Hazards & Public Safety

Purpose

Safety is one of seven General Plan elements mandated by the California Government Code. The intent of this General Plan element is to identify potential hazards and provide policies and regulatory strategies to reduce the community's risk of death, injuries, property damage, or economic and social dislocation from these hazards. Protection from the risks of natural and human-made hazards, crime, and disease is essential to establishing a sense of well-being for residents and an important consideration in attracting visitors and businesses to Mill Valley.

Evacuation drill sponsored by the Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee

Mill Valley is generally vulnerable to a range of threats including both natural and human-made hazards, so planning for the future is critical. These threats are not just theoretical. In recent years, the City has experienced earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous materials spills, and storms, and it can expect to experience more in the future. In addition, the general threat picture for cities has been further complicated by the increased use, storage, and transport of hazardous materials; the outbreak of public health threats; and even the threat of terrorism.

There are three broad categories of hazards that have the potential to affect Mill Valley in some way: natural, technological, and human-made threats. These are listed In Table 7.2 and described in the "Existing Conditions" section below to explain their relevance to Mill Valley. Goals and policies for hazards and public safety were developed to address the City's response and resilience to potential threatening events.

Table 7.1 | State Requirements for Safety Elements

Safety Element Content Requirements (Government Code Section 65302(b))	MV2040 General Plan Provisions
Risks associated with seismic events (ground-shaking, ground failure, tsunami, etc.)	See Figure 7.1 and related policies and programs. See also City of Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan.
Risks associated with slope instability (landslides)	See Figure 7.1 and related policies and programs. See also City of Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan.
Risks associated with subsidence and liquefaction	See Figure 7.1 and related policies and programs. See also City of Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan.
Risks associated with flooding	See Figures 7.2 7.3 and related policies and programs. See also City of Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan.
Risks associated with wildland and urban fire	See Figure 7.4 and related policies and programs. See also City of Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan.

Cover Photo: CERT Awareness as part of Memorial Day Parade

It is important to note that a disaster can include more than one type of threat. For example, a major earthquake could cause major structural damage or loss, fires, hazardous materials releases or spills on roadways, and ruptured underground pipelines.

II. Existing Conditions

As required by law, the City of Mill Valley identifies and addresses potential threats to life, property, and the environment and develops plans and procedures to protect those assets. These plans include the City of Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP), and Fire Plan. The Emergency Operations Plan concept of operations identifies actions categorized in the following categories referred to as the "emergency management lifecycle":

- Prevention/Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

This systematic approach is used by federal, state, and local emergency managers, with each phase acting as a comprehensive process, building upon the accomplishments of the preceding phase with the overall goal of minimizing the impact caused by an emergency. There is no beginning and no end; the process is continuous and ongoing. Table 7.3 at the end of this chapter summarizes the implementing programs for hazards by emergency management lifecycle.

JUST THE FACTS

- In 2011 there were 214 earthquakes recorded within 100 miles of Mill Valley—only two exceeded a magnitude of 4.0.
- The 2005 flood is estimated to have resulted in $110 million in damages, and impacted 1,200 homes and 200 businesses.

Table 7.2 | Summary of Hazards

Natural	Technological	Human-Made
• Earthquake • Flood • Wildland Fire • Winter Storm • Tsunami • Landslide • Drought • Climate Change/Sea Level Rise • Public Health Crisis • Extreme Temperature	• Hazardous Materials Incident • Transportation Accident • Failure of Cascade Dam • Energy Disruption • Radiological Incident	• Terrorism • Civil Disturbance • Security-Related Threats

Summary of Natural Hazards

Earthquakes

Varying in type and intensity, earthquakes are perhaps the least predictable of any of the potential hazards. They may cause no real damage or the area could be heavily affected. Often, the main earthquake is followed by a series of aftershocks. Aftershocks can be larger than the original quake and pose a significant threat to those responding to the first event.

Following an earthquake, the threat of fire also poses a significant risk to the community. Earthquake damage can include ruptured natural gas and water lines, increasing the potential for fire while at the same time inhibiting the ability to fight those fires.

Several known active and potentially active earthquake faults are located within or near Marin County. The San Andreas and Hayward Faults pass within about five miles southwest and 12 miles northeast of Mill Valley, respectively. While no known faults transect the Mill Valley area, the City experiences dozens of small earthquakes every year (approximately 55 in 2012). Nearly all destructive earthquakes in the San Francisco Bay Area originate on faults in the San Andreas system, with the largest being the 1906 San Francisco quake (magnitude 7.9) and the 1989 Loma Prieta quake (magnitude 7.1).

Figure 7.1 shows areas of Mill Valley subject to seismic ground-shaking and related risks.

