3.17 UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section discusses wastewater, solid waste, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications within the City's Planning Area. The City's Planning Area consists of its incorporated boundaries and adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). The County's Planning Area consists of unincorporated land within the One Valley One Vision (OVOV) Planning Area boundaries that is outside the City's boundaries and adopted SOI. Both the City and County Planning Areas comprise the OVOV Planning Area. This environmental impact report (EIR) section evaluates the effects of General Plan buildout on utilities and infrastructure.

Wastewater Treatment

With implementation of the proposed goals, objectives, and policies the potential impacts of the City's Planning Area buildout on the wastewater treatment system capacity would be less than significant. As the City reaches its buildout population of 275,000 residents, new projects would be evaluated for their potential impact on the capacity and effectiveness of the wastewater treatment system to treat additional sources of wastewater. The need for construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities as buildout occurs would be determined by the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD). The SCVSD provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in the City and surrounding unincorporated areas. The construction of new facilities would be subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. No mitigation measures are required.

Solid Waste

The City's Planning Area uses three landfills within or near the OVOV Planning Area. They include the Chiquita Canyon Landfill, Antelope Valley Landfill, and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Landfills throughout the state have permitted maximum capacities. In 2007, the amount of waste disposed by the City's Planning Area was 163,000 tons or 5.07 pounds per capita per day. With the projected buildout, the estimated amount of waste disposed that would be generated by the City's Planning Area, would be 254,450.6 tons per year. Nearby landfills are approaching full capacity for waste disposal and the projected amount of landfill capacity, for the City's Planning Area, would be in a shortfall of 22,626 tons per day, six days per week in the year 2021. Therefore, the impacts from buildout to the solid waste system would be significant and unavoidable even with the incorporation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-1** to **3.17-6**.

Electricity, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications

Southern California Edison (SCE) is the primary provider of electric service to the OVOV Planning Area. The two most prevalent energy conservation programs for the City include the Sustainable or "Green Building" Program and the public education and outreach facilitated by the City. Other energy conservation programs include Title 24 (California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings) measure enforced by the City's Building and Safety Division and energy conservation programs promoted by SCE and state agencies.

The Southern California Gas Company (SCG)'s Local Government Partnership portfolio supports the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (CEESP) by partnering with cities, counties, and other local government organizations that have a vision for sustainability and a desire to provide leadership to their communities. The Community Energy Partnership (CEP) program is an existing Local Government Partnership in the SCG and Southern California Edison's (SCE) Energy Leader Partnership portfolio. The City of Santa Clarita is an active member of the CEP. The 2009–2011 CEP program focuses on achieving energy savings and behavioral change in municipal, residential, and commercial sectors.

Natural gas service to the City's Planning Area is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SCG). SCG operates numerous natural gas pipelines in the City's Planning Area. Gas service lines in the OVOV Planning Area range in size from 2- to 34-inch mains. In the eastern part of the OVOV Planning Area, a 30-inch gas line runs along the Santa Clara River. In the western portion of the Valley a 34-inch and a 22-inch main cross the river. Most of the transmission and distribution lines currently serving the OVOV Planning Area operate at a medium pressure of approximately 30 to 60 pounds per square inch (psi), except for those located in industrial areas where large natural gas users are prevalent and require higher-pressure lines.

Telephone service to the City's Planning Area is provided by AT&T. As development continues in the City's Planning Area, the telephone companies would provide additional system capacity and service connections. There are cellular towers located throughout the OVOV Planning Area, more than 50 of which are located in the City's Planning Area.

Cable television service in the City's Planning Area is provided by Time Warner Cable and AT&T U-verse. The east side of the Valley is served by Time Warner Cable. In addition to the cable television franchise with Time Warner in July of 2006, the City Council executed a Public Benefits Agreement with AT&T that allows them to make competitive television service available for City residents. AT&T began offering television services to Santa Clarita in 2007.

The proposed General Plan includes goals, objectives, and policies to reduce or minimize the effects of the additional demand and consumption of electricity and natural gas associated with the prospective growth within the City's Planning Area. Implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies would reduce the effects of growth and development on energy resources. However, the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies do not provide concrete means of implementation and enforcement. Many policies lack performance standards that ensure appropriate actions and parameters would be achieved. Impacts on energy resources due to the additional demand for and consumption of natural gas associated with the prospective growth within the City's Planning Area can be further minimized through implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-7** and **MM 3.17-8** With implementation of these mitigation measures, potential impacts on natural gas would be less than significant.

The existing telecommunications services provided in the City's Planning Area includes telephone service, television service, and internet services. In order for the City to meet the demand of the residents at buildout, new utility corridors, or at least upgrades to these corridors, would need to be addressed. New facilities would be subject to CEQA. Specific scope, type, and location unknown at this time and would be defined as technology is defined and continue to evolve.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Summary

This section discusses the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system, and the wastewater reclamation system within the City's Planning Area. The City's Planning Area has two water reclamation plants (WRP). The Valencia WRP and the Saugus WRP had a combined average daily flow of 20.8 million gallons per day (mgd) as of March 2009. The total design capacity for both plants would reach 34.1 mgd.[1] As buildout progresses, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) would only allow for the permitted amount. Therefore, the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would have a less than significant impact on the wastewater treatment system.

Existing Conditions

Sewage Collection and Treatment

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) (a consolidation of Sanitation Districts Nos. 26 and 32) provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and

1 Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Letter to Mr. Mitch Glaser, Los Angeles County, Department of Regional Planning. June 22, 2009.

industrial users in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVSD operates the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP. These facilities area interconnected to form a regional treatment system known as the Santa Clarita Valley Joint Sewerage System (SCVJSS), which optimizes operating efficiencies of the wastewater treatment plants as solids and excess wastewater from the Saugus WRP are diverted to the Valencia WRP for treatment and disposal. The SCVJSS currently processes an average flow of 20.8 mgd.

Conveyance Systems

The current SCVJSS service area consists of the City and the surrounding unincorporated areas. The wastewater collection system is comprised of service connections that tie into a local collection line network. The local network comprised of primary and secondary collectors, collects sewage flows directly from developments and discharges it into the Sanitation District's sewer trunk lines. The SCVJSS conveyance network consists of 34 miles of trunk sewers covering 11,210 acres of the City's Planning Area.[2] From the sewer trunks, wastewater is discharged into water reclamation plants where it is treated. The Sanitation Districts are responsible for the construction and maintenance of trunk sewers. Flow levels and pipe condition are checked biennially. Local lines are owned and maintained by the City.

The method by which facility expansion is funded is via connection fee. The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District's Connection Fee Program requires that prior to being connected to the system, a new user must pay for their fair share of the County's Sanitation District's sewerage system expansion. In the case of an existing dwelling being connected, the owner would be responsible for the fee. For new development within the Sanitation District, the developer funds on-site sewer mains.

Treatment Facilities

Saugus Water Reclamation Plant

The SWRP (District 26) was built in 1962 at 26200 Springbrook Avenue, in the central portion of the City. The SWRP is a tertiary treatment plant and consists of comminution, grit removal, primary sedimentation, activated sludge biological treatment, secondary sedimentation, coagulation, nitrification and denitrification, duel filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. As there are no facilities for processing solids at the SWRP, all solids are conveyed by either trunk sewer or the waste activated sludge force main to the VWRP for processing.

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2 *Santa Clarita Valley General Plan Technical Background Report*, 4-15.

Water reclaimed by the SWRP is dechlorinated and discharged into the Santa Clara River downstream of Bouquet Canyon Road. However, no future expansions are possible due to space limitations at the site. In 2008, the Saugus WRP produced an average effluent flow of 5 mgd or 5,600 acre-feet per year (afy).[3] Use of recycled water from this facility is permitted under Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Order No. 87-49; however, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) staff has expressed concern about diverting these discharges due to potential impacts to downstream habitat. Until more detailed habitat investigations are conducted, it is assumed that only recycled water from the Valencia WRP will be used. As of December 2007, there were no designated uses of this reclaimed water, other than discharge to the river.

Valencia Water Reclamation Plant

The VWRP was built in 1967 at 28185 The Old Road, west of the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5 or I-5) between the communities of Valencia and Castaic, in unincorporated Los Angeles County (outside the City's Planning Area). This plant, unlike the SWRP, is a combined tertiary treatment plant and solids processing facility. As of 2008, treatment consisted of communition, grit removal, primary sedimentation, activated sludge biological treatment, secondary sedimentation, coagulation, duel filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination.

On November 4, 2008, voters approved the Santa Clara River Chloride Reduction Ordinance of 2008. The ordinance took effect January 1, 2009. While the ordinance prohibits residential automatic water softeners in the Santa Clarita Valley, it also prescribed measures the Sanitation Districts must undertake to reduce chloride. The standard method of disinfection using chlorine gas will be replaced with a Ultra-Violet (UV) system in an effort to further reduce all possible sources of chloride in the wastewater.

The current capacity for treatment is 21.6 mgd with the current average daily flows of 15.7 mgd.[4] Wastewater solids generated by both the VWRP and SWRP are processed at the VWRP. The digested sludge that is a by-product of the treatment process is stored and then dewatered using plate and frame filter presses. Currently, the dewatered cake is transported off site for use in agricultural land application.

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3 Telephone communication between Ron Kettle, Valencia Water Reclamation Facility, and Chris Hampson of Impact Sciences. 8/11/08; One million gallons per day equals 1,120 acre feet per year; http://www.irwd.com /MediaInfo/water_equivalents.php

4 Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Letter to Mr. Mitch Glaser, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning . June 22, 2009.

Recycled Water

Recycled water is obtained by treating and disinfecting municipal wastewater. The SCVSD provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and industrial users within its service area. Wastewater is collected by a system of sewers and transported to trunk sewers that convey the wastewater to either the SWRP or the VWRP. Currently, the combined operating capacity of the Sanitation District's SWRP and VWRP treatment plants is 28.1 million gallons per day (mgd). During the fiscal year of 2006–2007, both plants produced 23,207 total acre-feet (af) of water, 497 af of which was used for recycled water purposes (landscape irrigation), or 2.14 percent of the total recycled water produced at the plants. As of fiscal year, 2006–2007, the VWRP produced 0.4 mgd of recycled water for the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA). The CLWA has an agreement with the Sanitation District to reuse up to 1,600 af per year (limited to 1.4 mgd) of recycled water.

Recycled Water Standards

The allowed uses of recycled water depend upon the quality of the recycled water. The VWRP and SWRP produce a high-quality tertiary recycled water in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 22 recycled water requirements for almost unrestricted non-potable reuse; however, certain applications of recycled water may require additional treatment prior to use. For example, reuse projects for the irrigation of salt sensitive agriculture or industrial process may require treatment to reduce Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), a measurement that generally expresses mineral levels within the water. The need for additional treatment is therefore dependant upon individual reuse applications. This in turn, depends on adequate funding to develop the necessary treatment facilities for each reuse project.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) establishes numeric and qualitative requirements for recycled water discharged to receiving waters to protect groundwater and surface water quality. In addition to the state numerical values, there are general provisions imposed by the state on recycled water.[5] These provisions are that recycled water:

- Shall not result in colors, odors, or cause toxicity to humans, plants, or aquatic life;
- Must not cause a nuisance, mosquito problems, or damage structures or facilities;
- Must have received treatment equivalent to filtration to reduce turbidity;

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5 California Department of Public Health, Title 17 and Title 22 Code of Regulations, "Regulations Related to Recycled Water."

- Must not contain trace constituents in concentrations exceeding California drinking water standards or action levels established by the Department of Health Services; and
- Must not cause a measurable increase in organic chemical contaminants in groundwater.

In accordance with the NPDES permits for the SWRP and VWRP, the SCVSD has implemented a receiving water monitoring program. In addition to two receiving groundwater monitoring locations, one for each plant, there are five receiving surface water-monitoring stations, these are:

- Station R-A—Located approximately 300 feet upstream of the SWRP discharge point
- Station R-B—Located approximately 100 feet downstream of the SWRP discharge point
- Station R-C—Located approximately 300 feet upstream of the VWRP discharge point
- Station R-D—Located approximately 300 feet downstream of the VWRP discharge point
- Station R-E—Located approximately 2 miles downstream of the VWRP discharge point

The NPDES permits specify that both quantitative and qualitative receiving water testing be performed to ensure the protection of the beneficial uses of the receiving water and the river ecosystem. The SCVSD conducts weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual monitoring of its recycled water and at the receiving water stations for a variety of water quality parameters to ensure water quality objectives are being met.

