

D. WATER, WASTEWATER, AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

A significant consideration for sustainable land use and development is the rate of use and disposal of resources. Demand for potable water and consumable goods is a reliable indicator of the rate and amount of wastewater and solid waste local agencies will be required to manage in the future. In the interest of reducing demand for water, solid waste generation, and wastewater treatment services and facilities, this following policy framework requires development to be low-impact and conserving of resources.

Land Use and Development Policies and Implementation Strategies

GOAL #6. WATER IS CONSERVED, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ARE DESIGNED AND MANAGED SUSTAINABLY.

Water Resources and Conservation

As with many Southern California communities, water supply and demand is an ongoing concern. The Goleta Water District manages and monitors long-term water supply from Lake Cachuma, groundwater, and the State Water project for Eastern Goleta Valley and provides limited supplies and access to recycled/reclaimed water. Water availability varies from these sources depending upon annual rainfall and state allocations. Projected water availability is a valuable tool to guide land use and planning decisions and is an essential part of ensuring Eastern Goleta Valley's demands for water are met.

Regardless of annual rainfall totals, long range community planning must consider the availability of long-term supplies from a variety of local, regional, and state water sources. Land use and development patterns can often enhance or diminish the viability of long-term water supplies. Therefore, consideration of existing and projected water resources available to Eastern Goleta Valley, including groundwater recharge areas, is an inherent part of this Plan.

Water conservation is often a crucial companion to water supply management to ensure a sustainable long-term water supply. Requirements for water efficient landscaping and structures, regulations that encourage water conservation, and use of recycled or reclaimed water, when available, all reduce the need for potable water. This Plan ensures development is water efficient and the pattern of land uses and subsequent water demands maximizes the potential for efficient water delivery systems and groundwater recharge. The Plan addresses traditional water delivery systems as well as newer, alternative water systems, such as reclaimed irrigation and rain water capture systems.

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OBJECTIVE WAT-EGV-1: Maintain an adequate, safe water supply and protect groundwater basins from overdraft and quality degradation.

Policy WAT-EGV-1.1: For projects that would result in a net increase in water use, there shall be a sufficient supply of water to serve existing commitments plus the proposed project.

Policy WAT-EGV-1.2: The County, in its land use planning decisions, shall consider the most recent water resources analyses for all areas served by the Goleta Water District and local purveyors. The County shall work cooperatively with the Goleta Water District and local purveyors in the review of development proposals.

Policy WAT-EGV-1.3: When applicable, the County shall grant permits only if the long-term potable water supplies of the agency that would serve a project are determined by that agency to be sufficient to meet new demand. The provision of water service to new customers shall not compromise existing customers or the maintenance of required drought buffers, consistent with the water provider's legislative and/or regulatory requirements, the 1991 and 1994 SAFE Water Supplies Ordinances of the Goleta Water District, and the Wright Judgment. County permits shall be granted following completion of the water service application process overseen by the appropriate water provider.

Policy WAT-EGV-1.4: Efforts to comprehensively monitor the condition of private wells shall be encouraged.

Policy WAT-EGV-1.5: Groundwater recharge areas shall be protected from the adverse effects of urban and non-urban land uses.

Policy WAT-EGV-1.6: Creek channelization or other impermeable paving which significantly reduces groundwater recharge shall be discouraged.

OBJECTIVE WAT-EGV-2: Ensure water use efficiency.

Policy WAT-EGV-2.1: In order to minimize water demand, development shall utilize water conserving landscaping and low flow irrigation and plumbing to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy WAT-EGV-2.2: Water-conserving plumbing devices shall be required of discretionary development.

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Program WAT-EGV-2A: The County, in coordination with water purveyors and sanitary districts, shall maintain and periodically update standards for low water use plumbing fixtures. The County shall encourage the water purveyors to continue their efforts to retrofit old fixtures with more efficient designs (e.g., low flow toilets and showerheads).