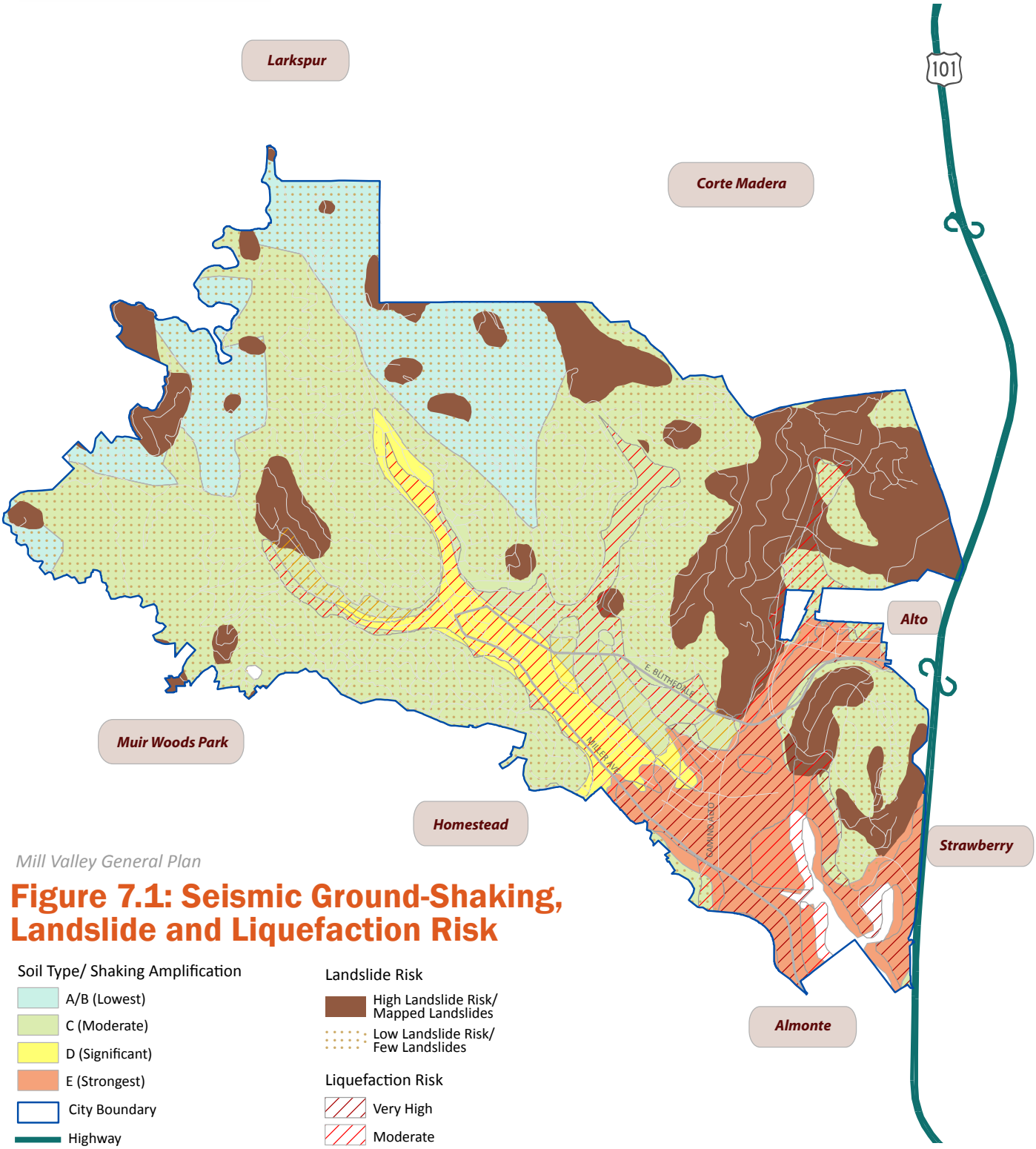
Ground Shaking

Shaking damage will vary from slight to intensive, depending upon the magnitude of the earthquake and proximity to the epicenter.

In the upland areas of the City, most modern single-family buildings with foundations to bedrock will perform well. Modern multi-story buildings with foundations to bedrock should not be subject to collapse, although some serious damage may occur. Seismic shaking greatly increases landslide potential. Many hillsides in Mill Valley are unstable in their natural state, and even minor changes in the shape of the land surface could create major landslide problems.

In the lowlands where there is greater development density, the damage potential will be greater. Unreinforced masonry buildings in the downtown area will suffer moderate to severe damage. Fall-

Fire of June 18, 1984 that destroyed Dowd's Moving & Storage, Curtis Gallery, and La Veranda Restaurant in the 100 block of Throckmorton Avenue.
Source: Mill Valley Public Library, Lucretia Little History Room



Mill Valley General Plan

Figure 7.1: Seismic Ground-Shaking, Landslide and Liquefaction Risk

Soil Type/ Shaking Amplification

- A/B (Lowest)
- C (Moderate)
- D (Significant)
- E (Strongest)
- City Boundary
- Highway
- Roads