Recycled Water Demand

CLWA's 2000 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) indicates that implementation of recycled water projects (including those planned for Newhall Ranch) could result in the use of up to 19,612 acre-feet of recycled water per year by 2010. Although it did not specifically state a projected 2007 demand, CLWA had approval for 1,600 af of recycled water use and was in the process of constructing the necessary facilities to deliver this amount at the time the 2005 UWMP was written. As indicated in CLWA's 2005 UWMP, approximately 448 af was served in 2004 to landscape irrigation customers, including the Westridge Golf Course.[6] Current demand is lower than originally predicted due to delays in the necessary environmental documentation and funding availability to expand the recycled water distribution system. The 2005 UWMP 2030 water use projections could potentially increase an additional 17,400 acre-feet per year as additional recycled water is produced.

In order to provide an incentive to recycled water users, it was recommended in the Draft 2002 Recycled Water Master Plan that the CLWA issue a monthly rebate directly to each recycled water user. However,

6 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, Chapter 4: Recycled Water, 2005.

CLWA is currently considering utilizing a twofold approach to encourage recycled water use. CLWA plans on making recycled water available at a reduced rate and to work with the Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita to adopt a Recycled Water Ordinance, mandating recycled use for certain applications. A Draft Ordinance is currently being developed. The reduced rate of water use projected as a result of the Recycled Water Ordinance Water is 8,700 af by year 2030 which would contribute to the 2030 water use projections for an additional 17,400 acre-feet per year. As of November 2006, Castaic Lake Water Agency was preparing a Recycled Water Master Plan that would address recycled water-related issues as they relate to future growth within the OVOV Planning Area. CLWA completed programmatic CEQA analysis in early 2007 for full implementation of the recycled water system as outlined in the Master Plan. CLWA is preparing the design of the second phase of the Recycled Water Master Plan that will take water from the SWRP and distribute it to identified users to the north, across the Santa Clara River and then to the west and the east, which will include service to Santa Clarita Central Park.

Wastewater Conveyance and Biosolids

Planned Improvements

Saugus and Valencia WRPs

Facility improvements for both the SWRP and VWRP were outlined in the *Final 2015 Santa Clarita Valley Joint Sewerage System Facilities EIR* (January 1998). These improvements were recommended based on per-capita wastewater generation rates through the year 2015. The improvements outlined below are proposed to incrementally increase wastewater treatment capacity from the current rate of 28.1 mgd to 34.1 mgd by 2015. To accomplish this, the SCVSD has implemented a plan to upgrade both treatment plants as detailed below.

SWRP and VWRP Upgrade

The nitrification and denitrification modification was constructed at both the VWRP and SWRP in 2004. The implementation of the Santa Clara River Chloride Reduction Ordinance prohibits residents from owning salt-based water softeners within the Santa Clarita Valley. While removal of all these softeners will reduce the chloride discharged to the river, it does not eliminate the need to install some advanced treatment to meet discharge regulations. The SCVSD is preparing a facilities plan and EIR for the facilities necessary to meet chloride requirements. These facilities are expected to include a 3 mgd micro-filtration reverse-osmosis system.

VWRP Stage VI Expansion

After completion of the Stage V expansion and upgrades, Stage VI will involve a 6 mgd expansion of the facility on the undeveloped north portion of the VWRP property.

Newhall Ranch Reclamation Plant

Newhall Ranch development is proposed for an area approximately 11,963 acres in size. The development consists of 21,615 dwelling units, 67 acres of commercial development, 256 acres of business parks, and 630 acres of mixed-use development. To treat the wastewater generated by these proposed developments, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan has proposed a new sanitation district and a new water reclamation plant. This plant would have a capacity of 6.8 mgd[7] to meet the wastewater needs of Newhall Ranch only.

Reclaimed Water Projects

In order to maintain flexibility in identifying the optimum wastewater conveyance management solution and, in turn reclaimed water production through the planning horizon, the Sanitation Districts will on a case-by-case basis evaluate the needs of the SCVJSS every two years, through 2015. The planned expansions and incremental additions to treatment facilities, as outlined above, are projected to increase wastewater treatment capacity to 34.1 mgd. Additionally, biosolids management will follow a similar management program, and look for alternative disposal options. CLWA has identified a number of potential users of recycled water in the future. Demands for recycled water are seasonal, with the highest demands occurring during the hot, dry summer months when irrigation requirements are greatest. CLWA estimates that the total potential annual recycled water demand that is cost effective to serve is approximately 17,400 afy. Implementation of the recycled water system is expected to occur over the next 25 years.[8]

Regulatory Setting

The following statutes and regulations are specific for treated wastewater water quality. For a full discussion of all water quality regulations (some of which will apply to both treatment effluent and stormwater runoff), see **Section 3.13**, **Water Services,** of this document.

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7 County of Los Angeles. "Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space." *Preliminary Draft Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*. 2008.

8 County of Los Angeles. "Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space." *Preliminary Draft Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*. 2008.

Federal Regulations

Clean Water Act

The objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA),[9] is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing point and nonpoint pollution sources, providing assistance to publicly owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits

The NPDES permit system was established in the CWA to regulate both point source discharges (a municipal or industrial discharge at a specific location or pipe) and nonpoint source discharges (diffuse runoff of water from adjacent land uses) to surface waters of the United States. For point source discharges, each NPDES permit contains limits on allowable concentrations and mass emissions of pollutants contained in the discharge. The SWRP and VWRP are regulated by NPDES permits CA0054313 and CA0054216, respectively, and are renewed every five years.

State Regulations

Title 22

The California Water Code requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish water reclamation criteria. In 1975, the DHS prepared Title 22 to fulfill this requirement. Title 22 regulates production and use of reclaimed water in California by establishing three categories of reclaimed water:

- primary effluent, which typically includes grit removal and initial sedimentation or settling tanks;
- adequately disinfected, oxidized effluent (secondary effluent), which typically involves aeration and additional settling basins; and
- adequately disinfected, oxidized, coagulated, clarified, filtered effluent (tertiary effluent), which typically involves filtration and chlorination.

In addition to defining reclaimed water uses, Title 22 also defines requirements for sampling and analysis of effluent and requires specific design requirements for facilities. All treated wastewater in the OVOV Planning Area is treated to tertiary levels; water discharged to the Santa Clara River is also dechlorinated to meet more stringent NPDES standards.

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9 US Code, Title 42, Sec. 1251, The Clean Water Act.

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) are the principle state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality. In the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act[10] (Porter-Cologne), the California State Legislature declared that the "state must be prepared to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to protect the quality of the waters in the state from degradation." Porter-Cologne grants the boards authority to implement and enforce water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans to protect the state's groundwater and surface waters.

Local Regulations

Water Reuse Permits

In addition to the NPDES permits, the Saugus and Valencia WRPs have water reclamation requirements (reuse permits) issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). These permits contain limits that are consistent with specific water quality objectives of the Basin Plan.

Wastewater Ordinance

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all direct or indirect discharges, including the discharge of all wastewater, to any part of the sewerage systems of the Districts, or to other sewerage systems tributary to the Districts' sewerage system. The provisions of this ordinance shall also apply to wastewater originating outside the territorial boundaries of the Districts or outside the boundaries of Los Angeles County if such wastewater eventually enters the Districts' sewerage system. This ordinance among other things regulates sewer construction and provides for the approval of plans for sewer construction and implements federal and state pollution control regulations. This ordinance also provides for the issuance of permits, including permits for industrial wastewater discharge, prohibits the discharge of certain wastes and regulates the quantity and quality of other waste discharges. This ordinance imposes wastewater pretreatment requirements upon waste dischargers and provides for the regulation of the degree of such pretreatment. Lastly, this ordinance provides for the filing of wastewater treatment surcharge statements, imposes fees and charges and provides for the distribution of revenue. Violations

10 State Water Resources Control Board, "Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act" California Water Code, Division 7. Water Quality, effective January 1, 2008.

of this ordinance are subject to criminal fines and penalties, civil liabilities and other penalties in accordance with law.[11]

Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project will have a significant effect on the environment, the *State CEQA Guidelines*, Appendix G identify criteria for conditions that may be deemed to constitute a substantial or potentially adverse change in physical conditions. Significant impacts on wastewater services would result if buildout of the proposed General Plan would

- exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.

Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on wastewater services within the City's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.17-1 **Buildout of the proposed General Plan would potentially exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.**

Increases in population, housing, and commercial and industrial land uses would result in incremental increases in the generation of wastewater. Due to the projected growth, the increased generation of wastewater is considered substantial and may potentially result in a significant impact on existing wastewater service and facilities.

The current daily effluent flows of the SWRP and the VWRP are 5.1 mgd and 15.7 mgd, respectively. The SWRP and the VWRP have current design capacities of 6.5 and 21.6 mgd, respectively, for a total design capacity of 28.1 mgd. As described above in **Planned Improvements**, the design capacity of both plants

11 Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, "Wastewater ordinance," http://www.lacsd.org/info/industrial_waste/wastewater_ordinance.asp, 1998.

would increase to a capacity of 34.1 mgd and would have the capacity to be able to produce more reclaimed water for potential reuse (**Goal CO 4**, **Objective CO 4.2**, **Policies CO 4.2.1** and **CO 4.2.2**). As the City's Planning Area reaches its buildout population of 275,000 residents, new projects would need to be evaluated for their potential impact on the wastewater treatment system capacity before the start of construction (**Goal LU 9, Objective LU 9.1**, **Policy LU 9.1.1, Policy CO 4.2.2**). Where deemed appropriate by the reviewing authority, new projects should promote means to enhance water quality by addressing sources of water pollution (**Objective CO 4.4**) and by providing the extension of sanitary sewers for all urban uses and densities, to protect groundwater quality, where feasible (**Objective CO 4.4**, **Policy CO 4.4.4**). Extension of sanitary sewers, where deemed appropriate, would help provide for the delivery of recycled water for use in irrigation. As buildout of the City occurs, the City should protect the capacity of the natural "green" infrastructure to cleanse water, and prevent flood and storm damage and promote more sustainable utilization, and improve the communities understanding of renewable resource systems (**Goal CO 1, Objective CO 1.1**, **Policy CO 1.1.1** and **Objective CO 1.2, Policy CO 1.2.1**).

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal LU 9: Adequate public facilities and services, provided in a timely manner and in appropriate locations to serve existing and future residents and businesses.

Objective LU 9.1: Coordinate land use planning with provision of adequate public services and facilities to support development.

Policy LU 9.1.1: Ensure construction of adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of new development prior to occupancy.

Goal CO.1: A balance between the social and economic needs of Santa Clarita Valley residents and protection of the natural environment, so that these needs can be met in the present and in the future.

Objective CO 1.1: Protect the capacity of the natural "green" infrastructure to absorb and break down pollutants, cleanse air and water, and prevent flood and storm damage.

Policy CO 1.1.1: In making land use decisions, consider the complex, dynamic, and interrelated ways that natural and human systems interact, such as the interactions between energy demand, water demand, air and water quality, and waste management.

Objective CO 1.2: Promote more sustainable utilization of renewable resource systems.

Policy CO 1.2.1: Improve the community's understanding of renewable resource systems that occur naturally in the Santa Clarita Valley, including systems related to hydrology, energy, ecosystems, and habitats, and the interrelationships between these systems, through the following measures:

a. Through the environmental and development review processes, consider development proposals within the context of renewable resource systems and evaluate potential impacts on a system-wide basis (rather than a project-specific basis), to the extent feasible;

b. In planning for new regional infrastructure projects, consider impacts on renewable resources within the context of interrelationships between these systems;

c. Provide information to decision-makers about the interrelationship between traffic and air quality, ecosystems and water quality, land use patterns and public health, and other similar interrelationships between renewable resource systems in order to ensure that decisions are based on an understanding of these concepts.

Goal CO 4: An adequate supply of clean water to meet the needs of present and future residents and businesses, balanced with the needs of natural ecosystems.

Objective CO 4.2: Work with water providers and other agencies to identify and implement programs to increase water supplies to meet the needs of future growth.

