

## 3.17 UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

### Wastewater Treatment

With implementation of the proposed policies the potential impacts of the Area Plan's buildout on the wastewater treatment system capacity would be less than significant. As the County reaches its Area Plan buildout population of 237,387 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 County and the City of Santa Clarita. The construction of new facilities would be subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. No mitigation measures are required.

### Solid Waste

The County'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 (the amount of waste[s] in tons or cubic yards a permitted facility is allowed to receive, handle, process, store, or dispose of). The County does not have adopted solid waste disposed figures and since the County's Planning Area is adjacent to and surrounding the City's Planning Area, it would be reasonable to assume that solid waste disposed figures for the County Area Plan would be similar to those of the City of Santa Clarita. Consequently, solid waste disposed figures used by the City of Santa Clarita are utilized for this analysis. In 2007, the amount of waste disposed by the City's Planning Area was 163,000 tons; therefore, the County's Planning Area waste disposed was approximately 48,512 tons. The projected buildout amount of waste, generated by

the County's Planning Area, would be approximately 129,210 tons per year. Nearby landfills are approaching full capacity for waste disposal and the projected amount of landfill capacity, for the County'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 **MM 3.17-1 to 3.17-5**.

### **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 County include the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) "Green LA" program and the public education and outreach facilitated by the County Web site: [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com). Other energy conservation programs include Title 24 (California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings) measure enforced by the County's Building and Safety Division and energy conservation programs promoted by SCE and state agencies.

Natural gas service to the County's Planning Area is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SCG). SCG operates numerous natural gas pipelines in the County'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 County's Planning Area is provided by AT&T and Verizon Communications. As development continues in the County's Planning Area, the telephone companies would provide additional system capacity and service connections. There are cellular towers located throughout the OVOV Planning Area.

Cable television service in the County's Planning Area is provided by Time Warner Cable, and AT&T and satellite television service in the County's Planning Area is provided by DirecTV, and Dish Network. Geographically, the east side of the Valley covering Canyon Country and parts of Saugus are served by Time Warner Cable. In addition to the cable television franchise with Time Warner in July of 2006, the Santa Clarita City Council executed a Public Benefits Agreement with AT&T that allows them to make competitive television service available for Santa Clarita Valley residents. AT&T began offering television

services to the Santa Clarita Valley in 2007 and is expected to serve up to roughly 30,000 homes in the OVOV Planning Area.

The proposed Area Plan includes 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 County's Planning Area. Implementation of the policies would reduce the effects of growth and development on energy resources. However, the proposed Area Plan 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 and natural gas associated with the prospective growth within the County's Planning Area can be further minimized through implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-6** and **MM 3.17-7**. With implementation of these mitigation measures, potential impacts on electricity and natural gas would be less than significant.

The existing telecommunications services provided in the County's Planning Area includes telephone service, television service, and internet services. In order for the County 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 and would use the best available technology to provide the needed services and to be able to meet state guidelines.

## **WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

### **Summary**

This section discusses the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system, and the wastewater reclamation system within the County's Planning Area. The OVOV 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<sup>1</sup> As buildout progresses, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) would only allow for the permitted amount. Therefore, the proposed Area Plan policies would have a less than significant impact on the wastewater treatment system.

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<sup>1</sup> Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Letter to Mr. Mitch Glaser, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, June 22, 2009, from Ruth Glazen, Facilities Planning Department.

## **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 industrial users in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVSD operates two WRPs, the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP. These facilities are 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 surrounding unincorporated County areas and the City of Santa Clarita. 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 Districts sewer trunk lines. Approximately 34 miles of trunk sewers covering 11,210 acres of the Santa Clarita Valley make up the base of the SCVJSS conveyance network. 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 Los Angeles County Consolidated Sewer Maintenance Districts within its borders.

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 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 was built in 1962 at 26200 Springbrook Avenue, in the central portion of the OVOV Planning Area. 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, dual 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.

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 5.0 million gallons per day (mgd) or 5,600 acre-feet per year (afy).<sup>2</sup> 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 District (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. This plant, unlike the SWRP, is a combined tertiary treatment plant and solids processing facility. As of 2008, treatment consisted of comminution, screening, grit removal, primary sedimentation, activated sludge biological treatment, secondary sedimentation, coagulation, dual filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. The current capacity for treatment is 21.6 mgd with the current average daily flows of 15.7 mgd.<sup>3</sup> 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. This helps the County Planning Area meet the AB 939 recycling mandate.