Landslide Risk

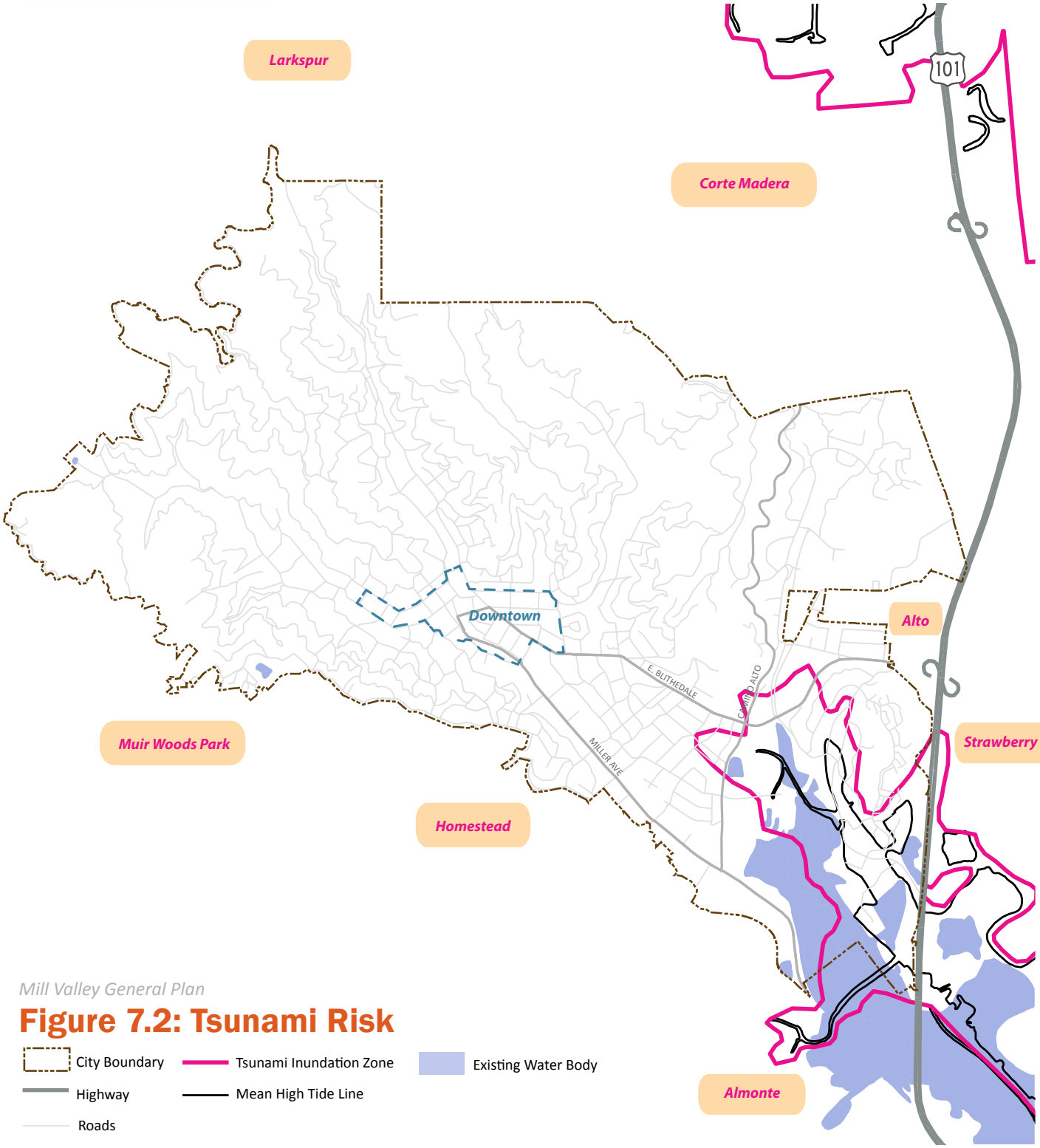
- High Landslide Risk/ Mapped Landslides
- Low Landslide Risk/ Few Landslides

Liquefaction Risk

- Very High
- Moderate
- Low

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Marin Map, 2012



Mill Valley General Plan

Figure 7.2: Tsunami Risk

City Boundary
Highway
Roads
Tsunami Inundation Zone
Mean High Tide Line
Existing Water Body

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Marin Map, 2012; Tsunami Inundation Map for San Rafael/San Quentin Quadrangle, California Emergency Management Agency, California Geologic Survey, University of Southern California, 2009

Top & Bottom: Flooding on Miller Avenue, 1945
Source: Mill Valley Public Library, Lucretia Little History Room

Trends in Public Safety

1 Living with mother nature

- *Due to its setting, Mill Valley is vulnerable to a number of natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfire, severe winter storms, landslides, flash floods, and tidal flooding.*
- *Many parts of Mill Valley are subject to potential flooding due to overflowing creeks caused by high rains and flash flooding; severe winter storms and high tides; or a combination of the two.*
- *The primary cause of natural disasters in Mill Valley is storm-related, with flooding being the primary type of natural disaster.*[1]
- *The number of natural disasters in Marin County (17) is greater than the U.S. average.*[2]
- *In 2011, there were 214 earthquakes recorded within 100 miles of Mill Valley. Only two exceeded a magnitude of 4.0.*[3]
- *The 2005 flood is estimated to have resulted in $110 million in damages and affected 1,200 homes and 200 businesses.*[4]
- *Over 70 percent of Mill Valley parcels are located in the wildland-urban Interface (WUI) zone, which is characterized as areas with steep slopes and/or dense vegetation that can tend to cause fires to burn rapidly.*[5]
- *The 1929 fire burned for approximately three days, affecting 2,500 acres and 110 homes. The same 2,500 acre-area today contains nearly 800 homes.*[6]

ing debris will endanger those in the vicinity of these older buildings. "Pancaking" of these older structures during business hours may entrap many people. The City's densely settled alluvial lowlands have a potential for heavy damage. Southeast from La Goma Street to the bay is unconsolidated fill, and the Sutton Manor area is of the same base.

Liquefaction

In the eastern portions of Mill Valley, along the bay particularly, subsidence and differential settlement can occur, leading to damage of structures sited on these lands. Large areas of former bay mud marshlands in Mill Valley have been artificially filled over the years. These areas have a high potential for building, utility, and road damage due to differential settlement. The Redwoods senior housing, Mill Valley Middle School, Mill Valley Community Center, and Mill Valley Public Safety Building are all located within very high liquefaction risk areas.

Landslides

Mill Valley lies in the California Coast Ranges and has two contrasting topographic settings: (1) steep hills and ridges, and (2) flat marshlands, bay plains, and mudflats. The hills and ridges of central and southeastern Marin County are characterized by very steep slopes and defined differences in the strength and stability of the geological materials underlying the surface soils.

Landslides constitute one of the principal hazards to structures, roads, and utilities on these hillsides. A typical soil debris avalanche in Marin County involves several hundred cubic yards of soil and colluvium (rock fragments, sand, etc.) that accumulate on steep slopes or at the foot of cliffs and is the result of total saturation of a part of the regolith (mantlerock or the loose, unconsolidated material, residual or transported, that rests on the solid rock of the earth's crust) on a hillside. During the last 20 years, soil debris avalanches have occurred abundantly when about four inches or more of rain have fallen in ten hours or less. In other places they have occurred during normal rainfall as a result of excessive water introduced into the hillside through domestic use.

