

### **1a. Magnitude of need for the project**

Our district is committed to taking an all-hazards approach to maintaining a safe learning and working environment for over 21,800 students and 3,840 employees who are spread across a 750 square mile geographic area within Riverside County, California. Our district includes the suburban population of the city of Hemet and surrounding county areas, the rural farming communities of Anza and Winchester and the isolated mountain communities of Idyllwild and Aguanga. Our district is faced with multiple emergency management planning challenges. First, the geographic size and topographic diversity of our community makes it vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters. Second, we are vulnerable to numerous technological hazards in and around our community. Third, we live in an era where domestic security threats such as terrorism or civil disturbance can occur at any time, without notice. Fourth, we must be prepared for infectious disease outbreaks that could demobilize our district. Table 1 identifies the vulnerabilities to which Riverside County and our school district are most susceptible, many of which could leave all or portions of our district isolated from assistance for a week or more.

***Natural Disasters:*** Riverside County is at risk from many types of natural disasters but the event with the greatest potential for loss of life or property is a massive earthquake. Two of the most significant earthquakes in California history occurred in Hemet – a magnitude 6.5 earthquake in 1899 and a 6.8 temblor in 1918, both of which were epicentered on the nearby San Jacinto fault line. This fault is capable of producing earthquakes with magnitudes between 6.5 and 7.5 with a 25% probability rate of a 6.5 or greater earthquake occurring in the next five years (increasing to 40% over the next 10 years). Hemet is located only 20 miles southwest of the southern portion of the San Andreas Fault, which could potentially produce a 7.0 or greater earthquake. Hemet lies within close proximity to several highways linking our community to

commuter destinations in the neighboring counties of San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego. All of these highways would become impassable after a large earthquake, which would impede evacuation and recovery efforts and is of particular concern to commuting parents.

Wildfire is a natural event that severely affects portions of our district every year. Some of our schools are located in wilderness and rural areas that are plagued by drought and high tree mortality from a deadly Bark Beetle infestation. In addition, our community experiences fast moving “Santa Ana” winds that often reach 50 to 75 miles or more per hour. These winds knock down trees and power lines and whip wildfires into raging infernos, as evidenced by the 721,791 acres of Riverside and surrounding counties that burned in 2003 and the Esperanza fire in 2006, which consumed 40,200 acres and killed five local firefighters. One of these firefighters was the son of an HUSD employee and another was a volunteer coach in our district and a father of five of our students. According to the Riverside County General Plan, “Widespread fires following an earthquake, coupled with Santa Ana winds, constitute a worst-case fire suppression scenario. Because of dry vegetation conditions and Santa Ana winds, the fire danger for Riverside County is considered extremely high for 25% of each year.” Our community is also at risk of flash flooding and landslides, both of which are capable of inflicting severe damage and injury or isolating schools within our district from receiving aid or evacuating effectively.

**Table 1: Recent Federally Declared Disasters in Riverside County**

<b>Disaster</b>	<b>Year</b>
Severe Freeze	2007
Severe Storms, Flooding, Debris Flows, and Mudslides	2005
Hurricane Katrina Evacuation	2005
Fire Siege	2003
Tree Mortality	2002
El Nino Floods	1998
Winter Storms	1995
Fire Storms	1993
Winter Storms	1993
Landers/Big Bear Earthquake	1992

***Technological Hazards:*** Our district is vulnerable to numerous technological hazards such as the possible flooding of our community should the nearby Diamond Valley Lake break. This lake is the largest reservoir in Southern California and holds 800,000 acre-feet of water, or roughly 260 billion gallons. According to a report from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Diamond Valley Lake could break after a major earthquake, resulting in four schools in our district flooded by up to 7 feet of water that would take several hours to recede.

Hazardous materials incidents are a high risk vulnerability as materials are present in storage locations and tanks, roadway and railway transportation vehicles, long-distance pipelines, and at industrial and agricultural application sites. Nearby highways are heavily trafficked by trucks carrying gasoline, rocket fuel, pesticides, and radioactive materials and railroads carry extremely hazardous materials in large volumes. The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in San Diego County is another significant technological hazard should a nuclear accident occur.