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<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.irwd.com/MediaInfo/water_equivalents.php)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles, *Final 2015 Santa Clarita Valley Joint Sewerage System Facilities EIR*, 1998.

### **Treatment Capacity and Average Flows**

As of 2009,<sup>4</sup> the permitted treatment capacity for the SCVJSS is 28.1 million gallons per day, with average daily flows of 5.1 mgd and 15.7 mgd at the SWRP and VWRP, respectively.

### ***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 local 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 recycled water, 497 af of which was used for municipal 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

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<sup>4</sup> Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, [http://www.lacsd.org/about/wastewater\\_facilities/santa\\_clarita\\_valley\\_water\\_reclamation\\_plants/valencia.asp](http://www.lacsd.org/about/wastewater_facilities/santa_clarita_valley_water_reclamation_plants/valencia.asp), 2008.

groundwater and surface water quality. In addition to the state numerical values, there are general provisions imposed by the state on recycled water.<sup>5</sup> 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;
- 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

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

UWMP, approximately 448 af was served in 2004 to landscape irrigation customers, including the Westridge Golf Course.<sup>6</sup> 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, 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.

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<sup>6</sup> Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, Chapter 4: Recycled Water, 2005.

***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 Sanitation District 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 the upgrades, Stage VI will involve a 6.0 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<sup>7</sup> 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

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

approximately 17,400 af per year. Implementation of the recycled water system is expected to occur over the next 25 years.<sup>8</sup>

## **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 Service)** of this document.

### ***Federal Regulations***

#### **Clean Water Act**

The objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA),<sup>9</sup> 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 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (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 by the Los Angeles RWQCB 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 defines four categories of recycled water:

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

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Code, Title 42, Sec. 1251, The Clean Water Act

- Undisinfected Secondary Recycled Water. Primary effluent that has been biologically oxidized;
- Disinfected Secondary-23 Recycled Water. Primary effluent that has been biologically oxidized and disinfected so that the 7-day median coliform bacteria level does not exceed 23 per 100 mL, with no more than one sample exceeding 240 per 100 mL in any 30-day period ;
- Disinfected Secondary-2.2 Recycled Water. Primary effluent that has been biologically oxidized and disinfected so that the 7-day median coliform bacteria level does not exceed 2.2 per 100 mL, with no more than one sample exceeding 23 per 100 mL in any 30-day period; and
- Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water. Adequately, oxidized, coagulated, clarified, filtered disinfected effluent so that the 7-day median coliform bacteria level does not exceed 2.2 per 100 mL, with no more than one sample exceeding 23 per 100 mL in any 30-day period, and no sample exceeding 240 per 100 mL.

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.

#### **Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the 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<sup>10</sup> (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 reuse permits contain limits that are consistent with specific water quality objectives of the Basin Plan.

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<sup>10</sup> State Water Resources Control Board, “Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act” California Water Code, Division 7. Water Quality, effective January 1, 2008.

## 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 of this ordinance are subject to criminal fines and penalties, civil liabilities and other penalties in accordance with law.<sup>11</sup>

## 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 Area 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.

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<sup>11</sup> Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, "Wastewater ordinance," [http://www.lacsd.org/info/industrial\\_waste/wastewater\\_ordinance.asp](http://www.lacsd.org/info/industrial_waste/wastewater_ordinance.asp), 1998.

## Impact Analysis

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed Area Plan policies on existing wastewater facilities within the County's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

**Impact 3.17-1                    Buildout of the proposed Area 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 34.1 mgd. As described above in **(Planned Improvements)** the design capacity of both plants would increase to a capacity of 34.2 mgd and would have the capacity to be able to produce more reclaimed water for potential reuse **(Policies CO 4.2.1 and CO 4.2.2)**. As the County reaches its buildout population of 237,387 residents, new projects would need to be evaluated for their potential impact on the wastewater treatment system capacity before the start of construction **(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 and by providing the extension of sanitary sewers for all urban uses and densities, to protect groundwater quality, where feasible **(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 Area Plan occurs, the County should protect the capacity of the natural "green" infrastructure to cleanse water, and prevent flood and storm damage and promote more sustainable utilization of renewable resource systems **(Policy CO 1.1.1 and Policy CO 1.2.1)**.