Landslide resulting from winter storm and flooding, 2006

Tsunami

Although Mill Valley does not have a direct exposure to ocean waters, it does face a threat of tsunami (earthquake-induced tidal

wave) due to its proximity to the waters of San Francisco Bay. A tsunami caused by an offshore earthquake can lead to atypical draining and filling of the bay, a "bathtub" or "sloshing" effect that may create water swells that exceed the heights of levees and other tidal barriers. The result may be flooding in low-lying areas, similar to a slow-rise flood during a winter storm but much more rapid and less predictable. Figure 7.2 shows areas of Mill Valley that are subject to tsunami risk.

Top: Flooding at Miller Avenue and Montford, January 2005
Bottom: Flooding on Plymouth Avenue, February 2014

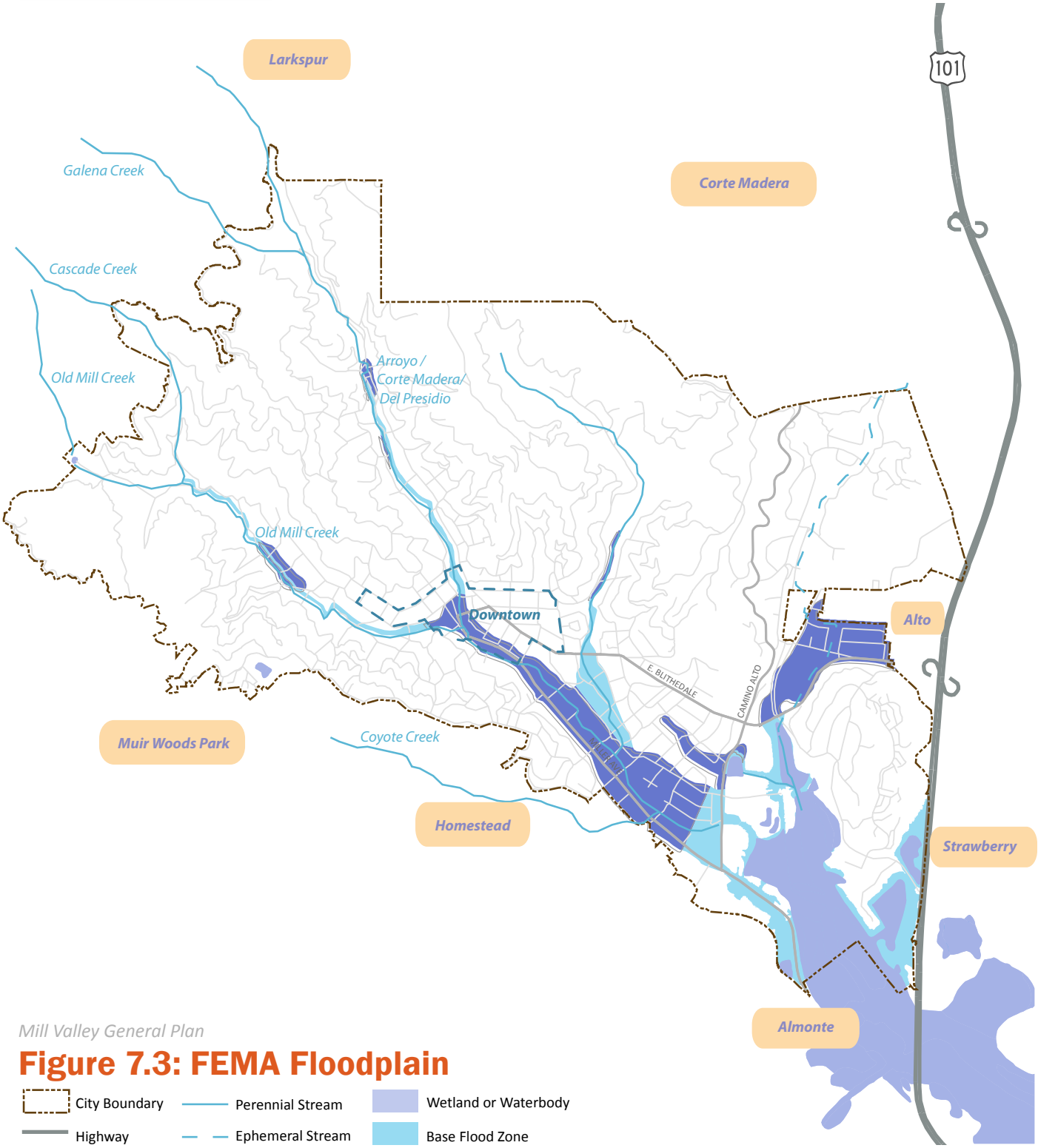
Flooding

Many developed and undeveloped Mill Valley lands are subject to flooding due to a combination of factors, including periodic heavy winter rainfalls, tidal fluctuations, and potential for tsunami due to seismic activity.

Mill Valley drains into Richardson Bay mainly by way of the Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio. The stream drains an area of about six square miles from the upper reaches of Mount Tamalpais. Stream gradients are, therefore, exceptionally steep in the upper elevations, and flatten markedly as the creek continues over alluvial plains and enters the tidal marshlands along the periphery of Richardson Bay. Consequently, the creek often overflows its banks in the lower reaches during periods of heavy rainfall.

Significant encroachment by urban development and vegetative growth has occurred along Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio. Both factors have imposed extreme limitations on channel flow capacities along substantial portions of the stream, resulting in flood problems. During heavy rainfall conditions, floodwaters cascade down the steep upper reaches of the main tributary streams and flow through central Mill Valley, where they overflow the flatter, generally constricted and inadequate channels. Damaging floods have periodically occurred over this area as a result.

