



BUILDING AND SAFETY SEISMIC HAZARD ZONES

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act of 1990 (SHMA) directed the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) [now called California Geological Survey (CGS)] to delineate Seismic Hazard Zones. The purpose of SHMA is to reduce the threat to public health and safety and to minimize the loss of life and property by identifying and mitigating seismic hazards. Cities, counties, and state agencies are directed to use seismic hazard zone maps developed by CGS in their land-use planning and permitting processes.

The official State of California Seismic Hazard Zone maps including the boundaries of the City of Lancaster were released on February 11, 2005. The maps identify Zones of Required Investigation (ZORI). Site-specific geotechnical investigations must be performed for subdivisions and most developments designed for human occupancy within the Zones of Required Investigation in order to identify and mitigate these seismic hazards prior to permitting.

Evaluation and mitigation of seismic hazards are to be conducted under guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), DMG Special Publication 117 (DOC, 1997). The text of this report is on the Internet at <http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/shmp/SHMPsp117.asp>