### *Proposed Area Plan Policies*

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 Area Plan Policies***

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan 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 County's wastewater generation and treatment needs at proposed Area 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 larger buildout population of the existing Area Plan, there would be potential for greater demand on existing and planned wastewater treatment facilities under the existing Area Plan. Therefore, impacts on wastewater would be greater with the existing Area Plan than those associated with the proposed Area 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 34.1 mgd. As described above in (**Planned Improvements**) the design capacity of both plants would increase to a capacity of 34.2 mgd and would have the capacity to be able to produce more reclaimed water for potential reuse (**Policies CO 4.2.1 and CO 4.2.2**).

As the County reaches its estimated buildout population of 237,387 residents, new projects would need to be evaluated for their potential impact on the wastewater treatment system before the start of construction (**Policy LU 9.1.1, Policy CO 4.2.2, and 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 Area Plan Policies***

All of the applicable proposed Area Plan policies are listed above.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies***

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan 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**

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

**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 34.1 mgd. As described above in **Planned Improvements**, the design capacity of both plants would increase to a capacity of 34.2 mgd and would have the capacity to be able to produce more reclaimed water for potential reuse (**Policies CO 4.2.1 and CO 4.2.2**).

As the County reaches its estimated buildout population of 237,387 residents, new projects would need to be evaluated for their potential impact on the wastewater treatment system capacity before the start of construction (**Policy LU 9.1.1, Policy CO 4.2.2, and Policy CO 4.4.4**). The SCVSD will evaluate its capacity to provide service to existing commitments as well as new customers as the County reaches buildout.

### ***Proposed Area Plan Policies***

All of the applicable proposed Area Plan policies are listed above.

### ***Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies***

Implementation of the proposed Area Plan 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 County's Planning Area.

## Plan to Plan Analysis

Both the existing and proposed Area 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 Area Plan 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 County's Planning Area, including the landfills that receive solid waste from the County, such as Chiquita Canyon landfill, Sunshine County/City Landfill, and Antelope Valley Landfill, and the existing capacity and expansion potential of these landfills. For purposes of this analysis it is reasonable to extrapolate that the adjacent and surrounding areas to the City of Santa Clarita produce the same amount of waste per year. In 2007, the amount of waste generated by the City's Planning Area was 163,000 tons.<sup>12</sup> By the year 2021, three landfills would close due to reaching the permitted capacity for waste. At buildout, the projected amount of waste generated by the County's Planning Area would be 200,909.2 tons per year or 550.4 tons per day.<sup>13</sup> Solid waste and recyclables that are generated within the County's Planning Area are collected, sorted, processed, sold, reused, and disposed of within and outside of the County's Planning Area. Private haulers collect the materials from homes, businesses, and public facilities in the County's Planning Area. Based on the 2008 Annual Report of the County of Los Angeles Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan a Disposal Capacity Shortfall is expected to occur beginning in 2014 at landfills in the County of Los Angeles. The shortfall in capacity is estimated to be at 1,172 tons per day (tpd) beginning in 2014 and estimated to increase to 11,665 tpd in the year 2023. Development of proposed expansions and exporting up to 10,000 tpd of solid waste out of the County would not be able to meet the Daily

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

<sup>13</sup> Based on the 2008 waste per capita per day and the 237,387 buildout population of the OVOV County Area Plan.

Disposal Demand of the County. With implementation of the development in the OVOV County Planning Area, the estimated amount of solid waste that would be generated would contribute to the shortfall of capacity in the Los Angeles County landfill system. Therefore, the impacts from buildout to the solid waste system would be significant and unavoidable.

## Existing Conditions

Like many areas in Southern California, the County 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.<sup>14</sup> Through a construction and demolition (C & D) material education and recycling program, it is feasible to divert at least 60 percent of all C & D Material from construction, demolition, and renovation.<sup>15</sup>

### *Los Angeles County*

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) has the responsibility to develop plans and strategies to manage and coordinate the solid waste generated in the unincorporated areas of the County and address the disposal needs of Los Angeles as a whole. In the past, solid waste was simply collected and disposed of at landfills in the local vicinity.