Policy CO 4.2.1: In cooperation with the Sanitation District and other affected agencies, expand opportunities for use of recycled water for the purposes of landscape maintenance, construction, water recharge, and other uses as appropriate.

Policy CO 4.2.2: Require new development to provide the infrastructure needed for delivery of recycled water to the property for use in irrigation, even if the recycled water main delivery lines have not yet reached the site, where deemed appropriate by the reviewing authority.

Objective CO 4.4: Promote measures to enhance water quality by addressing sources of water pollution.

Policy CO 4.4.4: Promote the extension of sanitary sewers for all urban uses and densities, to protect groundwater quality, where feasible.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies related to wastewater would ensure adequate wastewater facilities as development occurs, thereby, reducing the effects of future development and avoiding exceedances of wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Plan to Plan Analysis

The City's wastewater generation and treatment needs at General Plan buildout would need to be evaluated on a project-by-project basis for their potential impact on the capacity and effectiveness of the wastewater treatment system to treat the potential additional sources of wastewater. Due to the potential for more dwelling units to be built under the City's proposed General Plan, the demand on wastewater treatment facilities would be less under the existing General Plan. Consequently, potential impacts on wastewater would be less when compared to the proposed General Plan.

Impact 3.17-2 **Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could potentially cause significant environmental effects.**

Increases in population, housing, and commercial and industrial land uses would result in incremental increases in the generation of wastewater. Due to the projected growth, the increased generation of wastewater is considered substantial and may potentially result in a significant impact on existing wastewater service and facilities.

The current daily effluent flows of the SWRP and the VWRP are 5.1 mgd and 15.7 mgd, respectively. The SWRP and the VWRP have current design capacities of 6.5 and 21.6 mgd, respectively, for a total design capacity of 28.1 mgd. As described above in **Planned Improvements**, the design capacity of both plants would increase to a capacity of 34.1 mgd and would have the capacity to be able to produce more reclaimed water for potential reuse (**Goal CO 4**, **Objective CO 4.2**, **Policies CO 4.2.1** and **CO 4.2.2**).

As the City reaches its estimated buildout population of 275,000 residents, new projects would need to be evaluated for their potential impact on the wastewater treatment system before the start of construction (**Goal LU 9, Objective LU 9.1, Policy LU 9.1.1, Policy CO 4.2.2, Policy CO 4.4.4**). The need for construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities as buildout occurs would be determined by the SCVSD. If new facilities were to be constructed, the project(s) would be required to undergo an environmental review per CEQA.

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

All of the applicable proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies are listed above.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies related to wastewater would ensure adequate wastewater facilities as development occurs, requiring, if necessary, the environmental documentation on the effects of potential future construction.

Plan to Plan Analysis

The City's wastewater generation and treatment needs at General Plan buildout would need to be evaluated on a project-by-project basis for their potential impact on the capacity and effectiveness of the wastewater treatment system to treat the potential additional sources of wastewater. Due to the potential for more dwelling units to be built under the City's proposed General Plan, the demand on wastewater treatment facilities would be less under the existing General Plan. Consequently, potential impacts on wastewater would be less when compared to the proposed General Plan.

Impact 3.17-3 **Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.**

The current daily effluent flows of the SWRP and the VWRP are 5.1 mgd and 15.7 mgd, respectively. The SWRP and the VWRP have current design capacities of 6.5 and 21.6 mgd, respectively, for a total design

capacity of 28.1 mgd. As described above in **Planned Improvements**, the design capacity of both plants would increase to a capacity of 34.1 mgd and would have the capacity to be able to produce more reclaimed water for potential reuse (**Goal CO 4**, **Objective CO 4.2**, **Policies CO 4.2.1** and **CO 4.2.2**).

As the City reaches its estimated buildout population of 275,000 residents, new projects would need to be evaluated for their potential impact on the wastewater treatment system capacity before the start of construction (**Goal LU 9, Objective LU 9.1**, **Policy LU 9.1.1, Policy CO 4.2.2, Policy CO 4.4.4**). The SCVSD will evaluate its capacity to provide service to existing commitments as well as new customers as the City reaches buildout.

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

All of the applicable proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies are listed above.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies related to wastewater and the implementation of the objectives of the *Final 2015 Santa Clarita Valley Joint Sewerage System Facilities* would ensure adequate wastewater capacity to serve the buildout of the City's Planning Area.

Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the existing and proposed General Plans provide policies that would ensure for wastewater facilities and development occurs. Impacts to wastewater would be the same under both Plans.

Mitigation Framework

No mitigation measures are required.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the above proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would reduce potentially significant impacts on wastewater treatment systems to less than significant.

SOLID WASTE

Summary

This section describes solid waste management for the City's Planning Area, including the landfills that receive solid waste from the City and the existing capacity and expansion potential of these landfills. In 2007, the amount of waste disposed by the City limits was 163,000 tons.[12] By the year 2021, four landfills may close due to reaching the permitted capacity for waste. At buildout, the projected amount of waste generated by the City's Planning Area would be 233,267.9 tons per year.[13] Solid waste and recyclables that are generated within the City's Planning Area are collected, sorted, processed, sold, reused, and disposed of within and outside of the City's Planning Area. Franchised haulers collect the materials from homes, businesses, and public facilities in the City's Planning Area. The projected amount of landfill capacity will be in a shortfall of 22,626 tons per day, six days per week in the year 2021 (**Table 3.17-1**). Therefore, the impacts from buildout to the solid waste system would be significant and unavoidable.

Existing Conditions

Like many areas in Southern California, the City is faced with the continual annual increase in the generation of solid waste and diminishing disposal capacities. Construction and demolition debris materials account for almost 22 percent of the state's waste stream.[14] Through the City's existing construction and demolition and (C & D) ordinance, it is feasible to divert at least 60 percent of all C & D material from construction, demolition, and renovation.[15]

The City is responsible for ensuring the provision of adequate trash removal for all properties within its incorporated boundaries. This is achieved through franchise agreements with waste management companies. The City provides the following services to the community through the franchise agreements:

- Weekly curbside residential trash/green waste and recycling service
- Trash and recycling services for multi-family, commercial/industrial and institutional facilities
- Christmas Tree Recycling

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12 California Integrated Waste Management Board, Disposal Reporting System, "Jurisdictional Disposal by Facility," http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/DRS/Destination/JurDspFa.aspx. 2008.

13 Based on the 2007 waste per capita per day and projected at buildout.

14 California Integrated Waste Management Board, "Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling," http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/. 2008.

15 California Integrated Waste Management Board, "Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling," http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/. 2008.

- Neighborhood Clean-Up events
- Waste management and recycling at various special events throughout the year

In addition to the services provided by the waste haulers, the City provides the following:

- Door-to-door household hazardous waste collection
- Comprehensive education program and outreach at various events
- Recycling Market Development Zone, which provides low interest loans to businesses that wish to form or expand for the purpose of selling products made from recycled materials, or to process recyclable materials.

The City provides one free door-to-door (ABOP: antifreeze, batteries, oil, and paint) collection per year for City residents. Currently, there are no permanent recycling facilities located within the City. There are nine privately owned redemption/buy-back centers and a bulky item collection center offered to City residents by the City's franchised residential hauler. At the buyback centers, glass, aluminum, or plastic beverage containers are redeemable for cash.

The City's 1994 Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE) identifies two existing facilities and one proposed facility: The existing Chiquita Canyon Composting Facility, the existing Community Recycling and Resource Recovery Composting Facility (Rent-A-Bin), and the proposed Chiquita Canyon Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).[16] The City's first amendment to the NDFE proposes to include seven facilities:[17]

- Agromin Green Materials Composting (green waste composting facility);
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill Composting Facility (green waste composting facility);
- Community Recycling/Resource Recovery, Inc. (large volume MRF and transfer station);
- Downtown Diversion (large volume C & D debris processing facility);
- WM/East Valley Diversion (large volume C & D debris processing facility);
- Santa Clara Organics (chipping and grinding facility);
- Sun Valley Paper Stock (large volume transfer and processing facility).

16 City of Santa Clarita, *Nondisposal Facility Element*, 1994.

17 City of Santa Clarita, *Nondisposal Facility Element Amendment Number One*, 2008.

With the exception of the Community Recycling and Resource Recovery Composting Facility (Rent-A-Bin) the other above facilities are located outside of the City limits. It is the goal of the City to ultimately divert as much as 75 percent of the City's trash from landfills to recycling.

State Recycling Market Development Zone

The City requested and was granted designation as a State Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ). This designation provides the City's Planning Area with a small amount of funding and staff support from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to assist in the creation of business enterprises that take recycled materials and make them into marketable products for sale.

Solid Waste Disposal

The City's Planning Area is served primarily by three Class III (nonhazardous) landfills:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill
- Antelope Valley Landfill
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill

These landfills area located near the City's Planning Area, as shown in **Figure 3.17-1, Landfills Serving the OVOV Planning Area**. The City exports a majority of its wastes to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and the remainder of its wastes to the Antelope Valley Landfill and Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Sylmar.

In 2007, the City disposed of 163,000 tons of waste in the year with a population of 176,168;[18] the per capita waste generation was 1,850.51 pounds for 2007, which equals 5.07 pounds per capita per day.[19] The City reports substantial progress in diverting waste from landfills with its solid waste management programs. In 1990, only 6 percent of solid waste was diverted and by 1998, 42 percent waste diversion was occurring. The City submitted a tonnage modification request for 1999 and 2000 to the State Board. The Board accepted the City's request for a 49 percent diversion rate in 2005.[20] The City's franchised haulers use commingled recycling facilities, construction and demolition recycling facilities, and

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18 California Department of Finance, Table 2: E-4 Estimates for Cities, Counties, and State, 2001-2008, 2008.

19 The per capita waste generation number was determined by 163,000 * 2,000 pounds [lbs; (1 ton = 2,000 pounds)], 326,000,000pounds. Divide by the population to = 1,850.51 pounds per person. Divide that number by 365 days in a year to get 5.07 pounds per capita per day.

20 California Integrated Waste Management Board, "Countywide, Regionwide, and Statewide Jurisidication Diversion Progress Report," http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGTools/mars/JurDrSta.asp?VW=In, 2009.

composting facilities to divert materials from landfills. The following facilities are used by the City's franchised haulers and listed on the City's State approved Non Disposal Facility Element (NDFE): Community Recycling, Agromin Composting Facility, Downtown Diversion, East Valley Diversion, Sun Valley Paper Stock, Santa Clara Organics, and Rent A Bin. In 2007, 24,167.73 tons of green waste material was generated in the City's Planning Area which was composted at regional composting facilities. As a result, only 2,245 tons were taken to regional landfills and used as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC). In 2006 the City diversion rate was 54 percent of waste disposal.[21]

Currently, most solid waste is disposed of in local landfills. Since 1997, the City has diverted from 44 to 51 percent through recycling efforts, in an increasing effort to meet the provisions of the California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) to increase the diversion to 50 percent by year 2000 (discussed below). This diversion will increase the life expectancy of landfills, but not eliminate the need for new landfill space. As growth occurs throughout Southern California, new landfill space will need to be developed and maximized and/or other waste disposal alternatives will need to be implemented.

It is extremely speculative to identify specific options that will be implemented to dispose of solid waste 20, 50, or 100 years from now. The City of Santa Clarita, Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), which demonstrated how the jurisdiction would meet the Integrated Waste Management Act's mandated diversion goals of 25 percent by January 1, 1995, and 50 percent on and after January 1, 2000, noted that regional competition for ever-scarce landfill space makes planning uncertain. New capacity is highly problematic, reflecting a series of individual siting decisions as opposed to a comprehensive strategic choice. The City has adopted strategies to address solid waste needs:

- Aggressive implementation of diversion programs, including source reduction recycling efforts, composting and waste education prevention efforts;
- Dependence on Chiquita Canyon Landfill through 2019;
- Use of alternative regional landfills, including Sunshine Canyon, Puente Hills and Antelope Valley Landfills;
- Use of rail facilities as soon as these become available, to secure a more stable and dependable access to disposal capacity; and
- Construction of a MRF.

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21 Michelle Lovato, "Garbage: What a terrible waste," Santa Clarita Valley, The Signal, Tuesday December 30, 2008, A1 and A6.