Mill Valley areas subject to frequent flooding in the past are predominantly former marshlands (Bay Mud areas) that have previously been filled for urban expansion purposes. Consequently, the flood problem in Mill Valley has increased with time. Areas subject to less frequent but damaging storm water inundation include the center of the City and a portion of the City's commercial and residential areas. Mill Valley has experienced the impacts of flooding from winter storms, most notably in 1982, 1997, 1998, 2005, and



Mill Valley General Plan

Figure 7.3: FEMA Floodplain

City Boundary
Highway
Roads
Perennial Stream
Ephemeral Stream
Wetland or Waterbody
Base Flood Zone
River/Stream Flood Hazard Area

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Marin Map, 2012

2006. These experiences have demonstrated the variety of potential hazards to the community. Winter storms can cause any combination of destruction, ranging from floods to landslides, disruption of public utilities and transportation routes, or direct injuries or structural damage. Expected impacts depend on the nature and severity of the storm.

Figure 7.3 shows the areas of Mill Valley subject to flood hazards identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Wildland Fire

Wildland fire hazards exist in varying degrees throughout Mill Valley and probably pose the greatest threat to public safety and property of all potential hazards. The fire season generally lasts from five to six months. The wildland fire hazard is caused by a combination of factors including weather, topography, highly flammable vegetation/fuel loading, and human activity.

Many homes have been built on steep slopes with vegetation in close proximity. These slopes are often steep, located in rugged terrain, and have very few access routes. The onset of sudden oak death has significantly increased the number of dead or weakened trees, which serves as potential fuel for fires.

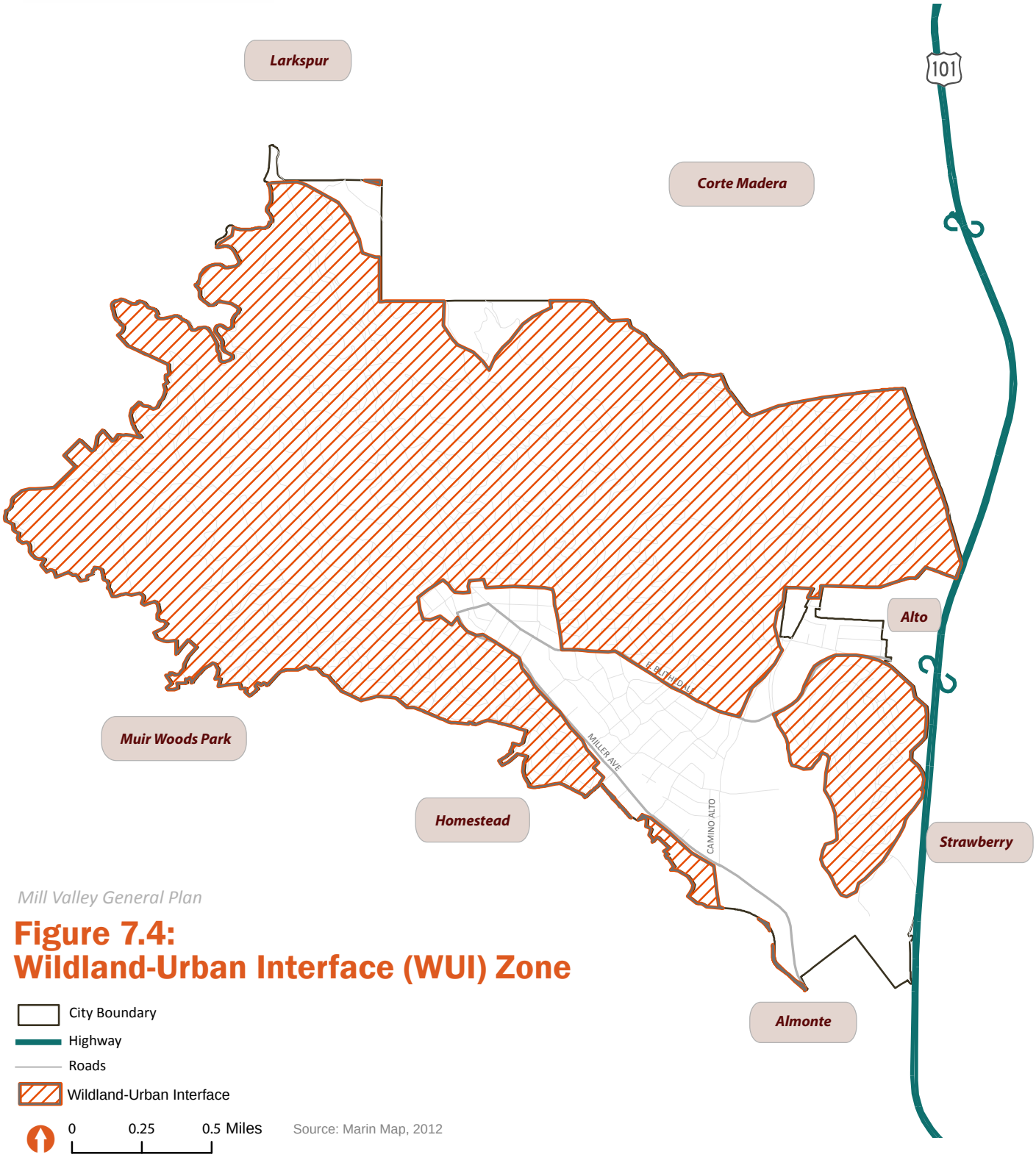
In several areas, an "urban interface" fire hazard is created as older neighborhoods directly border parks or open space. These areas often have mature vegetation and large tree canopies which could contribute to the quick spread of fires.

In Mill Valley, significant portions of the community are in a designated wildland-urban interface (WUI) zone (see Figure 7.4). These areas include Warner Canyon, Mill Valley Ridge, Blithedale Canyon, Blithedale Ridge, Cascade Canyon, Fern Canyon, Summit Ridge, Scott Valley, and the southeast face of Mount Tamalpais. These areas are characterized by steep slopes and are covered by dense stands of vegetation that burn explosively and cause fire to spread rapidly. A major fire has not occurred in these areas since 1929, and, as a result, the density of dry vegetation has increased.

