

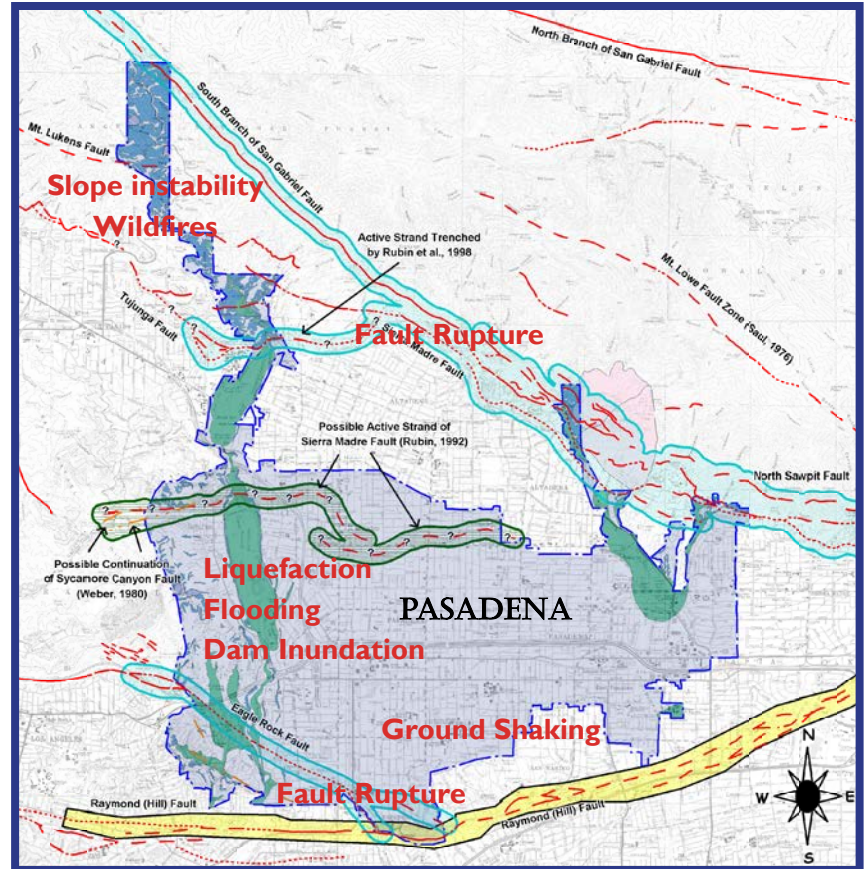


HAZARDS MAPPING AND ANALYSIS, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT TO REDUCE HAZARDS

Safety Element of the General Plan City of Pasadena, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pasadena is considered one of the best places to live in the West - it has a vibrant downtown with shops, theaters and restaurants; it is home to the corporate offices of many national and international businesses; and it has established residential neighborhoods with a strong sense of community that is of great value to residents. However, this idyllic setting can be impacted by natural hazards that have the potential to cause death, injuries, property damage, as well as substantial economic losses and social dislocation. In fact, natural geologic processes are responsible for much of the natural beauty that makes Pasadena such a special place, and many of these processes have occurred suddenly and often violently. For example, periodic large earthquakes are responsible for the uplift and continued growth of the San Gabriel Mountains that form the spectacular backdrop to Pasadena. Flooding, erosion, and sediment transport are responsible for forming the Arroyo Seco and the broad sloping surface that forms most of Pasadena. Each of these hazards needs to be discussed within the local context, including population density, age of the buildings and infrastructure, and ability of the City to respond to a large-scale disaster without assistance from neighboring communities or jurisdictions.



SOLUTION

Earth Consultants International conducted a study that addresses the naturally occurring conditions that pose a hazard to Pasadena, including fault rupture, strong ground shaking, liquefaction, slope instability, wildfires, and storm flooding. Our technical report also discusses man-made hazards associated with the release of hazardous substances into the ground, air or water, and inundation due to catastrophic rupture of dams and reservoirs. As a companion volume, we prepared a Policy Report (the Safety Element) that provides goals, policies, and programs aimed at reducing the City's risk from the hazards identified. This document identifies those programs that are a priority to the City and therefore should be implemented immediately and in an on-going basis, as well as those programs that are important but that can wait a few years until funding is allocated. The document also identifies the City agency or agencies responsible for the implementation and securing of funds for each program, which helps establish continuity as City staff come and go, and provided a 20-year framework for the City to become more hazard resistant.