Solid waste collection within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County is by private haulers and taken to either Chiquita Canyon Landfill or Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The Antelope Valley Landfill in Palmdale, Lancaster Landfill in Lancaster, Simi Valley Landfill in Simi Valley, and the Toland Road Landfill in Ventura County could all conceivably accept waste from the City's Planning Area and are included in this discussion for that reason. Currently, the Toland Road Landfill is restricted to receiving wastes that originate from designated transfer stations in Ventura County only. Several of the landfills identified have the potential to be expanded in order to provide additional capacity. Of these landfills, Lancaster and Sunshine Canyon Landfills have active proposed expansion plans. Both of these landfills could serve the City's Planning Area as well as the surrounding region. **Table 3.17-1, Existing Landfill Capacity and Regional Needs Analysis for Los Angeles County**, identifies the anticipated remaining capacity and anticipated remaining years of operation of each landfill.[22]

Waste diversion will increase the life expectancy of landfills, but not eliminate the need for new landfill space. On August 29, 2000, the Los Angeles County Community Service District (LACSD), a consortium of 78 cities and the County of Los Angeles signed agreements to purchase the Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County, which is subject to resolution pending litigation,[23] and the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County. Solid waste from the CSD would be transported to land proposed for landfills by rail.

Regulatory Setting

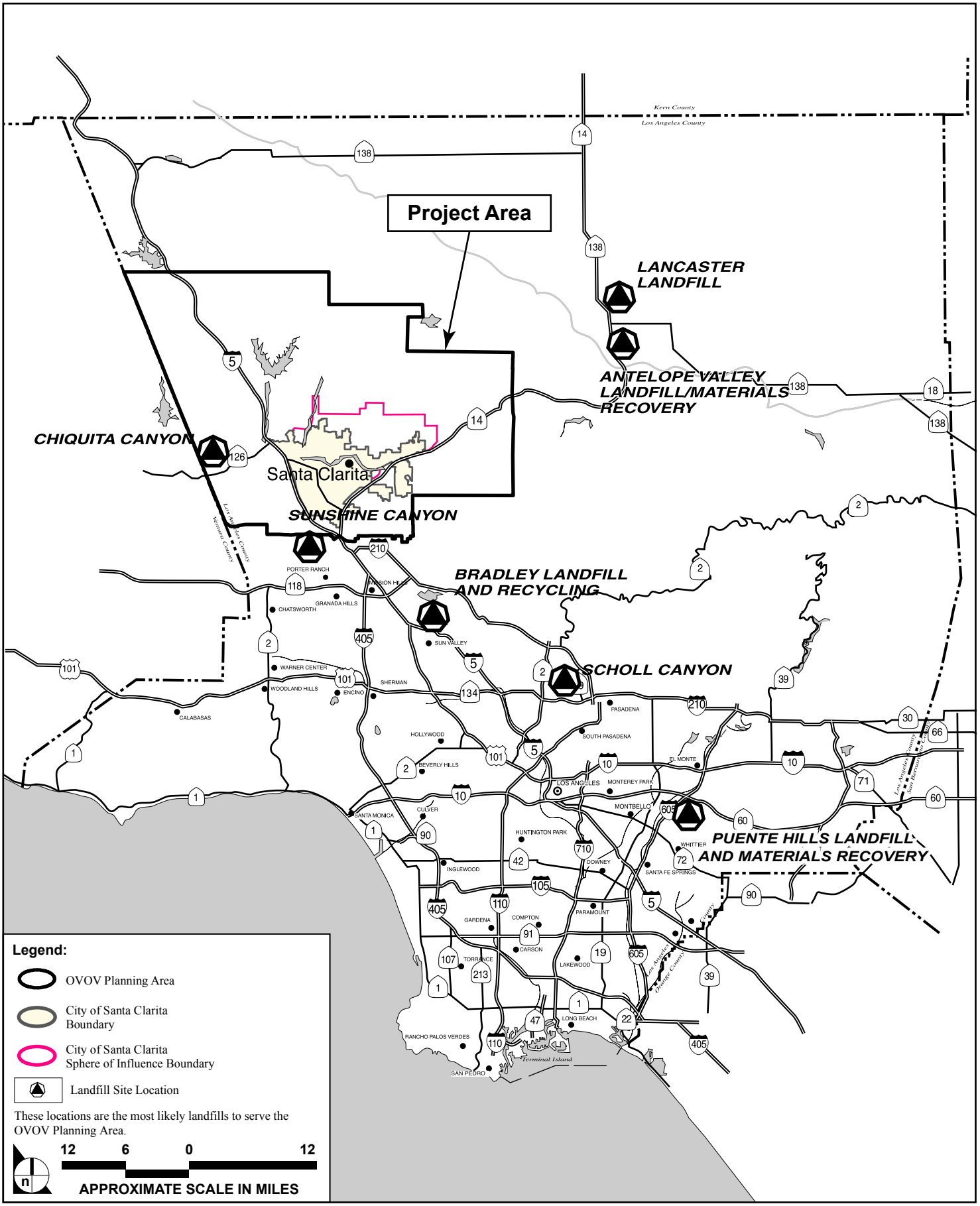
State Regulations

California Integrated Waste Management Act

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) requires every city and county in the state to prepare an SRRE to its Solid Waste Management Plan, that identified how each jurisdiction would meet the mandatory state waste diversion goals of 25 percent by the year 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. The purpose of AB 939 is to "reduce, recycle, and re-use solid waste generated in the state to the maximum extent feasible." Noncompliance with the goals and timelines set forth within AB 939 can result in fines up to $10,000 per day on jurisdictions (cities and counties) not meeting the recycling and planning goals.

22 County of Los Angeles, *2006 Annual Report for the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element*, 2006.

23 Los Angeles County. "Chapter 9: Public Services and Facilities Element." *Draft General Plan*. 2008.



SOURCE: Impact Sciences, Inc. – January 2009

FIGURE **3.17-1**

Landfills Serving the OVOV Planning Area

Table 3.17-1
Existing Landfill Capacity and Regional Needs Analysis for Los Angeles County

Year	Waste Generation Rate	Percent Diversion	Total Disposal Need	Maximum Daily Transformation Capacity	Class III Landfill Disposal Need	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	Class III Landfill Daily Disposal Capacity Shortfall (Excess)
						EXISTING LANDFILLS													
						Antelope Valley	Bradley	R Burbank[6]	R Calabasas	Chiquita[6]	Lancaster[7]	Pebbly Beach[6]	L Puente Hills	R San Clemente	R Scholl[6]	Sunshine		Whittier[68]	
																County	City		
						Expected Daily Tonnage 6 Day Average (tpd-6) Remaining Permitted Landfill Capacity at Year's End (Million Tons)														
	(tpd-6)		(tpd-6)	(tpd-6)	(tpd-6)														(tpd-6)
2006	76,305	50%	38,152	1,724	30,715	977	1,447	125	1,492	4,853	1,221	8.6	12079	2.65	1,431	2,693	4,118	268	
						9.2	0.1	3.0	7.9	11.0	13.5	0.087	26.6	0.041	6.4	1.4	4.3	4.4	
2007	76,771	50%	38,386	2,069	36,317	1,400	200	126	1,501	5,000	1700	8.7	12500	2.67	1,440	3,500	4,000	269	4,668
																E			
						8.8	C	3.0	7.4	9.5	12.9	0.085	22.7	0.040	6.0	3.1	3.0	4.3	
2008	77,772	50%	38,886	2,069	36,817	1,800		127	1,521	5,000	1700	8.8	12500	2.70	1,459	3,500	4,500	273	4,425
						E													
						17.2		2.9	6.9	7.9	12.4	0.082	18.8	0.039	5.5	2.0	1.6	4.2	
2009	78,947	50%	39,474	2,069	37,405	1,800		129	1,544	5,000	1700	8.9	13200	2.74	1,481	3,500	4,500	277	4,262
										E						E	E		
						16.6		2.9	6.5	38.4	11.9	0.079	14.7	0.038	5.0	20.9	49.2	4.1	
2010	80,583	50%	40,292	2,069	38,223	3,600		132	1,576	5,000	3,000	9.1	13200	2.80	1,512	11,000		283	(1,092)
													E						
						15.5		2.8	6.0	36.8	11.0	0.076	10.6	0.037	4.6	66.7		4.0	
2011	82,190	50%	41,095	2,069	39,026	3,600		135	1,607	5,000	3,000	9.3	13200	2.86	1,542	11,000		288	(358)
						14.3		2.8	5.5	35.2	10.0	0.073	6.4	0.036	4.1	63.2		3.9	
2012	83,798	50%	41,899	2,069	39,830	3,600		137	1,639	5,000	3,000	9.5	13200	2.91	1,572	11,000		294	375
						13.2		2.8	5.0	33.7	9.1	0.070	2.3	0.0354	3.6	59.8		3.8	
2013	85,501	50%	42,751	2,069	40,682	3,600		140	1,672	5,000	3,000	9.7	13200	2.97	1,604	11,000		300	1,153
						12.1		2.7	4.4	32.1	8.1	0.067	C	0.0345	3.1	56.4		3.7	
2014	87,418	50%	43,709	2,069	41,640	3,600		143	1,710	5,000	3,000	9.9		3.04	1,640	11,000		307	15,227
						11.0		2.7	3.9	30.6	7.2	0.064		0.0335	2.6	52.9		3.6	
2015	89,207	50%	44,604	2,069	42,535	3,600		146	1,745	5,000	3,000	10.1		3.10	1,674	11,000		313	16,044
						9.9		2.6	3.4	29.0	6.3	0.061		0.0326	2.1	49.5		3.5	
2016	90,951	50%	45,475	2,069	43,406	3,600		149	1,779	5,000	3,000	10.3		3.16	1,706	11,000		319	16,840
						8.7		2.6	2.8	27.4	5.3	0.058		0.0316	1.5	46.1		3.4	
2017	92,686	50%	46,343	2,069	44,274	3,600		152	1,813	5,000	3,000	10.5		3.22	1,739	11,000		325	17,632
						7.6		2.5	2.2	25.9	4.4	0.055		0.0306	1.0	42.7		3.3	
2018	94,321	50%	47,160	2,069	45,091	3,600		155	1,845	5,000	3,000	10.7		3.28	1,769	11,000		331	18,378
						6.5		2.5	1.7	24.3	3.5	0.051		0.0296	0.4	39.2		3.2	
2019	95,958	50%	47,979	2,069	45,910	3,600		157	1,877	5,000	3,000	10.9		3.34	1,800	11,000		337	19,125
						5.4		2.4	1.1	22.8	2.5	0.048		0.0285	C	35.8		3.1	
2020	97,708	50%	48,854	2,069	46,785	3,600		160	1,911	5,000	3,000	11.1		3.40		11,000		343	21,757
						4.2		2.4	0.5	21.2	1.6	0.044		0.0275		32.4		3.0	
2021	99,537	50%	49,769	2,069	47,700	3,600		163	1,947	5,000	3,000	11.3		3.46		11,000		349	22,626

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. *The Waste Generation Rate (excluding the inert waste being handled at permitted unclassified landfills) was estimated using the CIWMB's Adjustment Methodology, utilizing population projection available from State Department of Transportation, and employment and taxable sales projections available from UCLA.*
2. *Diversion Rate is 50 percent for years 2006 through 2021.*
3. *Expected Daily Tonnage Rates are based on permitted daily capacity for the Antelope Valley, Chiquita, Lancaster, Puente Hills, and Sunshine Landfills. The expected daily tonnage rate for Burbank, Calabasas, Pebbly Beach, San Clemente, Scholl, and Whittier (Savage) Landfills are based on the average daily tonnages for the period of 1/1/06 to 12/31/06.*
4. *Expected Daily Tonnage Rate for Bradley Landfill Expansion is based on the historical use of this landfill.*
5. *"tpd-6": tons per day, 6 day per week average.*
6. *Anticipated closures per CIWMB website, <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/swis>, accessed July 30, 2004: Burbank-2054; Chiquita-2019; Pebbly Beach-2033; San Clemente-2032; Scholl-2019; Whittier-2025.*
7. *Anticipated closure 2030, per telecommunication with Kay Krumwied, Lancaster Landfill, December 4, 2002.*
8. *Whittier Landfill has a disposal limitation of 350 tons per day per email communication with Nelly Castellanos, July 6, 2006.*

LEGEND:
C Closure due to exhausted capacity/permit expiration
E Expansion becomes effective
L Does not accept waste from the City of Los Angeles and Orange County
R Restricted Wasteshed
CIWMB California Integrated Waste Management Board

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2006 Annual Report – Part II: Siting Element Assessment, Appendix E-2.7, May 2008.

With the passage of SB 1016 (Solid Waste Disposal Measurement Act of 2008), jurisdictions of the state are still required to divert waste at a rate equal to or greater than 50 percent. But rather calculate a straight percentage value; the diversion rate is now based on the amount of tons of waste disposed per person per day.

The term "integrated waste management" refers to the use of a variety of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle the municipal solid waste stream with the least adverse impact on human health and the environment. AB 939 established a waste management hierarchy as follows:

- Source Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Composting
- Transformation
- Disposal

As of June 2008, neither the California Integrated Waste Management Board nor the State Legislature has introduced new legislation to set diversion requirements beyond 2000.

Local Regulations

California Integrated Waste Management Board Model Ordinance

Subsequent to the Integrated Waste Management Act,[24] additional legislation was passed to assist local jurisdictions in accomplishing the goals of AB 939. The California Solid Waste Re-Use and Recycling Access Act of 1991 (Sections 42900-42911 of the Public Resources Code) directed the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to draft a "model ordinance" relating to adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. If by September 1, 1994, a local agency did not adopt its own ordinance based on the CIWMB model, the CIWMB model took effect for that local agency. The City chose to use the CIWMB Model Ordinance by adopting City Resolution No. 93-97 in July 1993.

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24 Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, "Draft Master Plan," http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall /cd/planning/hmnmh.asp, 2008.

The Model Ordinance is used by the City as the basis for imposing recycling conditions on new development projects and on existing projects that add 30 percent or more to their existing floor area. The Model Ordinance requires that any new development project[25] for which an application is submitted on or after September 1, 1994, include "adequate, accessible, and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials." For subdivisions of single-family detached homes, recycling areas are required to serve only the needs of the homes within that subdivision. The Model Ordinance also requires recycling areas to be:

- compatible with nearby structures;
- secured and protected against adverse environmental conditions;
- clearly marked, and adequate in capacity, number, and distribution;
- in conformance with local building code requirements for garbage collection access and clearance;
- designed, placed and maintained to protect adjacent developments and transportation corridors from adverse impacts, such as noise, odors, vectors, or glare;
- in compliance with federal, state, or local laws relating to fire, building, access, transportation, circulation, or safety; and
- convenient for persons who deposit, collect, and load the materials.

City of Santa Clarita Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)

The City of Santa Clarita SRRE was prepared in response to AB 939. It described policies and programs that were implemented by the City to achieve the state's mandates of 25 and 50 percent waste disposal reductions by the years 1995 and 2000, respectively. Per the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, the SRRE projects disposal capacity needs for a 15-year period. The current SRRE 15-year period commenced in 1991. The City of Santa Clarita is in full compliance with the SRRE with regard to preparation of plans and policies.

City of Santa Clarita Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE)

AB 939 requires every city and county within the state to prepare an HHWE and to provide for management of household hazardous waste generated by the residents within its jurisdiction. The City

25 The ordinance defines a development project as "a project for which a building permit is required for a commercial, industrial, or institutional building, marina, or residential building having five or more living units, where solid waste is collected and loaded and any residential project where solid waste is collected and loaded in a location serving five or more living units."

household hazardous waste management program, consisting of collection and public education/information services, has been formulated to serve residents throughout the City in a convenient and cost-effective manner. In addition to reducing the amount of waste that might otherwise be sent to a landfill as required by AB 939, these programs are important facets in the City's effort to clean up the solid waste stream. The City of Santa Clarita adopted its HHWE in 1991.

City of Santa Clarita Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE)

The City's NDFE identifies one proposed and one existing materials recovery facilities/transfer station that the City intends to utilize to implement its SRRE and meet the diversion requirements of AB 939. In addition, the City's NDFE also identifies the utilization of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill for diversion of yard trimmings. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill received approval to operate a composting facility and the composting operation was initiated in October 1996. The City amended the NDFE to include six new facilities which sort construction and demolition waste, green waste, and commingled recyclables. The City Council adopted a resolution and the state approved it in 2009.

City of Santa Clarita Beyond 50 Percent Waste Reduction by 2000 Report

In July 1996, the City Council adopted the Beyond 50 Percent Waste Reduction by 2000 Report. The report identifies the current state of waste management service provided to residents. The report found that a franchise arrangement for Citywide refuse collection remains the most cost effective alternative for the City to comply with the established waste reduction goal of 50 percent by year 2000. The City's diversion rate for 2006 was 54 percent of waste disposal.[26]

City of Santa Clarita Construction and Demolition Ordinances

The City adopted Construction and Demolition Ordinance[27] 05-9, June 28, 2005, and Ordinance 08-1, February 12, 2008. Ordinances 05-9 and 08-1 apply to all new construction projects valued over $500,000 and all tenant improvements valued at over $100,000. These ordinances require covered projects to recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all inert materials (concrete, dirt, rock, and sand) and recycle a minimum of 50 percent of all other materials (wood, drywall, cardboard, metal, etc.) generated during a covered project. Covered projects shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 15.46 of City's Municipal Code through Conditions of Approval (COA), per Ordinance 05-9, and shall submit a Construction and

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26 California Integrated Waste Management Board, "Countywide, Regionwide, and Statewide Jurisdiction Diversion Progress Report," http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGTools/mars/JurDrSta.asp?VW=In. 2009.

27 City of Santa Clarita. Municipal Code. Section 15.46.010. "Construction and Demolition Materials Management."

Demolition Materials Management Plan to the City's Building and Safety Division for review and approval by the Director of Public Works.

City of Santa Clarita Integrated Solid Waste Management Program

The City of Santa Clarita has established a comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Program, which incorporates the hierarchy of preferred solid waste management practices as established by AB 939. These are, in order of priority: (1) Source Reduction, (2) Recycling, (3) Composting, (4) Transformation, and (5) Landfilling. City-sponsored programs intended to address these solid waste management practices include:

- Curbside residential and commercial recycling;
- Curbside Christmas tree recycling;
- Educational outreach;
- Green waste recycling;
- Certified oil recycling collection centers;
- Participation in the Household Hazardous Waste Program;
- Home Composting Program;
- City Facilities Recycling Program;
- City Facilities Procurement Policy;
- Door-to-door Oil and Filter Recycling;
- Earth Month and Earth Day Activities; and
- Manure Recycling.

Approaching an Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Los Angeles County

This report identifies issues regarding waste generation, waste management, and assumptions used in the Draft Countywide Siting Element.

Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element

In 1997, the County of Los Angeles prepared a Countywide Siting Element that estimates the amount of solid wastes generated in the County and proposes various diversion and alternate disposal options.

Thresholds of Significance

The *State CEQA Guidelines* identify certain criteria for determining whether any significant impact will result with the implementation of the General Plan. The impacts would be considered significant if the project would not:

- be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, and
- comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on solid waste within the City's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.17-4 **The City's Planning Area would be served by landfills with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate solid waste disposal needs.**

Generation of solid waste would increase as the population increases with buildout of the General Plan. Correspondingly, there would be a need for additional landfill capacity and related support facilities. This impact is considered substantial and would result in a significant impact on existing solid waste facilities.

The following goals, policies, and objectives would promote efficiency in solid waste disposal:

With the promotion and development of recycled buy-back centers in the City's Planning Area, the use of recycled materials would increase. The development and use of these facilities would reduce demand on local landfills (**Goal CO 1, Objective CO 1.3, Policy LU 9.1.7**).

The development and implementation of public programs for the City's Planning Area would also help promote the reuse of waste materials and the conservation of non-renewable materials (**Policy CO 1.3.3**).

Use of waste transfer stations, the promotion of recycling, and reuse of materials would reduce the amount of waste that local landfills would receive on a daily basis (**Goal CO 8, Objective CO 8.4, Policy CO 8.4.1** through **CO 8.4.7, Policy LU 9.1.7**).

Programs already implemented by the City are consistent with encouraging and promoting the locations of a MRF within the Santa Clarita Valley (**Policy CO 8.4.1**).

New development in the City's Planning Area would implement adequate space for recycling receptacles and bins on site (**Goal LU 7, Objective LU 7.5, Policy LU 7.5.1**). The encouragement and enforcement of commercial and industrial recycling is consistent with the programs and policies that are already being implemented by the City, such as hazardous waste collection programs and C & D recycling (**Objective CO 1.4, Policy CO 1.4.4, LU 7.5.2**).

The promotion of soil enhancement and waste reduction through composting would help alleviate the demand on local landfills (**Policy CO 2.1.3**). It is the City's task to adopt mandatory residential recycling programs and for allowing and encouraging the composting of greenwaste.

The projected estimated buildout of the City's Planning Area is 275,000. By buildout, and based on the data presented above in Solid Waste Disposal, the predicted amount of waste produced by the City's Planning Area would be 1,394,250 pounds per day or 254,450.6 tons per year. As buildout within the City's Planning Area increases, existing landfill capacity will need to be expanded, pending acceptance of permits, to allow for the increased generation of solid waste. If the permits are accepted, then surrounding land uses would need to be compatible with landfill facilities. Proper land use designations and zoning would minimize impacts from the expansion of landfills. Information provided in **Table 3.17-1** projects that by the year 2021, four landfills would close:

- Bradley landfill, closed June 2007
- Puente Hills landfill, projected closure in 2013
- Scholl landfill, projected closure in 2019
- Calabasas landfill, projected closure in 2021

Landfills that would have permits allowing for expansion are:

- Antelope Valley landfill, expansion to a capacity of 17.2 million tons
- Chiquita Canyon and Sunshine City/County, expansion to capacities of 36.8 and 66.7 million tons, respectively in 2010
- Lancaster landfill, expansion to a capacity of 11.0 million tons in 2010

Sunshine City and County, Antelope Valley, Chiquita Canyon, and Lancaster landfills would be able to meet the demands of the City's Planning Area, if necessary, for a small period of time before the landfills eventually reach their maximum capacity. Transportation of solid waste to landfills outside the County is a potential possibility if the County landfills approach capacity (**Goal LU 9, Objective LU 9.1,**

Policy LU 9.1.6). The expansion of Chiquita Canyon, which is expected to be permitted and opened by the year 2010, would allow for 38.4 million tons of capacity for waste disposal.

The planned landfill expansions, potential use of landfills outside the County, and the reduction of solid waste through the mentioned programs and policies would reduce impacts on solid waste systems. However, impacts on solid waste would remain unavoidable and significant.

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal LU 7: Environmentally responsible development through site planning, building design, waste reduction, and responsible stewardship of resources.

Objective LU 7.5: Promote waste reduction through site and building design.

Policy LU 7.5.1: Ensure that all new development provides adequate space for recycling receptacles and bins on site.

Policy LU 7.5.2: Promote the use of recycled building materials.

Goal LU 9: Adequate public facilities and services, provided in a timely manner and in appropriate locations to serve existing and future residents and businesses.

Objective LU 9.1: Coordinate land use planning with provision of adequate public services and facilities to support development.

Policy LU 9.1.6: Coordinate with appropriate agencies and organizations to ensure that landfill expansion needs are met while minimizing adverse impacts to Valley residents.

Policy LU 9.1.7: Provide for location of additional waste transfer stations and other facilities to promote recycling and reuse of materials within Industrial designations on the Land Use Map, subject to applicable zoning requirements.

Goal CO.1: A balance between the social and economic needs of Santa Clarita Valley residents and protection of the natural environment, so that these needs can be met in the present and in the future.

Objective CO 1.3: Conserve and make more efficient use of non-renewable resource systems, such as fossil fuels, minerals, and materials.

Policy CO 1.3.3: Provide informational material to the public about programs to conserve non-renewable resources and recover materials from the waste stream.

Objective CO 1.4: Minimize the long-term impacts posed by harmful chemical and biological materials on environmental systems.

Policy CO 1.4.4: In cooperation with other appropriate agencies, continue to develop and implement effective methods of handling and disposing of hazardous materials and waste.

Policy CO 2.1.3: Promote soil enhancement and waste reduction through composting, where appropriate.

Goal CO 8: Development designed to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy and natural resource consumption, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Objective CO 8.4: Reduce energy consumption for processing raw materials by promoting recycling and materials recovery by all residents and businesses throughout the community.