Policy WAT-EGV-2.3: The County may grant discretionary permits for development using desalinated water only if the source of desalination is from an established public water purveyor. Desalinated water from private sources designed to serve a single project or geographic area within service boundaries of established public water purveyors shall not be a source of water for approvable development.

OBJECTIVE WAT-EGV-3: Encourage the use of recycled/reclaimed water sources where safe and efficient.

Policy WAT-EGV-3.1: The County shall support the use of recycled and/or reclaimed water consistent with applicable Federal, State and County regulations for health and safety, including, but not limited to, the following system types:

- Rain barrels and cisterns
- Greywater systems
- Purveyor provided reclaimed or recycled irrigation water

Policy WAT-EGV-3.2: In areas where reclaimed water is available by pipeline, development shall include dual plumbing systems for the use of reclaimed water when feasible and appropriate for the development.

Policy WAT-EGV-3.3: Reclaimed/recycled water sources used for agricultural lands should only be used when salinity of the water source does not compromise the long-term viability of agricultural soils.

Policy WAT-EGV-3.4: The use of reclaimed water for tree crops and non-edible ornamental plants in order to conserve existing water supplies shall be assessed by County Environmental Health Services (EHS). If permitted, EHS shall require reclaimed water irrigation systems meet California Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements for wastewater discharge.

Wastewater Management

Wastewater treatment is a process to transform urban sewage into acceptable effluent to return to the water cycle of the natural environment. Wastewater is managed by the Goleta Sanitary District. The Goleta Sanitary District treatment facility is located in Eastern Goleta Valley near the Goleta Slough, where wastewater is treated and released. Reducing the amount of effluent generated is beneficial to the system as it reduces energy use and treatment capacity demands of the system.

Development outside the boundaries of sanitary districts relies on individual septic systems to treat wastewater. Functioning septic systems are effective at containing and neutralizing effluent; however, as systems age and fail, groundwater and soils can become contaminated.

This Plan requires sewer connections for urban development whenever possible. Sewer connections ensure that wastewater is treated before release into the environment, and that development is resource efficient and located within the service boundaries for the local sanitary districts to ensure wastewater effluent rates do not exceed capacity to safely treat wastewater.

OBJECTIVE WW-EGV-1: Ensure wastewater is treated, and is safe for local watershed ecosystems.

Policy WW-EGV-1.1: To ensure wastewater achieves a level of treatment to best ensure public health and welfare, development shall connect to the sewer system of the respective sanitary district wherever feasible.

Policy WW-EGV-1.2: The County shall encourage conversion of septic systems to sewer systems in the Urban Area.

DevStd WW-EGV-1A: *To the maximum extent feasible, development requiring private sewage disposal shall utilize gravity flow of wastewater to the septic tank and disposal field to minimize mechanical failure, which may cause surfacing of effluent. Where gravity flow of effluent is unavailable and pumping may be allowed, the lift station shall be owned and/or maintained by a public agency and private operation and maintenance of a lift station shall be prohibited.*

DevStd WW-EGV-1B: *To reduce the possibility of prolonged effluent daylighting from septic system failure, two disposal fields shall be built to serve each septic system as required by Environmental Health Services so that when one field begins to fail, the other field can immediately be put into use. An additional third expansion area shall be set aside where no development can occur, except for driveways on constrained sites. In the expansion area, a disposal*

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field should be constructed when any other disposal field is in a state of failure.

DevStd WW-EGV-1C: *For remodels of plumbed structures where the existing septic system must be enlarged or where septic system repairs are required due to failure, in addition to the enlargement and/or repair of the existing septic system, an additional disposal field shall be installed whenever feasible.*

DevStd WW-EGV-1D: *Where feasible, measures to decrease the amount of nitrates filtering through soil to groundwater shall be required, including:*