Wildland Fire

Public Health Crisis

One of the gravest threats to the life safety of Marin County residents and visitors is posed by biological agents that occur naturally.



Mill Valley General Plan

Figure 7.4: Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Zone

City Boundary
Highway
Roads
Wildland-Urban Interface

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Marin Map, 2012

Bacteria and viruses continue to evolve and spread. Drug-resistant strains of these pathogens also pose serious challenges to modern medicine. A public health crisis will immediately affect the width and breadth of emergency medical services.

In order to reduce costs, the medical community has worked to increase its efficiency by reducing or closing facilities, reducing staff, and relying on just-in-time inventory systems for medical supplies. These changes have resulted in an indirect reduction in the capacity to handle large-scale health events and an increased reliability on crisis response systems.

Public health events are likely to affect whole regions and nations. Resources from outside Marin County may not be available. American society has not had to respond to a major health crisis in modern times. Existing concepts and response systems may be overwhelmed.

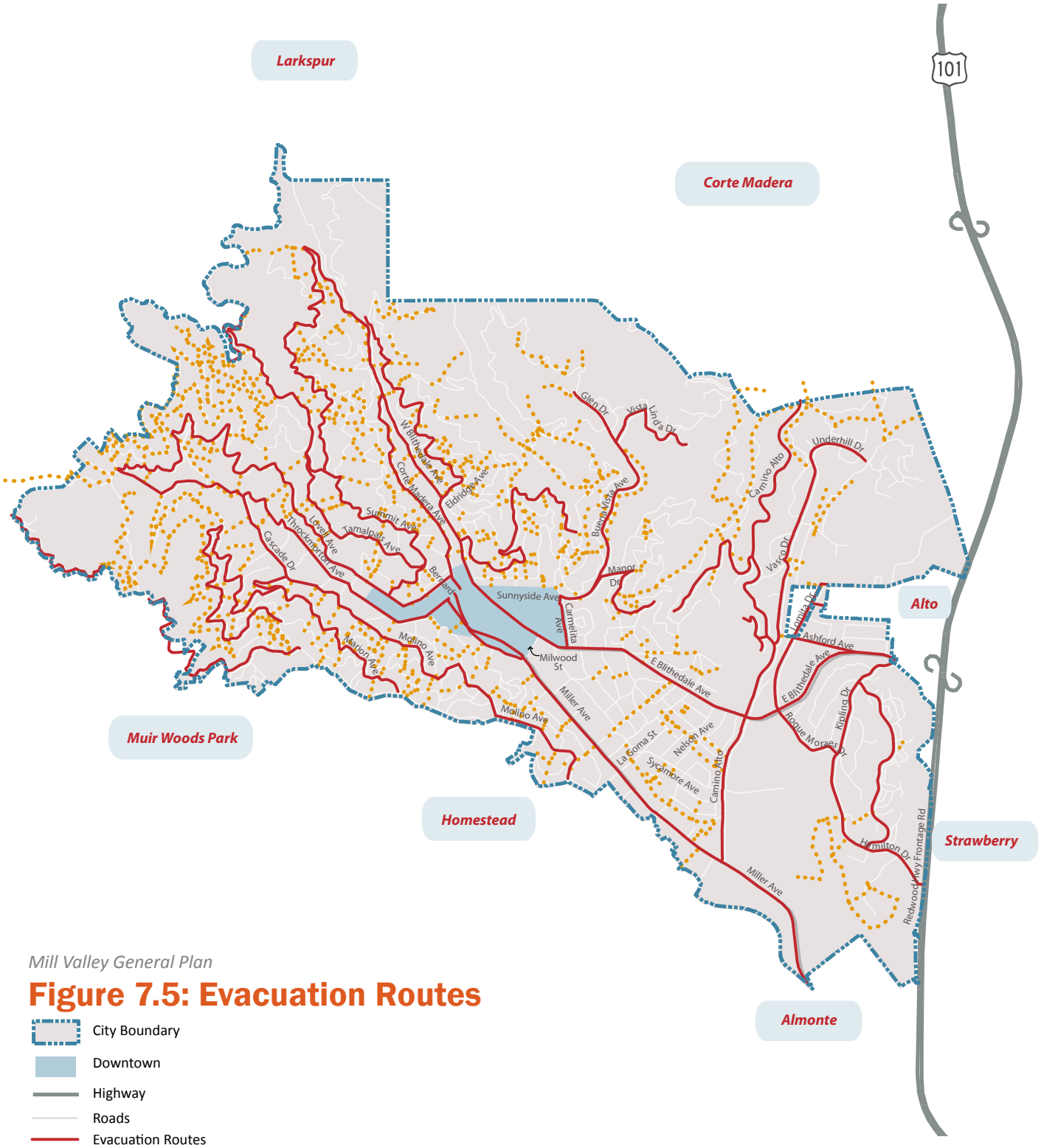
Fire and Paramedic Service

The Mill Valley Fire Department is a progressive, all-risk emergency service provider that responds to approximately 2,000 calls for service a year. These calls for service include house fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, natural gas line leaks, hazardous materials emergencies, and various technical rescues. Fire personnel also respond to a variety of public service calls that include water and electrical problems, non-injured fall victims, and odor investigations.

The City of Mill Valley faces the potential of various threats against life and property. Acknowledging this, the Mill Valley Fire Department works to prepare for these threats. The Fire Department has supported and continues to contribute to the Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness Commission and to the Mill Valley Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program.

A Municipal Service Tax approved by Mill Valley voters in 1996 allowed for the creation of the Mill Valley Fire Department's Vegetation Management Program. This program funds projects aimed at reducing the risk of life and property as well as improving evacuation routes for residents. Figure 7.5 illustrates evacuation routes in the City.