Policy CO 8.4.1: Encourage and promote the location of enclosed materials recovery facilities (MRF) within the Santa Clarita Valley.

Policy CO 8.4.2: Adopt mandatory residential recycling programs for all residential units, including single-family and multi-family dwellings.

Policy CO 8.4.3: Allow and encourage composting of greenwaste, where appropriate.

Policy CO 8.4.4: Promote commercial and industrial recycling, including recycling of construction and demolition debris.

Policy CO 8.4.5: Develop and implement standards for refuse and recycling receptacles and enclosures to accommodate recycling in all development.

Policy CO 8.4.6: Introduce and assist with the placement of receptacles for recyclable products in public places, including at special events.

Policy CO 8.4.7: Provide information to the public on recycling opportunities and facilities, and support various locations and events to promote public participation in recycling.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would help reduce impacts on solid waste within the City's Planning Area. However, they would not reduce the impacts to less than significant. Mitigation measures would be required to potentially reduce impacts to less than significant.

Plan to Plan

Since the buildout population under the existing General Plan would be similar to the buildout population under the proposed General Plan, the solid waste generation and disposal needs at buildout under the existing Plan would potentially be less. Solid waste generation for the City's Planning Area is analyzed using the solid waste generation numbers from **Section 3.17, Utilities and Infrastructure**. The amount of waste disposed (2007) by the City's Planning Area was 163,000 tons.

The City's Planning Area buildout population under the existing Plan would be 266,312 residents. Using the same per capita waste generation in the impact analysis, the projected amount of waste disposed at buildout under the existing General Plan would be 254,450.6 tons per year. Waste generated under the proposed General Plan would be greater than the existing Plan. Due to the nearby landfills approaching full capacity for waste disposal and the projected amount of landfill capacity needed for the City's Planning Area for buildout under either the existing or proposed General Plans, there would be a shortfall of capacity by 2021. Since the buildout population under the existing Plan would be less than the City's proposed General Plan, impacts on solid waste would be fewer.

Impact 3.17-5 **Buildout of the General Plan would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.**

State law, through the California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939), requires that 50 percent of municipal solid waste be diverted from landfills via reuse, recycling, source reduction, and composting. The City's Planning Area currently uses the Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill, Lancaster Landfill, and Antelope Valley Public Landfill for the disposal of the City's Municipal Solid Waste. The City's Residential, Commercial and Temporary Bin and Roll-Off Box Franchised Haulers use commingled recycling facilities, construction and demolition recycling facilities, and composting facilities to divert materials from landfills. The following facilities are used by the City's franchised haulers and listed on the City's State approved Non Disposal Facility Element (NDFE): Community Recycling, Agomin Composting Facility, Downtown Diversion, East Valley Diversion, Sun Valley Paper Stock, Santa Clara Organics, and Rent A Bin. In 2007, 24,167.73 tons of green waste material was generated in the City's Planning Area which was composted at regional composting facilities. As a result, only 2,245 tons were taken to regional landfills and used as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC). In 2006, the City's Planning Area meets the 50 percent diversion requirement, with a diversion rate of 54 percent.

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

All of the applicable proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies are listed above.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste within the City's Planning Area. Impacts would be less than significant.

Plan to Plan

Both the existing Plan and the proposed Plan would be required to comply with all laws and standards pertaining to solid waste. Consequently, impacts would be similar in both Plans.

Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts on solid waste to a less than significant level.

MM 3.17-1 The City of Santa Clarita shall follow state regulations in implementing the goals, policies, and programs identified in the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan in order to achieve and maintain a minimum of 50 percent reduction in solid waste disposal through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

MM 3.17-2 The City shall require all future commercial, industrial and multifamily residential development to provide adequate areas for the collection and loading of recyclable materials (i.e., paper products, glass, and other recyclables) in compliance with the State Model Ordinance, implemented on September 1, 1994, in accordance with AB 1327, Chapter 18, California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991.

MM 3.17-3 The City shall require all development projects to coordinate with appropriate City/County departments and/or agencies to ensure that there is adequate waste disposal capacity to meet the waste disposal requirements of the City's Planning Area, and the City shall recommend that all development projects incorporate measures to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

MM 3.17-4 All new development in the City's Planning Area will be required to implement existing and future waste reduction programs in conformance with the City's Planning Area SRRE program.

MM 3.17-5 Any hazardous waste that is generated on site, or is found on site during demolition, rehabilitation, or new construction activities shall be remediated, stored, handled, and transported in compliance per appropriate local, state, and federal laws, as well as with the City's SRRE.

MM 3.17-6 On a project by project basis and prior to approval of individual projects, each applicant for a permit for any covered project shall complete and submit to the Building & Safety Division a Construction and Demolition Materials Management Plan (C&DMMP), approved by the City's Director of Public Works, or the Director's Designee, on a C&DMMP form approved by the City. The completed C&DMMP, at a minimum, shall indicate all of the following:

(1) the estimated weight of project C&D materials, by materials type, to be generated;

(2) the maximum weight of C&D materials that it is feasible to divert, considering cost, energy consumption and delays, via reuse or recycling;

(3) the vendor or facility that the applicant proposes to use to collect, divert, market, reuse or receive the C&D materials;

(4) the estimated weight of residual C&D materials that would be transported for disposal in a landfill or transformation facility; and

(5) the estimated weight of inert waste to be removed from the waste stream and not disposed of in a solid waste landfill.

Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework

Impacts on solid waste would remain significant and unavoidable with the implementation of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies and incorporation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-1** through **3.17-6.**

ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Summary

This section evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the City's projected buildout on electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications service to the City's Planning Area. The location of these facilities and their respective transmission corridors are described along with their anticipated ability to meet the needs of the City's Planning Area.

The Southern California Gas Company (SCG)'s Local Government Partnership portfolio supports the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (CEESP) by partnering with cities, counties, and other local government organizations that have a vision for sustainability and a desire to provide leadership to their communities. The Community Energy Partnership (CEP) program is an existing Local Government Partnership in the SCG and Southern California Edison's (SCE) Energy Leader Partnership portfolio. The City of Santa Clarita is an active member of the CEP.

The 2009–2011 CEP program focuses on achieving energy savings and behavioral change in municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. The CEP leverages its program history and relationships to successfully work towards energy savings, financial savings, increased levels of program participation, and enhanced facility operations within municipal buildings. Program objectives include: creating both short- and long-term energy savings; building the capacity for participating cities to serve as leaders within the state; increasing utility program penetration into viable communities and market sectors; addressing the need for integrated demand-side management; and providing all community sectors with energy management support.

The program will further SCG's goals for local governments in keeping with the CEESP and will demonstrate leadership in its community by retrofitting municipal buildings and supporting policies that will support the California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) sustainability goals. The partnership will assist and facilitate residents, businesses, and city government officials in understanding, managing, and reducing their energy use and costs, and position the partners as leaders in the region in energy management practices.

The partnership will provide comprehensive retrofits of municipal facilities, marketing and outreach, education and training, and community sweeps to connect the community with opportunities to take action to save energy, money and the environment. In addition, the program will act as a portal for all energy offerings by delivering information on demand response, self-generation, low-income programs such as California Alternative Rate for Energy (CARE), and the California Solar Initiative (CSI).

Existing Conditions

Electricity

Provider/Service Area

Southern California Edison (SCE) is the primary provider of electric service to the OVOV Planning Area. The service area for SCE is 50,000 square miles and includes 180 cities and communities and 13 million people in central, coastal, and southern California.[28] SCE-owned generation facilities provide approximately one third of the power to the service area, while another one third is supplied by alternate energy producers with whom SCE has contracted for power. The last one third of power is imported through Independent System Operator (ISO). Although the number of generating facilities owned by SCE has been reduced recently due to restructuring of the electric industry, it does own and operate three facilities—San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Big Creek Hydroelectric system, and the Mojave Coal Generation Station—all of which are located outside of the OVOV Planning Area.

California has the lowest electricity per capita usage in the nation.[29] While the United States' per capita usage has increased by nearly 50 percent over the last 30 years, California's per capita usage has remained almost flat, due to vigorous energy efficiency mandates discussed below. Accordingly, increases in

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28 Southern California Edison. "Company Overview," http://www.sce.com/AboutSCE/CompanyOverview/. 2008.

29 County of Los Angeles, *Landmark Village Recirculated EIR,* November 2008.

California's overall demand for electricity resources are not attributable to increasing per capita demands, but population growth.[30]

Approximately 78 percent of California's electricity is produced in state, with the remaining 22 percent coming from the Pacific Northwest and Southwest. The state's electricity generation system provides over 290,000 gigawatt-hours per year, which are transported over 32,000 miles of transmission lines.[31]

Power is initially delivered from the California grid to transformers in the OVOV Planning Area, where the voltage is then reduced and later transmitted to seven substations throughout the area. The voltage is once again stepped down at the substations and finally distributed to users. The Saugus Substation acts as the major distributor of electricity in the OVOV Planning Area. According to the CEC, SCE is projected to deliver approximately 104.8 million megawatt-hours (MWh) to its customers during 2009.[32] By 2016, SCE's demand is expected to increase to approximately 113.4 million MWh.[33] The OVOV Planning Area has proportionally more residential consumption and less industrial consumption relative to SCE's system average; the average City resident uses more electricity than the typical SCE customer. This is likely due to the OVOV Planning Area's warmer climate coupled with its relative lack of older, generally much smaller homes, and relatively few multi-family units. Because so much of the City's Planning Area load is residential, which is not metered for demand, it is difficult to estimate the peak megawatt demand for City's Planning Area.

Transmission of Electricity

Currently major electrical power lines extend in an east/west direction through the OVOV Planning Area, and in a north/south direction through the western portion of the City's Planning Area. Transmission lines serving the electrical infrastructure would be extended in accordance with SCE's projected development demands.[34]

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30 County of Los Angeles, *Landmark Village Recirculated EIR,* November 2008.

31 County of Los Angeles, *Landmark Village Recirculated EIR,* November 2008.

32 California Energy Commission. California Energy Demand 2006-2016 Staff Energy Demand Forecast Revised September 2005. Staff Final Report. Publication #CEC-400-2005-034-SF-ED2. September 2005.

33 California Energy Commission. California Energy Demand 2006-2016 Staff Energy Demand Forecast Revised September 2005. Staff Final Report. Publication #CEC-400-2005-034-SF-ED2. September 2005.

34 CPUC. "Rules July 2007," http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES_PRAC_PROC/70731.htm#P323_46666. Rule 3.1. 2008.

Supply—The "Energy Crisis"

Southern California consumers have recently experienced rising energy costs and uncertainties regarding the supply of electricity. The causes of these conditions are under investigation and are the subject of much debate. Some of the factors involved that may have led to the energy shortages experienced in late 2000 and early 2001 in California include a lack of new major power plants, drought conditions, lack of emphasis on energy conservation, and deregulation. In addition, surrounding states that used to provide up to 20 percent of California's energy have also experienced significant growth, thereby limiting their electricity exports to California.

The drought conditions experienced in the Pacific Northwest in 2000 and 2001 also resulted in the reduction of the volume of water available for hydroelectric power generation, which otherwise could have been exported to California as it has in previous years. Furthermore, the increase in energy supplies during the 1980s caused the cost of electricity to decrease, which resulted in less emphasis being placed on energy conservation and efficiency programs. Lastly, another factor leading to the recent California "energy crisis" may be the lack of cost controls as a result of deregulation. The law for deregulation went into effect in 1998 with the goal of enhancing competition and consumer choice in electricity generators. Prior to enactment of the law, local utilities provided bundled service including generation, transmission, and distribution. After the law, the investor owned utilities, such as SCE, became local Utility Distribution Companies (UDCs). Although these utilities could continue to provide distribution services, they no longer controlled transmission. Under the law, the transmission and distribution of electricity would remain a regulated monopoly, but the generation of electricity would be opened up to competition. Utilities were encouraged to sell their power plants and were required to purchase all their electricity needs from the wholesale market. However, an electricity supply/demand mismatch occurred as existing utilities sold their power plants but were not responsible for building new ones. The fact that new power plants would take at least a few years to be permitted and constructed, coupled with the economic and population growth in California, resulted in an energy shortage.