The County of Los Angeles serves the Santa Clarita Valley as both a regional and local government entity. In its capacity as a regional government the County provides the following solid waste related services:

- Management and oversight of landfills
- Household hazardous waste drop-off events throughout the County but at least once per year in the OVOV Planning Area
- Regional planning for solid waste management facilities and capacity for growth in the future
- Education programs designed to reach everyone in the County
- Buy back centers
- Home composting demonstrations
- The County serves unincorporated areas in the OVOV Planning Area as a local or municipal government entity. In this role the County provides and manages the following services:
  - Regular trash removal from all properties in the County

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

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

- Regular recycling of plastic, glass, steel, aluminum, yard waste and other materials
- Recycling reporting to the state for regulatory compliance

### ***Waste Reduction Programs***

The County provides free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections to County residents approximately three to four times per month. The collection events occur in different locations throughout the County. Additional recycling facilities include a buy back center, beverage container vending machines at two locations, two recycling centers, and one drop-off location.

### **Los Angeles Regional Agency**

In early 2002 the City of Los Angeles invited all of the jurisdictions located in Los Angeles County to join a Regional Agency (RA). The intent of forming the RA was to simplify the annual AB 939 reporting process and to assist cities in moving away from concentrating their entire efforts on their diversion numbers and to allow them to concentrate more on the implementation of programs. The City of Los Angeles invited other cities to join them to form a RA so all of the members can benefit from the region's high diversion and generation rate.

### ***Solid Waste Disposal***

The County of Los Angeles currently has 13 active (fully operating) landfills within its boundaries where solid waste generated by the population in the County can be disposed. The following is a list of the active landfills located in Los Angeles County:

- Antelope Valley Landfill
- Burbank Landfill
- Calabasas Landfill
- Chiquita Landfill
- Lancaster Landfill
- Whittier Landfill
- Pebbly Beach Landfill
- Puente Hills Landfill
- San Clemente Landfill
- Scholl Landfill
- Sunshine City/County Landfill

The OVOV County Planning Area is served primarily by three Class III (nonhazardous) landfills:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill

- Antelope Valley Landfill
- Sunshine City/County Combined Landfill

These landfill areas, located within or near the County's Planning Area, are shown in **Figure 3.17-1, Landfills Serving the OVOV Planning Area**. The County exports a majority of its OVOV Planning Area wastes to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and the remainder of its wastes to the Antelope Valley Landfill and Sunshine City/County Combined Landfill in Sylmar.

For purposes of this analysis it is reasonable to extrapolate that the adjacent and surrounding areas to the City of Santa Clarita produce the same amount of waste per year. In 2007, the City of Santa Clarita disposed of 163,000 tons of waste in the year with a population of 176,168;<sup>16</sup> the per capita waste generation was 1,850.51 pounds for 2007, which equals 5.07 pounds per capita per day.<sup>17</sup> Using the same numbers from 2007, and the fact that the County Planning Area does not have its own solid waste generation figures, the County's Planning Area waste generation was 48,512 tons in 2007<sup>18</sup>, would be the same as or less than the amount generated by the City, due to the population of 75,000 residents. The County 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 California Integrated Waste Management Board. The Board accepted the City's request for a 49 percent diversion rate in 2005.<sup>19</sup> In 2006 the City's Planning Area diversion rate was 54 percent of waste disposal.<sup>20</sup>

Currently, most solid waste is disposed of in local landfills. Since 1997, the OVOV Planning Area 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

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<sup>16</sup> California Department of Finance, Table 2: E-4 Estimates for Cities, Counties, and State, 2001-2008, 2008.

<sup>17</sup> The per capita waste generation number was determined by  $169,170.2 * 2,000$  pounds [(lbs; (1 ton = 2,000 pounds)], 338,340,400 pounds. Divide by the population to = 1,920.56 pounds per person. Divide that number by 365 days in a year to get 5.26 pounds per capita per day.

<sup>18</sup> The 5.26 pounds of waste per capita per day multiplied by County's Planning Area population = 394,500 pounds. Multiply that by 365 days in a year and then divide by 2,000 (lbs in a ton) to equal 71,997 tons of waste in 2007.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> Michelle Lovato, "Garbage: What a terrible waste", Santa Clarita Valley The Signal, Tuesday December 30, 2008, A1 and A6.

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 Los Angeles County *Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan*, 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 County has adopted strategies to address solid waste needs:

- To provide the needed disposal capacity, the Siting Element identified areas/sites Countywide which may be potentially suitable for development of new/expansion of Class III landfills.
- The Siting Element also identified out-of-County landfills that may be available to receive waste generated in the County.
- Additionally, the Siting Element includes goals and policies to facilitate the use of out-of- County/ remote landfills and foster the development of alternatives to landfill disposal. The County is currently updating the Siting Element, which is estimated to be completed in 2010.