- *Shallow-rooted non-invasive plants (maximum root depth of four feet) shall be planted above all leach fields to encourage evapo-transpiration of effluent and uptake of nitrates. Impervious surfaces, such as paved driveways, shall not be constructed above leach fields. If site constraints require a driveway to be located above a leach field in order to ensure reasonable use of property, turf block or other suitable pervious surface shall be used.*
- *For properties of 5 acres and less, advanced treatment for the removal of nitrates shall be required on septic systems utilizing drywells as the disposal field. Existing septic systems that utilize drywells that have failed, or that need to be modified, must also install advanced treatment.*

DevStd WW-EGV-1E: *Septic systems and other potential sources of water pollution shall be a minimum of 100 feet from the geologic top of bank of tributary or creek banks (reference point as defined by Planning and Development and Environmental Health Services). Modifications to existing sources of potential water pollution shall meet this buffer to the maximum extent feasible.*

DevStd WW-EGV-1F: *Individual or cumulative impacts of septic systems for new development shall not cause pollution of creeks and waterways.*

DevStd WW-EGV-1G: *Development shall be designed to reduce runoff from the site by minimizing impervious surfaces, using pervious or porous surfaces, and minimizing contiguous impervious areas.*

Policy WW-EGV-1.3 *Pollution of surface and groundwater shall be avoided. Where contribution of potential pollutants of any kind is not prohibited*

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and cannot be avoided, such contribution shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy WW-EGV-1.4: The County shall remove and/or relocate runoff outfalls away from sensitive receptors and environmentally sensitive habitat areas where feasible.

Policy WW-EGV-1.5: The County shall work with the sanitary districts to acquire grants and other funding to relocate untreated runoff outfalls per the Environmental Resources and Constraints section.

Policy WW-EGV-1.6: The County shall continue to work with the sanitary districts to improve effluent quality prior to release into the natural environment or use as reclaimed resources by the community.

Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

Eastern Goleta Valley is served by the Tajiguas Landfill located approximately 30 miles west on the Gaviota Coast. Owned and operated by the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, the landfill collects solid waste generated from South Coast jurisdictions including the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Goleta, and the unincorporated areas. The South Coast Transfer Station is another integral part of waste disposal operations in Goleta and the South Coast and is located at the County Calle Real Administration Campus. The facility is a destination point for residential collection vehicles where the solid waste is then transferred from the station to resource recovery systems (recycling, yardwaste, etc.) or the Tajiguas Landfill. The transfer station serves to reduce the number of trips to the landfill and reduce the total vehicle miles traveled by service providers. This system, in turn, reduces vehicle emissions.

The following policies have been developed to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill and to increase and upgrade the resource recovery programs in Goleta Valley in order to divert resources from the waste stream back into the resource pool.

OBJECTIVE RRC-EGV-1: Maximize solid waste diversion and minimize solid waste generation.

Policy RRC-EGV-1.1: Opportunities for resource recovery and landfill solid waste diversion shall be provided.

DevStd RRC-EGV-1A: *Development shall be designed with adequately-sized solid waste container enclosures or designated areas easily accessible to residents and waste management services. The enclosures shall be covered and provide adequate fully enclosed space for solid waste, recycling, yard waste, and/or food waste containers compliant with*

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waste management service and County Public Works Department requirements.

Program RRC-EGV-1A: *Continue to enhance and implement curbside recycling and solid waste diversion programs with consideration of incentives to increase participation. Facilities for curbside solid waste management shall be required for development as deemed appropriate by the County Public Works Department.*

Policy RRC-EGV-1.2: The County shall promote onsite and neighborhood composting of plant-based materials.

Program RRC-EGV-1B: *Provide yard waste collection programs to residential development in the Urban Area and, where feasible, outside the Urban Area. Such programs may include yard waste accumulation bins, curbside pickups, and onsite composting. Facilities for curbside yard waste collection shall be required as deemed appropriate by the County Public Works Department.*

Program RRC-EGV-1C: *Continue to enhance and implement the yard waste mulching program with consideration of incentives to increase participation.*

Policy RRC-EGV-1.4: Appropriate recycling services shall be provided at all construction sites to maximize diversion of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from the landfill.