The CEC is currently considering applications for the development of new power-generating facilities in Southern California and elsewhere in the state. These facilities could supply additional energy to the power supply grid within the next few years. Additionally, efforts are being taken to modify existing plants and repowering existing sites to improve generation capacity. A broad-ranging effort is also undertaken by the state to reduce peak electricity demand in California, including actions to encourage voluntary load reduction by customers and to promote incentive programs for demand reducing technologies, energy efficient construction techniques, and the installation of energy efficient equipment.

Energy Conservation Programs

The potential for rolling electrical outages will continue as long as statewide energy shortages exist. Because energy conservation can significantly help avert outages by reducing the demand for energy, the City promotes energy conservation.

The three most prevalent energy conservation programs for the City include the Sustainable or "Green Building" Program, the Energy Coalition, and the public education and outreach facilitated by the City. Other energy conservation programs include Title 24 (California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings) measure enforced by the City's Building and Safety Division and energy conservation programs promoted by SCE and state agencies.

The Sustainable Building Program helps to promote energy efficient buildings that are also environmentally responsible. Although energy efficiency has been the foundation of sustainable building programs, sustainable building programs also include indoor air quality, low-impact building products, water quality and conservation, reuse or recycling of construction and demolition waste, and building life cycle. In terms of energy, the Sustainable Building Program encourages utilization of the City's Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP), which provides financial incentives for residential builders that design homes that use up to 10 to 20 percent less energy than Title 24. This program is planned to expand to include waste management and water conservation. The other aspect of the City's Sustainable Building Program is the promotion of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria when designing and constructing commercial buildings. One definition on the word sustainability means; meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.[35] New development is encouraged to be designed to reduce energy and natural resource consumption by using techniques such as passive solar energy techniques and energy efficient appliances.

The City also promotes ridesharing and other alternatives to commuting in single occupant vehicles through Ridesharing Week and Bike to Work Week events. The City provides incentives to its employees for biking, walking, carpooling, or vanpooling to work. City employees ride the City buses for free.

35 US EPA, "Sustainability," http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/basicinfo.htm, 2009.

The City has a policy to continue and expand current energy conservation programs. This includes the Sustainable Santa Clarita Program that encourages new development to be designed to

- reduce energy and natural resource consumption by using techniques such as use of recycled materials in building construction
- use drought-tolerant landscaping
- include passive solar energy techniques
- utilize energy and water-efficient appliances

The City has been actively working with the SCE Savings by Design program to help ensure that City's Planning Area buildings are constructed as energy efficiently as possible. Most recently constructed City facilities have enrolled in this program and, as a result, greatly increased the energy conservation in public buildings.

Although energy efficiency has been the foundation of sustainable building programs, sustainable building programs also include indoor air quality, low-impact building products, water quality and conservation, reuse or recycling of construction and demolition waste, and building life cycle. These concepts are being incorporated into the next phase of the Sustainable Building Program. The City has constructed the Transit Maintenance Facility,[36] a City facility to house transit operations, as a certified green building with the US Green Building Council. The US Green Building Council has developed a green building certification called LEED described as "a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings." The City's green building will be used as a model to encourage all types of builders to incorporate green building elements into construction throughout the OVOV Planning Area.

Alternative Sources of Energy

The City's Environmental Services Division, through the Sustainability Program, will be developing information for the City website and other mediums to provide information to the public regarding alternative energy sources. In addition, construction of the City's Transit Maintenance Facility Division was completed in May 2006, and is LEED registered. The City's Transit uses compressed natural gas (CNG) buses in their fleet. The City's fleet has electric, hybrid, and CNG vehicles. The City street sweepers use propane powered sweepers for their fleet. Several electrical vehicle-charging stations are located throughout the City's Planning Area.

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36 City of Santa Clarita, "Transit Maintenance Facility," http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/pw/cip/tmf/. 2008.

Natural Gas

Provider/Service Area

Natural gas service to the City's Planning Area is provided by the SCG. SCG operates numerous natural gas pipelines in the City's Planning Area. Gas service lines in the OVOV Planning Area range in size from 2- to 34-inch mains. In the eastern part of the OVOV Planning Area, two 30-inch gas lines runs along the Santa Clara River. In the western portion of the Valley a 34-inch and a 22-inch main cross the river. Most of the transmission and distribution lines currently serving the OVOV Planning Area operate at a medium pressure of approximately 30 to 60 pounds per square inch (psi), except for those located in industrial areas where large natural gas users are prevalent and require higher-pressure lines.

Supply

Approximately 13.5 percent of California's natural gas is produced in state; the remaining portion of the natural gas supply comes from the Southwest (40 percent), the Rocky Mountains (23 percent), and Canada (23.5 percent).[37] According to the 2008 California Gas Report, natural gas demand in California is "expected to grow at a modest rate of just 0.1 percent per year from 2008 to 2030."[38] Residential demand, in particular, is expected to increase at an annual average rate of 0.3 percent, which is half the rate that was projected in the 2006 California Gas Report.[39] Commercial demand is expected to remain unchanged, whereas industrial demand is estimated to decline by 1.0 percent on an annual basis. As provided in the 2008 California Gas Report, the state is projected to have adequate natural gas resources to meet the statewide demand during the 2008–2030 time frame.

With regards to the SCG service area, gas demand for all market sectors is expected to grow at an annual average rate of just 0.02 percent from 2008 to 2030.[40] In comparison, the 2006 California Gas Report projected an annual growth rate of 0.15 percent from 2006 to 2025. According to the 2008 California Gas Report, the "difference between the two forecasts is caused by the slump in the housing market for the next few years, a reduced employment forecast, and aggressive energy efficiency savings goals."

SCG is the sole supplier of natural gas to the City's Planning Area, and will continue to expand its distribution facilities and gas lines as development occurs in the area. According to the CEC, SCG is

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37 *Summary of the 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report*, California Energy Commission, p.11.

38 County of Los Angeles, *Landmark Village Recirculated EIR*, November 2008.

39 County of Los Angeles, *Landmark Village Recirculated EIR*, November 2008.

40 County of Los Angeles, *Landmark Village Recirculated EIR*, November 2008.

expected to provide approximately 790.3 billion cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas to its customers in 2009.[41] By 2016, annual natural gas deliveries to SCG customers are expected to increase to approximately 792.4 bcf per year.[42] Due to the particular boundaries of the OVOV Planning Area, however, SCG was unable to quantify the number of active meters or determine the annual amount of natural gas consumption for the area. Some locations in the OVOV Planning Area are not served by natural gas.

Telecommunications

Telephone Service

Telephone service to the City's Planning Area is provided by AT&T. As development continues in the City's Planning Area, the telephone companies would provide additional system capacity and service connections. There are cellular towers located throughout the OVOV Planning Area, more than 50 of which are located in the City's Planning Area.

Television Service

Cable television service in the City's Planning Area is provided by Time Warner Cable and AT&T U-verse. In addition to the cable television franchise with Time Warner in July of 2006, the City Council executed a Public Benefits Agreement with AT&T that allows them to make competitive television service available for the residents of our community. AT&T began offering television services to Santa Clarita in 2007 and is expected to serve up to 60 percent (roughly 30,000) homes in the City's Planning Area.

Federal laws provide oversight of the cable industry. While the City continues to serve as the local franchise authority and will respond to every community inquiry that we receive, it is important for residents to understand the extent of the City's authority. Under current federal law, the City does not have any legal ability to dictate what Time Warner charges for their services or how they set their channel lineup. In fact, as currently written, federal law allows all cable providers to operate in a deregulated manner when it comes to issues concerning pricing or channel lineup.[43]

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41 California Energy Commission. California Energy Demand 2006-2016 Staff Energy Demand Forecast Revised September 2005. Staff Final Report. Publication #CEC-400-2005-034-SF-ED2. September 2005.

42 California Energy Commission. California Energy Demand 2006-2016 Staff Energy Demand Forecast Revised September 2005. Staff Final Report. Publication #CEC-400-2005-034-SF-ED2. September 2005.

43 City of Santa Clarita, "Local Television Service Providers," http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/admin/cable/ (accessed October 1, 2007).

Internet Service

In 1998, the Connecting Communities Steering Committee was formed to assess the Santa Clarita Valley's ability to assimilate into the new infrastructure associated with the Internet. The vision of the Committee is to ensure the rapid deployment of advanced communications technologies to the OVOV Planning Area, and to use this advanced communications and information technologies to promote economic development. As a result, Time Warner Cable has begun upgrading their wiring plans to provide new, high-speed Internet service to businesses and neighborhoods in the City's Planning Area. Pockets in the Valley that are not well served will be connected to higher speed digital wireless services in the near future. AT&T offers Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) service, while AT&T and Time Warner cable companies offer cable modem service.[44]

Development Constraints from Utility Corridors

Serving as the gateway to the San Joaquin Valley and Antelope Valley, and all areas to the north and east from the greater Los Angeles area, the OVOV Planning Area is a critical utility corridor for water, electricity, natural gas, and petroleum products. However, these major utility corridors have served to constrain development in the Valley, as a host of private properties have either utility easements, utility right-of-way restrictions, or are located in proximity to a major utility corridor. In addition to the utility corridors, various utility companies also own properties within the City's Planning Area that often remain vacant, thus reducing the total amount of developable property in the City's Planning Area.

The aboveground and underground utility lines that criss-cross the City's Planning Area include the following:

- First Los Angeles Aqueduct (LA DWP);
- Second Los Angeles Aqueduct (LA DWP);
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power electrical transmission lines, including a major corridor from the Sylmar Converter Station to the Castaic Power Plant, a corridor from the Pacific Northwest to Owens Valley and the Castaic Power Plant, and a corridor extending near the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14 [SR-14]) corridor through the Antelope Valley;
- Metropolitan Water District pipeline extending from Castaic Lake to the Granada Hills water treatment facility;

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44 City of Santa Clarita, //http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/admin/cable/. 2008.

- Southern California Edison electrical transmission system, which includes multiple lines to the north and east;
- Southern California Gas Company natural gas pipelines;
- Multiple petroleum pipelines; and
- Fiber optic lines.

Regulatory Setting

State Regulations

California State Board of Education/State Department of Health Services

The California State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) and electric power companies, has established the following limits for locating any part of a new school site property line near the edge of easements for high-voltage power transmission lines:[45]

- 100 feet from the edge of an easement for a 50–133 kilovolts (kV) line;
- 150 feet from the edge of an easement for a 220–230 kV line; and
- 350 feet from the edge of an easement for a 500–550 kV line.

California Public Utilities Commission

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 112E, which is based upon the Federal Department of Transportation Guidelines contained in Part 192 of the Federal Code of Regulations, specifies a variety of design, construction, inspection and notification requirements. The CPUC conducts annual audits of pipeline operations to ensure compliance with these safety standards. In addition, the SCGC has a safety program which has reduced the risk of gas distribution fires by improving welds on the larger diameter (24- to 30-inch) pipelines and by replacing old distribution pipes with flexible plastic pipes. According to SCGC staff, high-pressure gas mains are common in developed areas throughout the country, and SCGC lines are inspected regularly and must comply with CPUC mandated safety requirements.

[45] California Department of Education, Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance – May 2006.

California Energy Commission

The CEC was created as the state's principal energy planning organization in 1974, in order to meet the energy challenges facing the state in response to the 1973 oil embargo. The CEC is charged with six basic responsibilities when designing state energy policy:

- forecasting statewide electricity needs;
- licensing power plants to meet those needs;
- promoting energy conservation and efficiency measures;
- developing renewable energy resources and alternative energy technologies;
- promoting research, development and demonstration; and
- planning for and directing state response to energy emergencies.[46]

Title 24, part 6, of the California Code of Regulations

Title 24, part 6, of the California Code of Regulations contains the CEC's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. Title 24 was first established in 1978, in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. Since that time, Title 24 has been updated periodically to allow for consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods.

The latest version is the "the 2005 Standards," which went into effect on October 1, 2005; the 2005 Standards are applicable to this proposed General Plan. However, on January 1, 2010, the "2008 Standards" went into effect. The CEC adopted the 2005 Standards for a number of reasons:

- to respond to California's energy crisis, reduce energy bills, increase energy delivery system reliability, and contribute to an improved economic condition for the state;
- to respond to AB 970 (Statutes of 2000) urgency legislation to adopt and implement updated and cost-effective building energy efficiency standards;
- to respond to the SB 5X (Statutes of 2001) urgency legislation to adopt energy efficiency building standards for outdoor lighting;
- to emphasize energy efficiency measures that save energy at peak periods and seasons;

46 Summary of the 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report, California Energy Commission, p. 2.

- improve the quality of installation of energy efficiency measures;
- incorporate recent publicly funded building science research;, and
- collaborate with California utilities to incorporate results of appropriate market incentive programs for specific technologies.

Assembly Bill 32

In addition to Title 24, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) is anticipated to result in the future regulation of energy resources in California. AB 32 requires California to reduce its carbon footprint (i.e., its greenhouse gas emissions) to 1990 levels by 2020. (See **Section 3.4, Global Warming and Climate Change**, for additional information on AB 32.) In order to achieve these emission reductions, it is generally accepted that California will need to improve its overall energy efficiency, which includes the use of more renewable energy resources. Pursuant to AB 32, the California Air Resources Board will work with other state agencies (including the CEC), to implement feasible programs and regulations that reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency.[47]

Assembly Bill 1890

The CPUC regulates investor-owned electric power and natural gas utility companies in the State of California. Assembly Bill 1890, enacted in 1996, deregulated the power generation industry, allowing customers to purchase electricity on the open market. Under deregulation, the production and distribution of power that was under the control of investor-owned utilities (e.g., Southern California Edison) was decoupled. All new construction in the State of California is subject to the energy conservation standards set forth in Title 24, Part 6, Article 2 of the California Administrative Code. These are prescriptive standards that establish maximum energy consumption levels for the heating and cooling of new buildings. The utilization of alternative energy applications in development projects (including the proposed project), while encouraged, is not required as a development condition. Such applications may include installation of photovoltaic solar panels, active solar water heating systems, or integrated pool deck water heating systems, all of which serve to displace consumption of conventional energy sources (i.e., electricity and natural gas). Incentives, primarily in the form of state and federal tax credits, as well as reduced energy bills, provide a favorable basis.

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47 See http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ghgsectors/ghgsectors.htm#electric, last visited on January 6, 2009 [highlights targeted improvements for the energy sector].

Local Regulations

Santa Clarita Municipal Code

Section 18.01.010 of the Santa Clarita Municipal Code adopts by reference the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 10 as published by the California Building Standards Commission as further described and including the following:

- 2007 California Administrative Code (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 1);
- 2007 California Building Code (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 2) based on the 2006 International Building Code as prepared by the International Code Council, and as amended by the State of California;
- 2007 California Energy Code (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 6);
- 2007 California Elevator Safety Construction Code (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 7);
- 2007 California Historical Building Code (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 8); and
- 2007 California Existing Building Code (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 10) based on the 2006 International Existing Building Code as prepared by the International Code Council, and as amended by the State of California.

Such code shall include those sections requiring enforcement by the local building department, and as further amended by the City with provisions intended to address local climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions, as permitted by state law. Adoption of said code shall include the adoption of Appendix Chapter 1 (Administration) contained in the 2007 California Building Code as amended by the City.

The City of Santa Clarita Building Code became effective for new building permit applications received by the City on or after January 1, 2008.

Thresholds of Significance

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* does not include thresholds for determining the significance of impacts related to electricity, telecommunications and gas. For purposes of this analysis, impacts related to natural gas are considered significant if the project would:

- Have a significant impact on natural gas or electrical service if existing or planned facilities and supplies are not adequate to serve the proposed land uses or if existing natural gas or electrical service is significantly disrupted.

- Build out of the City's Planning Area will have the potential to have a significant impact on the access for locations and any potential adverse environmental impacts on telecommunications.

Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies on natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications within the City's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Impact 3.17-6 **A potentially significant impact to electrical service occurs when demand exceeds the capacity of existing and planned sources and distribution facilities.**

Presently and for the foreseeable future, the national and regional supply of electrical energy is not in jeopardy. The acceleration of the approval and licensing process of additional state power plants will ensure an adequate supply of electricity for state consumers.

Past shortages of electricity were solved by the additional power plants being brought "on-line" in California. The matter of electrical generation capacity is not one of physical shortages due to power plant limitations; rather, it is a function of market forces and the wholesale cost of electricity. This cost and supply adjustment was evident when energy producers withheld electricity from the market and were unwilling to sell electricity at market prices. This enabled energy suppliers to create a false electricity shortage that artificially inflated prices to a desired point. Suppliers sold electricity at this inflated price. As a result of mandated price caps, California's investor-owned utilities were required to purchase electricity for their customers on the open market at inflated prices well above their costs.

According to the CEC, the SCE was projected to deliver approximately 104.8 MWh to its customers during 2009; the demand is expected to increase to approximately 113.4 MWh in 2016. Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in increased demand in electricity service to the City's Planning Area. New development occurring from buildout would be subject to Title 24, part 6 of the California Administrative code, the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, which requires local jurisdiction to use energy efficient appliances, weatherization techniques and efficient cooling and heating systems to reduce energy demand stemming from new development (**Goal CO 1, Objective CO 1.5, Policy CO 1.5.7** and **Goal LU 4, Objective LU 4.5, Policy LU 4.5.3**). The latest update to Title 25, part 6 will be adopted in August of 2009 (**Goal CO 8, Objective CO 8.1, Policy CO 8.1.3**).

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal CO.1: A balance between the social and economic needs of Santa Clarita Valley residents and protection of the natural environment, so that these needs can be met in the present and in the future.

Objective CO 1.5: Manage urban development and human-built systems to minimize harm to ecosystems, watersheds, and other natural systems, such as urban runoff treatment trains that infiltrate, treat and remove direct connections to impervious areas.

Policy CO 1.5.7: Consider the principles of environmental sustainability, trip reduction, walkability, stormwater management, and energy conservation at the site, neighborhood, district, city, and regional level, in land use decisions.

Goal LU 4: A diverse and healthy economy.

Objective LU 4.5: Ensure creation of attractive and technology-friendly business environments to attract tenants and employees.

Policy LU 4.5.3: Promote the inclusion of state-of-the-art technology within business complexes for telecommunications, heating and cooling, water and energy conservation, and other similar design features.

Goal CO 8: Development designed to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy and natural resource consumption, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Objective CO 8.1: Comply with the requirements of State law, including AB 32, SB 375 and implementing regulations, to reach targeted reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Policy CO 8.1.3: Revise codes and ordinances as needed to address energy conservation, including but not limited to the following:

a. Strengthen building codes for new construction and renovation to achieve a higher level of energy efficiency,

with a goal of exceeding energy efficiency beyond that required by Title 24;

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies minimize the effects of the additional demand and consumption of electricity associated with buildout of the City's Planning Area. Implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies would reduce the effects of growth and development on energy resources. However, the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies do not provide concrete means of implementation and enforcement. Many policies lack performance standards that ensure appropriate actions and parameters would be achieved. Impacts on energy resources due to the additional demand for and consumption of electricity with the prospective growth within the City's Planning Area can be further minimized through implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-7** and **3.17-8**.

Plan to Plan

The City's electricity needs at buildout would be less under the existing General Plan. The City's proposed General Plan would potentially have a greater increase in the capacity of the number of dwelling units (1,930). Consequently, impacts on electricity would potentially be greater from the City's proposed General Plan when compared to the existing Plan.

Impact 3.17-7 **A potentially significant impact to natural gas service occurs when demand exceeds the capacity of existing and planned sources and distribution facilities.**

The 2009 projected supply of natural gas from the SCG was expected to be approximately 790.3 bcf. By 2016, the annual natural gas deliveries to SCG customers are expected to increase to approximately 792.4 bcf per year. The additional growth anticipated with the proposed General Plan will require that natural gas purveyors expand existing facilities or increase supply (**Goal LU 4, Objective LU 4.4, Policy LU 4.4.4**). The SCG has stated that as future demand for natural gas increases as a result of new development, SCG will expand its existing facilities. The construction of new natural gas facilities or expansion of existing facilities may cause environmental effects. It is not possible to accurately determine or quantify such environmental effects without site locations and specific project details. Future natural gas needs will be evaluated as each new development is proposed. Recommendations for improvements to existing and/or construction of new natural gas facilities will also be made at that time (**Goal LU 7).** Greater energy efficiency in building and site design (**Objective LU 7.1**) would be met through **Policies**

LU 7.1.1 through **LU 7.1.4**, which require use of shade trees in consideration of Fire Department fuel modification restrictions, promote the use of solar panels, encourage development of energy-efficient buildings, and support the establishment of energy-efficient industries. Through the City's environmental review process, future development projects will be evaluated for potential impacts pertaining to the provision of natural gas.

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Policy LU 4.4.4: Protect and enhance public utility facilities as necessary to maintain the safety, reliability, integrity, and security of essential public service systems for all Valley residents.

Goal LU 7: Environmentally responsible development through site planning, building design, waste reduction, and responsible stewardship of resources.

Objective LU 7.1: Achieve greater energy efficiency in building and site design.

Policy LU 7.1.1: Require shade trees within parking lots and adjacent to buildings to reduce the heat island effect, in consideration of Fire Department fuel modification restrictions.

Policy LU 7.1.2: Promote the use of solar panels and renewable energy sources in all projects.

Policy LU 7.1.3: Encourage development of energy-efficient buildings, and discourage construction of new buildings for which energy efficiency cannot be demonstrated.

Policy LU 7.1.4: Support the establishment of energy-efficient industries in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies minimize the effects of additional demand and consumption of electricity associated with buildout of the City's Planning Area. Implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies would reduce the effects of growth and development on energy resources. However, the proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies do not provide concrete means of implementation and enforcement. Many policies lack performance standards that ensure appropriate

actions and parameters would be achieved. Impacts on energy resources due to the additional demand for and consumption of natural gas associated with the prospective growth within the City's Planning Area can be further minimized through implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-7** and **MM 3.17-8.**

Plan to Plan

The City's natural gas needs at buildout would be less under the existing General Plan. The City's proposed General Plan would potentially have a greater increase in the capacity of the number of dwelling units (1,930). Consequently, impacts on natural gas would potentially be greater from the City's proposed General Plan when compared to the existing Plan.

Impact 3.17-8 **A potentially significant impact to telecommunications occurs when demand exceeds the capacity of existing and planned sources and distribution facilities.**

The existing telecommunications services provided in the City's Planning Area includes telephone service, television service, and internet services. As described in subsection **Telecommunications**, there are various service providers for each telecommunication area, providing the customers with opportunities to select the appropriate service for what they are looking for. In order for the City to meet the demand of the residents at buildout, new utility corridors, or at least upgrades to these corridors, would need to be addressed. New facilities would be subject to CEQA. Specific scope, type, and location unknown at this time and would be defined as technology is defined and continue to evolve (**Policy LU 4.4.1** and **Objective LU 4.5, Policy LU 4.5.3**).

Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Policy LU 4.4.1: Promote extension of state-of-the-art communication facilities to serve commercial and industrial areas, including fiber optic cable, telecommunication facilities, and other technology as deemed appropriate.

Effectiveness of Proposed General Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The proposed General Plan goals, objectives, and policies would minimize the potential effects of the additional demand for telecommunications from buildout of the City's Planning Area. New facilities

would be subject to CEQA and would use the best available technology to provide the needed services and to be able to meet state guidelines. No mitigation measures are required.

Plan to Plan

The City's telecommunications needs at buildout would be less under the existing General Plan. The City's proposed General Plan would potentially have a greater increase in the capacity of the number of dwelling units (1,930). Consequently, impacts on telecommunication would potentially be greater from the City's proposed General Plan when compared to the existing Plan.

Mitigation Framework

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts on electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications to a less than significant level.

MM 3.17-7 The City shall review all development proposals prior to the approval of development plans to guarantee that sufficient energy resources and facilities are available to supply adequate energy to the proposed project and associated uses.

MM 3.17-8 The City shall review all development plans prior to approval to guarantee that energy conservation and efficiency standards of Title 24 are met and are incorporated into the design of the future proposed projects.

Significance of Impact after Mitigation Measures

The implementation of the preceding proposed General Plan goals, objectives, policies, and mitigation measures **MM 3.17-7** and **MM 3.17-8** will result in less than significant impacts on energy resources and telecommunications.