Solid waste collected within the unincorporated areas of northern Los Angeles County are by private haulers and taken to Chiquita Canyon Landfill, Sunshine City/County Combined Landfill or the Antelope Valley Landfill in Palmdale. The 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 County'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, Chiquita Canyon and Lancaster landfills, have active proposed expansion plans. Chiquita Canyon and Lancaster landfills could serve the County's Planning Area. **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.<sup>21</sup>

Waste diversion will increase the life expectancy of landfills, but not eliminate the need for new landfill space. On August 29, 2000, the County Sanitation Districts (CSD), a consortium of 78 cities and the County of Los Angeles signed agreements to purchase the Eagle Mountain Landfill in Riverside County,

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<sup>21</sup> County of Los Angeles, *2006 Annual Report for the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element*, 2006.

which is subject to resolution pending litigation,<sup>22</sup> 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 a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) to its Solid Waste Management Plan, that identifies 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 reuse 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.

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.

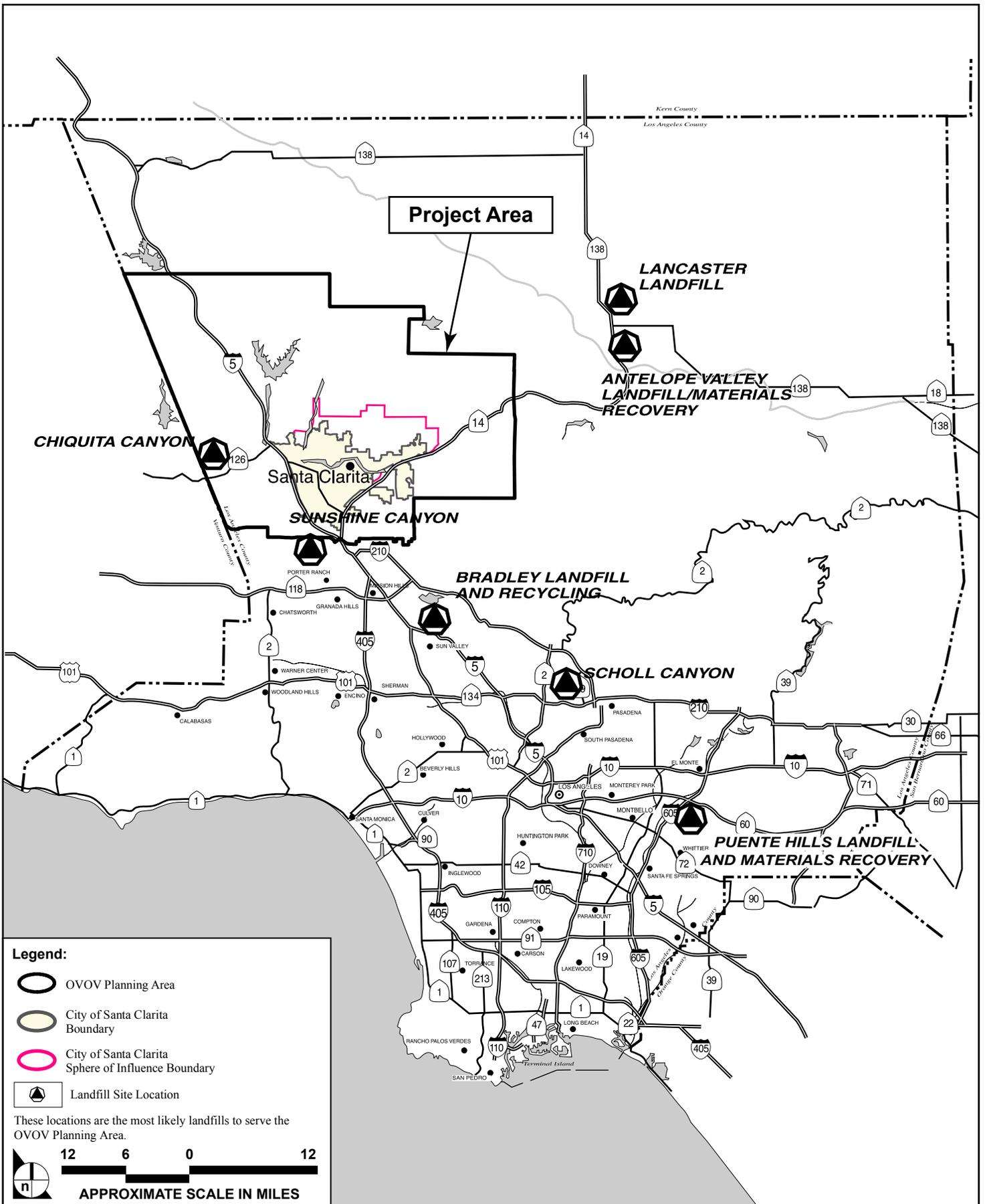
The term “integrated waste management” refers to the use of a variety of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle the municipal solid waste stream with the least adverse impact on human health and the environment. AB 939 established a waste management hierarchy as follows:

- 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.

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<sup>22</sup> Los Angeles County. “Chapter 9: Public Services and Facilities Element.” *Draft General Plan*. 2008.



**Legend:**

- OVOV Planning Area
- City of Santa Clarita Boundary
- City of Santa Clarita Sphere of Influence Boundary
- Landfill Site Location

These locations are the most likely landfills to serve the OVOV Planning Area.



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 (tpd-6)	Diversion Rate (percent)	Total Daily Disposal Demand (tpd-6)	Imports from Other Counties (tpd-6)	Exports to Out-of-County Disposal Facilities (tpd-6)	Daily Available Capacity from Transformation Facilities (tpd-6)	Class III Landfill Daily Disposal Demand (tpd-6)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Class III Landfill Daily Disposal Capacity Shortfall (Reserve) (tpd-6)	
								IN-COUNTY CLASS III LANDFILLS													Daily Available Capacity <sup>2</sup> from Class III Landfills (tpd-6)		I=G-H (tpd-6)
								Antelope Valley	R Burbank	R Calabasas	Chiquita	Lancaster	Pebbly Beach	L Puente Hills	R San Clemente	R Scholl	W Sunshine County	W Sunshine City	W Sunshine City/County Combined	R Whittier			
								Maximum Permitted Daily Capacity (tpd-6)															
								Expected Average Daily Tonnage (tpd-6)															
Remaining Capacity at Year's End (Million Tons)																							
2008	73,670	55	33,152	667	6,135	1,669	25,347	1800 970 7.7	240 132 2.0	3500 1096 7.8	5000 4756 8.0	1700 1123 2.1	49 10.1 0.06	13200 9975 19.9	10 0.98 0.04	3400 1082 5.7	6000 3771 E	5000 2178 E	83.0	350 252 4.2	35,274.3	(9,927)	
2009	71,694	55	32,262	900	7,500	2,069	23,593	1800 903 7.5	240 123 3.0	3500 1020 7.5	5000 4427 6.6	1700 1045 1.6	49 9 0.05	13200 9284 15.8	10 0.91 0.04	3400 1007 5.3			11000 5538 81.3	350 235 4.1	35,096.2	(11,503)	
2010	71,865	55	32,339	900	7,500	2,069	23,670	1800 906 15.9 E	240 124 2.9	3500 1024 7.2	5000 4441 37.2 E	1700 1049 1.1	49 9 0.05	13200 9315 11.7	10 0.91 0.04	3400 1011 5.0			11000 5556 79.5	350 236 4.0	35,104.0	(11,434)	
2011	73,751	55	33,188	900	7,500	2,069	24,519	3600 938 15.6	240 128 2.9	3500 1060 6.8	5000 4601 35.8	3000 1086 12.3	49 10 0.05	13200 9649 7.6	10 0.95 0.04	3400 1047 4.7			11000 5755 77.7	350 244 3.9	38,290.2	(13,772)	
2012	76,811	55	34,565	900	7,500	2,069	25,896	3600 991 15.3	240 135 2.8	3500 1120 6.5	5000 4859 34.3	3000 1147 12.0	49 10 0.05	13200 10191 3.4	10 1.00 0.04	3400 1106 4.4			11000 6078 75.8	350 258 3.8	38,430.0	(12,534)	
2013	80,280	55	36,126	900	7,500	2,069	27,457	3600 1050 14.9	240 143 2.8	3500 1187 6.1	5000 5152 32.7	3000 1216 11.6	49 11 0.04	13200 10805 C	10 1.06 0.04	3400 1172 4.0			11000 6445 73.8	350 273 3.8	38,588.6	(11,132)	
2014	83,620	55	37,629	900	10,000	2,069	26,460	3600 3600 13.8	240 138 2.8	3500 1144 5.8	5000 5000 31.1	3000 3000 10.7	49 11 0.04	13200 9649 7.6	10 1.02 0.04	3400 1130 3.6			11000 11000 70.4	350 263 3.7	25,287.3	1,172	
2015	86,572	55	38,958	900	10,000	2,069	27,788	3600 3600 12.7	240 145 2.7	3500 1202 5.4	5000 5000 29.6	3000 3000 9.7	49 11 0.04	13200 10191 3.4	10 1.07 0.04	3400 1186 3.3			11000 11000 67.0	350 277 3.6	25,422.3	2,366	
2016	89,548	55	40,297	900	10,000	2,069	29,128	3600 3600 11.6	240 152 2.7	3500 1260 5.0	5000 5000 28.0	3000 3000 8.8	49 12 0.03	13200 10805 C	10 1.12 0.04	3400 1244 2.9			11000 11000 63.5	350 200 3.5	25,558.3	3,569	
2017	92,329	55	41,548	900	10,000	2,069	30,379	3600 3600 10.4	240 159 2.6	3500 1314 4.6	5000 5000 26.4	3000 3000 7.9	49 12 0.03	13200 10805 C	10 1.17 0.04	3400 1297 2.5			11000 11000 60.1	350 302 3.4	25,685.3	4,693	
2018	95,143	55	42,815	900	10,000	2,069	31,645	3600 3600 9.3	240 165 2.6	3500 1369 4.1	5000 5000 24.9	3000 3000 6.9	49 13 0.02	13200 10805 C	10 1.22 0.04	3400 1351 2.1			11000 11000 56.7	350 315 3.3	25,814.0	5,831	
2019	98,015	55	44,107	900	10,000	2,069	32,938	3600 3600 8.2	240 172 2.5	3500 1424 3.7	5000 5000 23.3	3000 3000 6.0	49 13 0.02	13200 10805 C	10 1.27 0.04	3400 1406 1.6			11000 11000 53.2	350 328 3.2	25,945.2	6,992	
2020	100,896	55	45,403	900	10,000	2,069	34,234	3600 3600 7.1	240 179 2.4	3500 1480 3.2	5000 5000 21.8	3000 3000 5.0	49 14 0.02	13200 10805 C	10 1.32 0.04	3400 1462 1.2			11000 11000 49.8	350 341 3.1	26,076.9	8,157	
2021	103,681	55	46,656	900	10,000	2,069	35,487	3600 3600 6.0	240 185 2.4	3500 1535 2.8	5000 5000 20.2	3000 3000 4.1	49 14 0.01	13200 10805 C	10 1.37 0.04	3400 1515 0.7			11000 11000 46.4	350 350 3.0	26,200.8	9,287	
2022	106,555	55	47,950	900	10,000	2,069	36,781	3600 3600 4.8	240 192 2.3	3500 1591 2.3	5000 5000 18.6	3000 3000 3.2	49 15 0.006	13200 10805 C	10 1.42 0.03	3400 1570 0.2			11000 11000 42.9	350 350 2.9	26,319.3	10,461	
2023	109,500	55	49,275	900	10,000	2,069	38,106	3600 3600 3.7	240 199 2.3	3500 1648 1.8	5000 5000 17.1	3000 3000 2.2	49 15 0.0017	13200 10805 C	10 1.47 0.03	3400 1627 C			11000 11000 39.5	350 350 2.8	26,440.7	11,665	