Riverside County has some of the busiest air traffic in the United States, increasing the risk of a mid-air collision over or near our district. The Hemet-Ryan airport is located within the boundaries of our district and four major airports operate with significant flight paths over our county (John Wayne, Long Beach, Ontario, and Los Angeles International Airports) as well as military traffic from several nearby bases, including March Air Reserve Base in Moreno Valley, Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, and the Marine Corps Air Combat Center in Twenty-nine Palms.

Mass casualty school bus accidents are of particular concern to our district as we provide transportation services for over 6,700 students daily. Our 125 buses travel over 1,000,000 miles per year over an area encompassing over 750 square miles and climb and descend elevations between 1,500 and 10,800 feet. Some of these roads are steep and dangerous mountain roads. In the winter, black ice forms on these roads and can cause severe accidents.



***Domestic Security Threats:*** The events of Columbine High School, September 11<sup>th</sup> and, the tragic massacre at Virginia Tech combine to present new safety challenges. Domestic terrorism and violence on campus is a real threat that cannot be anticipated as these incidents can happen at any time, anywhere, without notice, and in many forms: radioactive, chemical, biological, nuclear, conventional weapons or bombs. Cyber-terrorism can shut down critical government infrastructures that would severely impact our district's ability to function. Other forms of violence are school shootings and gang warfare, both of which are difficult to anticipate but must be planned for in advance. Just this year, one of our after school programs was locked down while students were present on campus due to suspected gang fighting and shots fired nearby.

***Infectious Disease Outbreaks:*** Our district must reduce the risk and impact of an infectious disease outbreak with proper planning and procedures. A pandemic is likely to cause high absenteeism among staff and students, disruptions in learning and extracurricular activities, change in patterns of commerce, and interrupted deliveries of supplies and other items.

***Recent Vulnerability and Needs Assessment:*** Our District works with the Riverside County Office of Emergency Services to be included in the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (see Table 2). A district needs assessment was also conducted with our District Advisory Council, the Hemet Disaster Council, Idyllwild Fire Protection District, and Hemet Valley Hospital. This assessment determined that we need to improve our emergency management program in several areas: hazard analysis (district and school site level), training and exercise drills, ICS implementation, Emergency Response Teams (HUSD-ERT), Crisis Intervention/Response Teams (CIT/CRT), emergency communication, evacuation and sheltering especially for the disabled, infectious disease preparedness, and increasing awareness of emergency planning and response throughout our school community.

**Table 2: Vulnerability Assessment**

HAZARD	RIVERSIDE COUNTY*		HEMET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	
	SEVERITY 0-4	PROBABILITY 0-4	SEVERITY 0-4	PROBABILITY 0-4
<b>Natural Disasters</b>				
Earthquake	4	3	4	3
Wildfire	3	4	3	4
Flood	3	3	2	2
Extreme Weather	2	4	3	3
Drought	3	3	3	3
Landslides	2	3	2	2
Insect Infestation	3	4	2	3
<b>Technological Hazards</b>				
Dam Failure	n/a	n/a	4	1
Hazmat Incidents	3	3	3	3
Transportation Incidents	2	4	2	2
Pipeline Risks	2	3	2	1
Aqueduct Risks	2	3	3	2
Blackout	3	4	3	3
Nuclear Accident	4	2	3	2
<b>Domestic Security Threat</b>				
School Shooting/Violence	n/a	n/a	3	1
Civil unrest	2	2	2	1
Jail/Prison Incidents	1	2	1	1
Terrorism	4	2	3	2
<b>Other Threats</b>				
Infect. Disease Outbreak	n/a	n/a	3	4

**Severity (level of damage and impact)**

Level	Critical Facility Shutdown	Property Damage	Injury/Death
1	< 24 hours	1%	First aid
2	> 1 week	10%	Temp disability
3	> 2 weeks	25%	Perm disability
4	> 30 days	> 50%	Multiple deaths

**Probability**

- 1 <1% chance in next 100 years
- 2 1-10% chance in next year
- 3 10-100% chance in next year
- 4 Near 100% chance in next year

n/a = information not available

\* Information collected from the most recently published Riverside County Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan