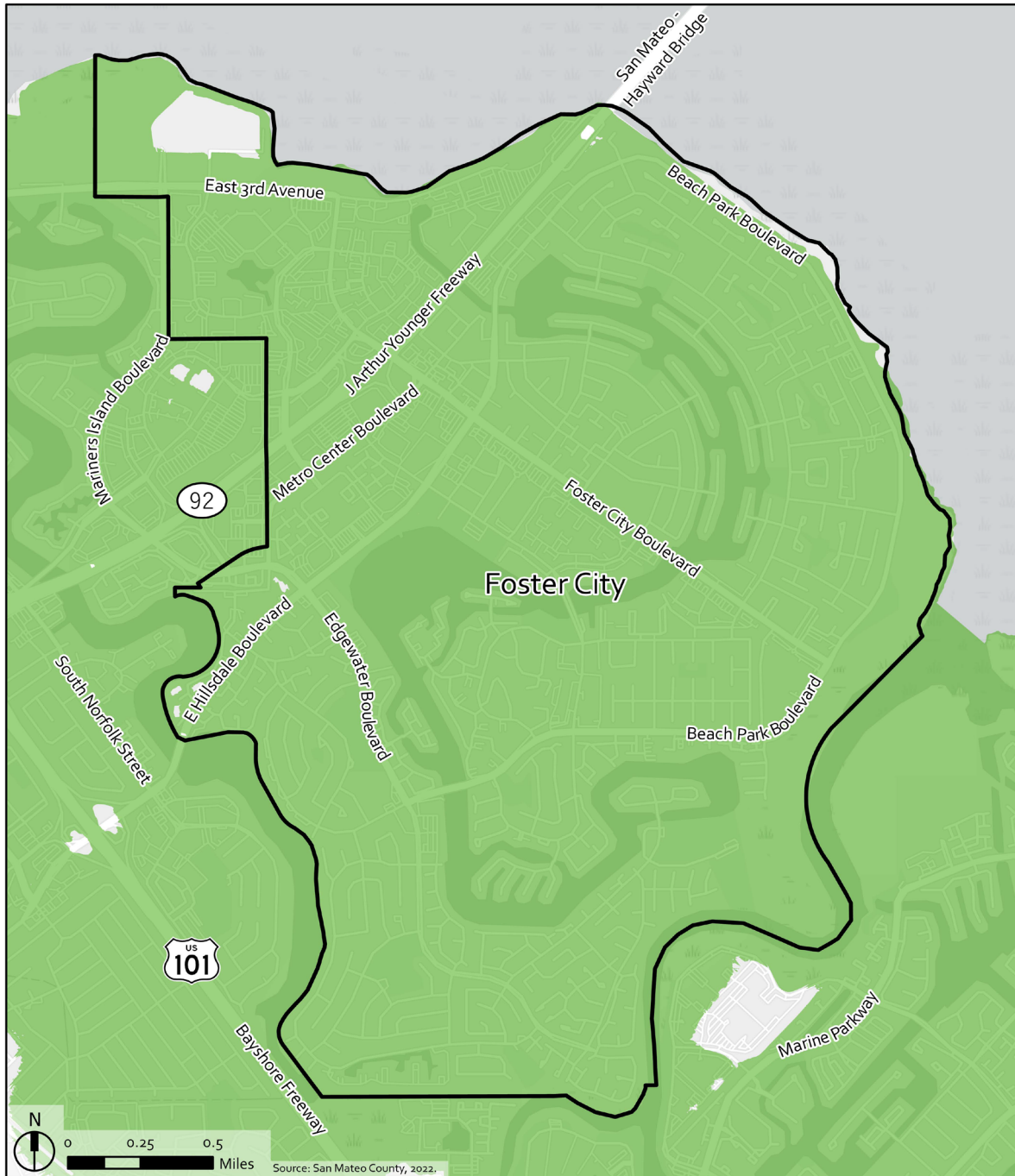
**GOAL S-6: A COMMUNITY PREPARED FOR FUTURE CLIMATE-RELATED IMPACTS.**

**Policies / Implementation Actions**

<p><b>S-6.1</b></p>	<p><b>Prepare adaptation strategies that address sea level rise and other climate change-induced events.</b></p> <p>a. Incorporate consideration of sea level rise into the development review and infrastructure planning processes, including response strategies that increase resilience to mid-century sea level rise risks for both new and existing development.</p>
<p><b>S-6.2</b></p>	<p><b>Collaborate with local, regional, state, and/or federal jurisdictions and agencies on climate resiliency and adaptation strategies.</b></p> <p>a. Develop a climate resiliency plan that integrates and builds upon the strategies identified in City, County, and regional climate action/adaptation efforts.</p> <p>b. Monitor climate change-related effects with local, regional, state, and/or federal partners to provide information about the effectiveness of existing infrastructure and programs.</p> <p>c. Coordinate with regional, state, and federal agencies to monitor the indicators and impacts of climate change.</p> <p>d. Monitor and integrate the findings of the following plans into the General Plan to maintain up-to-date information on climate adaptation resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The San Mateo County Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment</li> <li>• The San Mateo County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• The San Mateo County Climate Action Plan – Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment</li> <li>• The Foster City Climate Action Plan</li> </ul>



**FIGURE S-7: SEA LEVEL RISE IN FOSTER CITY**



- City Boundary
- Inundation Area\*

\*Inundation areas are a combination of Our Coast Our Future 200 cm (6.6 feet) of SLR with 100-year storm for the Pacific Ocean coastline, and Adapting to Rising Tides 108 inches (9 feet) of SLR for the San Francisco Bay coastline.

Sea Level Rise

**Foster City Safety Element Update**



# APPENDIX

## A. AB 747 EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSESSMENT