

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RISK**

### **Flooding**

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a portion of Earlimart east of State Highway 99 is subject to a 100-year flood (See Map No. 8). The depth of this potential flood could range from one to three feet. This potential flood condition is caused by the White River, located south of Earlimart, and Deer Creek which is located north of Earlimart, damming up against Highway 99 due to conditions which restrict flow under the highway. This situation causes land to flood north and south of the undercrossing. The Tulare County Flood Control Department has indicated that this flooding condition is a result of an undersized culvert, sand accumulation and vegetation buildup in the channel. The department is currently investigating ways to eliminate this flood condition.

### **Noise**

The County of Tulare has adopted two county wide goals regarding noise. They are: (1) protect the citizens of Tulare County from the harmful effects of exposure to excessive noise; and, (2) protect the economic base of Tulare County by preventing the encroachment of incompatible land uses near known noise-producing industries, railroads, airports and other sources.

Tulare County has recently adopted an updated General Plan Noise Element. The Noise Element provides current (1986) and projected (2010) noise contours for lands adjacent to freeways, airports, local industries and railroads (See Map No. 9). The noise contours were prepared in terms of either the community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average decibel level (Ldn), both of which are descriptive of the total noise exposure at a given location for an annual average day. The Noise Element identifies noise-impacted areas throughout Tulare County. These areas include lands which have existing or projected noise levels exceeding 60