Demonstration at Tamalpais High School



Mill Valley General Plan

Figure 7.5: Evacuation Routes

- City Boundary
- Downtown
- Highway
- Roads
- Evacuation Routes
- Steps, Lanes, & Paths

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: Marin Map, 2012; David Parisi and Associates, 2011

In an effort to alert residents of an emergency, five warning sirens have been strategically placed throughout Mill Valley. The Fire Department also uses Marin's Telephone Emergency Notification System to contact identified geographical groups in Mill Valley.

In partnership with the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), the Mill Valley Fire Department continues to significantly upgrade its water system. To date, over 180 fire hydrants have been replaced and 75,000 feet of water line upgraded.

Recognizing the risks associated with the wildland-urban interface, the Mill Valley Fire Department assisted in the development of a Mutual Threat Zone plan that is designed to streamline communications and resource ordering, pre-designate staging areas, structure protection groups, and command post locations. The Fire Department also works closely with the Mill Valley Police Department and other agencies to conduct large-scale evacuation drills in pre-selected geographical areas in an effort to train the community and emergency personnel.

Mill Valley Police Service

Trends in Public Safety

#2 The community is relatively safe.

- *The prevalence of crime in Mill Valley is quite low. Between 1999 and 2010, the crime index declined 41 percent (indicating less crime), from 164.3 to 97.5, compared to 319.1 for the U.S. as a whole.*[13]
- *Theft and burglary are by far the most common types of crime in Mill Valley, with an average of 174 thefts and 69 burglaries reported annually between 1999 and 2010.*[14]

Police Service

The Mill Valley Police Department provides municipal police service to the residents and visitors of Mill Valley. The Police Department addresses crime through a collaborative effort involving education and enforcement among all facets of the community – residents, community groups, schools, and businesses. The Police Department works closely with other City departments to meet Mill Valley's needs.

Currently, Mill Valley experiences a low level of crime when compared to crime trends from the early to mid-1990s. Property crimes far outpace crimes against people. Advancements in technology have assisted the Police Department in solving crimes, but they have also contributed to new ways for citizens to be victimized. Through training and working with other law enforcement agencies, the Police Department stays on the cutting edge of criminal deterrence and solving crimes.

Above: Civil defense training for women during World War II
Source: Mill Valley Public Library, Lucretia Little History Room

Hazards Goals, Policies & Programs

HAZARD-1 | Community Hazard Resilience

Minimize loss of life, property, and important elements of the natural ecosystem and maximize Mill Valley's ability to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster.

HZ.1 Hazard Identification and Mitigation

Identify all hazards that threaten the City. Determine the likelihood of occurrence and severity of all hazards, further categorize them as either "sudden onset" disasters (e.g., earthquakes, wildfire) or "slow onset" disasters/phenomena (e.g., drought, extreme heat, sea level rise), and strengthen hazard mitigation policies and regulations.

HZ.1-1 Use geographic information systems, such as Marin Maps, to review and update hazard information and quantify the vulnerability of people and structures in hazard areas.

HZ.1-2 Incorporate hazard maps into public education and outreach, the All Hazard Mitigation Plan and Fire Plan, and other planning documents.

HZ.1-3 Strengthen requirements for public right-of-way improvements, fire sprinklers, vegetation management, fire-resistive construction, and other hazard mitigation programs and ensure that regulations are regularly and consistently enforced through adequate code enforcement staffing and procedures to minimize threats to life and property. Ensure, however, that these mitigation efforts are not done at the expense of good design or community character.

HZ.1-4 Continue to identify and expand preparations for potential hazards as new information and conditions arise, such as for public health pandemics and climate change/sea level rise.

HZ.1-5 Identify and expand preparations for potential hazards through the identification and use of the emergency management lifecycle (prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery).

HZ.2 Administrative and Equipment Capacity

Maintain adequate concentration and distribution of staff, facilities, materials, and equipment to provide a timely disaster response consistent with the needs of a demographically changing community and a challenging natural environment, while recognizing the difficulties of maintaining these systems on a daily basis.

HZ.2-1 Conduct hazard and vulnerability assessments as part of the Mill Valley Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Maintain adequate concentration and distribution of staff, facilities, materials, and equipment to provide a timely response to demands for public safety services.

HZ.2-2 Maintain, update, and implement the All Hazard Mitigation Plan and Fire Plan, which integrate hazard mitigation strategies into the day-to-day activities of the City of Mill Valley and include provisions addressing police and fire service, vulnerable populations, and sensitive facilities during and following a significant disaster.

HZ.3 Critical Infrastructure

Develop strategies for critical facilities and services (local and regional) that will minimize problems during post-disaster evacuations, rescues, and major clean-up operations following a major disaster.

HZ.3-1 Develop and implement a detailed Continuity of Operations Plan to ensure the City's ability to provide vital services following a major disaster, including but not limited to building permitting and inspection services that will facilitate the rebuilding process, while recognizing that there will be minimal staffing, damaged facilities and equipment, disruption of communications, a likely absence of mutual aid, and a greatly increased demand on all City services.

HZ.3-2 Use new technology, volunteers, social media, and other mechanisms to improve the capability and effectiveness of hazard early warning systems.

HZ.3-3 Establish a database of residents and businesses with disaster-related skills, equipment, critical supplies, and/or services.

City employees setting up an Emergency Operations Center as part of Emergency Preparedness Commission.

Mill Valley Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members participating in advanced training sponsored by the Mill Valley Emergency Response Commission.

HZ.4 Civic Duty and Responsibility

Promote education and events that reinforce the personal responsibility of all residents, business owners, and City staff to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

HZ.4-1 Ensure continuity of City services and operations through ongoing interdepartmental coordination, training, contingency planning, and periodic exercises in order to provide swift and effective disaster response and recovery.

HZ.4-2 Implement, support, and promote regular educational and training programs such as "Resilient Neighborhoods," "GET Ready," and Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) for City staff, residents, businesses, schools, and neighborhood groups that address emergency response protocols and procedures, disaster risk education, and self–sufficiency.

HZ.4-3 Coordinate with the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) to manage public expectations and educate community members about what the City will be able to do for them versus what they will have to do for themselves during and after a disaster.

Fire hose demonstration

HZ.5 Emergency Response and Evacuation Routes

Maintain and expand the network of anticipated emergency response routes and regularly exercise evacuation protocols and procedures.

HZ.5-1 Continue to update the Emergency Operations Plan to identify the anticipated emergency response routes and evacuation procedures in the event of a major disaster or hazard requiring evacuation events.

HZ.5-2 Support measures to designate, create, maintain, resurrect, and enhance those Steps, Lanes and Paths that also serve as evacuation routes.

HZ.5-3 Continue to maintain and clearly identify those facilities and networks that serve as emergency response and evacuation routes.

HZ.5-4 Establish public improvement requirements and fees for new development or substantial redevelopment, public improvement assessment districts, the City's budget process, or other available funding tools to implement essential emergency access improvements, including but not limited to the following:

Public

- End of Tamalpais Avenue. Improve the turn-around so a Type 1 engine can safely turn around with a minimum of backing.
- Hazel Avenue at Rose Avenue. Improve the turn so a Type 1 engine can complete turn without backing.
- Marion Avenue and Monte Vista Avenue. Improve the turn so a Type 1 engine can complete the turn without backing.
- Marion Avenue at Hazel Avenue. Improve the turn so a Type 1 Engine can complete the turn without backing.
- Molino Avenue at Florence Avenue. Improve the turn so a Type 1 Engine can complete the turn without backing.
- Marion Avenue at Florence Avenue. Improve the turn so a Type 1 Engine can complete the turn without backing.
- Hillside Avenue – Area of 300 Block. Improve engine turn-around location. This may be completed by making a hammerhead turn into the culvert next to 339 Hillside or by requiring a driveway rated for an engine as a condition of approval as part of project review for a future project in the area. At this time, there is no turn-around point for fire equipment in this high fire danger area.
- Rose Avenue – Area of 200 Block. Improve engine turn-around location. This may be completed by making a hammerhead turn into the culvert next to 226 Rose or by requiring a driveway rated for an engine as a condition of approval as part of project

review for a future project in the area. At this time, there is no turn-around point for fire equipment in this high fire danger area.

- Cascade Avenue – Between 371 and 422 Cascade. Widen the road by the embankment.

Private

- Lee Street at Quarry Road. Improve the turn so a Type 1 engine can complete the turn without backing. This may be done by relocating the utility pole, extending the roadway to cover the culvert, allowing the inside of the turn to be enlarged, or removing part of the hillside and installing a retaining wall.
- Wainright Place. Improve the turn so a Type 1 engine can complete the turn without backing, or at minimum make it a two-point turn. Widen the upper part of Wainwright to allow Type 1 engine access and improve the second hair-pin corner. Provide the turn-around at the end of the road.
- End of Circle Avenue. Build a Fire Department turn-around and improve access for fire equipment on the gated service road between Circle Avenue and the golf club house parking lot. Include re-grading and paving of the service road as part of the improvements

HZ.6 Prevention and Protection

Reduce injury and damage from hazards.

HZ.6-1 Maintain an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with commercial and multi-family residential buildings, older buildings, critical facilities, public assembly facilities, and residential parcels in high-risk areas.

HZ.6-2 Continue to use Residential Building Reports to identify hazards for potential home buyers.

HZ.6-3 Require and maintain setbacks, easements, and accesses necessary to ensure that emergency services can readily and efficiently function with available equipment.

HZ.6-4 Ensure that all grading and site improvements and structures minimize geotechnical, seismic, and flood hazards.

HZ.6-5 Continue to work closely with nearby public safety and emergency management agencies to develop and maintain mutual support plans and programs and coordinate emergency management procedures such as mutual aid agreements.

Public Safety Goals, Policies & Programs

SAFETY-1 | Police Service

Provide the highest-quality police services that proactively prevent and control crime that the community cannot prevent, reduce fear, and enhance the security of the community.

PS.1 Community Services

Provide extensive community-based service and education programs designed to prevent crime and emphasize citizen protection and involvement.

PS.1-1 Provide a high level of visible patrol services within the City.

PS.1-2 Respond to both emergency and routine calls for service in a timely manner consistent with Police Department policy.

PS.1-3 Establish programs that respond to community concerns regarding crime, emergency response, student safety, and traffic.

PS.1-4 Maintain efforts to educate the public about crime deterrence through programs like the Neighborhood Watch Program within residential neighborhoods and the Business Watch Program within commercial areas. Encourage similar community-oriented policing and problem-solving techniques in working with the community to reduce crime.

PS.1-5 Ensure that the Police Department works with other City departments to review public and private development plans, ensuring that crime prevention is addressed.

PS.1-6 Incorporate crime reduction and public safety response features in the design and planning of private and public development.

PS.2 Technology and Performance

Ensure that the Police Department uses modern technology and provides adequate training to maximize job performance.

PS.2-1 Maintain high standards of hiring personnel, and provide in-depth training of Police Department personnel to maintain and improve knowledge and skill levels.

PS.2-2 Maintain a high standard for the delivery of law enforcement services, including a commitment to the use of state-of-the-art equipment and management techniques.

PS.2-3 Incorporate Police Department staffing and technology needs into each year's Capital Improvement Program and operating budget.