1. Waste Generation is estimated using the Waste Board's Adjustment Methodology, utilizing population projection, employment, and taxable sales projections from UCLA.  
 2. **Daily Available Capacity**, in bold text, is based on Maximum Permitted Daily Capacity for facilities without a restricted watershed or Expected Average Daily Tonnage for facilities with a restricted watershed.  
 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 watershed; W - Does not accept waste from jurisdictions outside the County of Los Angeles.  
 Source: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Countywide Summary Plan and Countywide Siting Element, County of Los Angeles Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2008 Annual Report, October 2009, Appendix E-3, Table 3.

## *Local Regulations*

### **Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance**

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors adopted the Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance on January 4, 2005. The Ordinance added Chapter 20.87 to the Los Angeles County Code, which requires projects in the unincorporated areas to recycle or reuse 50 percent of the debris generated. Its purpose is to increase the diversion of construction and demolition debris from disposal facilities and will assist the County in meeting the State of California's 50 percent waste reduction mandate.

### **Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element**

In 1997, the County of Los Angeles<sup>23</sup> prepared a Countywide siting element that estimates the amount of solid wastes generated in the County and proposes various diversion and alternate disposal options. The Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element identifies the Department of Public Works as the responsible agency to develop plans and strategies to manage and coordinate the solid waste generated (including hazardous waste) in the County unincorporated areas and to address the disposal needs of Los Angeles County as a whole. The Siting Element is based upon the traditional practice of simply collecting solid waste and disposal at landfills in the local vicinity. Therefore, currently many jurisdictions (such as the County of Los Angeles) are stating that existing local landfill space may reach capacity in the very near future.

### **Thresholds of Significance**

The *State CEQA Guidelines* identify certain criteria for determining whether any significant impact will result with the implementation of the Area 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.

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<sup>23</sup> Los Angeles County. 2006 *Annual Report for the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element*. 2006.

### *Impact Analysis*

This impact analysis section evaluates the potential effects of the proposed Area Plan policies on existing solid waste within the County's Planning Area using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

**Impact 3.17-4            The County'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 Area 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. As mentioned earlier, the County's Planning Area waste numbers can be extrapolated from the City's Planning Area numbers because the County area is adjacent to and surrounds the City's Planning Area.

With the promotion and development of recycle buy-back centers in the OVOV Planning Area, the use of recycled materials would increase. The development and use of these facilities would reduce demand on local landfills (**Policy LU 9.1.7**). The development and implementation of public programs for the County'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 (**Policy CO 8.4.1 through CO 8.4.7, and Policy LU 9.1.7**). Programs already implemented by the County and City of Santa Clarita are consistent with encouraging and promoting the locations of a materials recovery facility (MRF) within the County's Planning Area (**Policy CO 8.4.1**). New development in the County's Planning Area would implement adequate space for recycling receptacles and bins on site (**Policy LU 7.4.1**). The encouragement and enforcement of commercial and industrial recycling is consistent with the programs and policies that are already being implemented by the County and the City of Santa Clarita, such as hazardous waste collection programs (**Policy CO 1.4.4**). Consistent with a C & D material education and recycling program, it is feasible to reuse Building Code standard C & D material for new construction (**Policy LU 7.4.2**)

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 County's task to adopt mandatory residential recycling programs and for allowing and encouraging the composting of greenwaste.

The projected estimated buildout of the County's Planning Area is 237,387. By buildout, and based on the data presented above in Solid Waste Disposal, the predicted amount of waste produced by the County's

Planning Area would be 550.4 tons per day or 209,909.2 tons per year. As buildout within the OVOV 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 the following landfills would close on their respective estimated closing dates:

- Puente Hills landfill, projected closure in 2012; and,
- Scholl landfill, projected closure in 2023

Landfills that would have permits allowing for expansion are:

- Antelope Valley landfill, expansion to a capacity of 17.2 million tons in 2010
- Chiquita Canyon expansion to capacities of 36.8 in 2010
- Lancaster landfill, expansion to a capacity of 11.0 million tons in 2011

Antelope Valley, Chiquita Canyon and Lancaster landfills would be able to meet the demands of the County's Planning Area, if necessary, for a small period of time before the landfills eventually fill up. Transportation of solid waste to landfills outside the County is a potential possibility if the County landfills approach capacity (**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 landfill, 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 Area Plan Policies**

**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.

**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 the provisions of the County Zoning Ordinance.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Area Plan Policies*

The proposed Area Plan policies would help reduce impacts on solid waste within the County's Planning Area. However, they would not reduce the impacts to less than significant. Mitigation measures MM 3.17-1 through MM 3.17-5 would be required to potentially reduce impacts to less than significant.

**Plan to Plan Analysis**

Since the buildout population under the existing Plan would be greater than the buildout population under the proposed Area Plan, the solid waste generation and disposal needs at buildout under the existing Area Plan would potentially be greater. Solid waste generation for the County's Planning Area is analyzed using the adjacent City's Planning Area solid waste generation numbers (**Section 3.17, Utilities and Infrastructure**). The amount of waste disposed (2007) by the City's Planning Area was 163,000 tons; the County's Planning Area waste disposed was 48,512 tons.

The County's Planning Area buildout population under the existing Plan would be 270,000 residents. Using the same per capita waste generation in the impact analysis, the projected amount of waste disposal at buildout under the existing Area Plan would be 174,434 tons per year or 477.9 tons per day. Waste generated under the proposed Area Plan would be in the amount of 200,909.2 tons per year or 550.4 tons per day. Given the projected amount of landfill capacity needed for the County's Planning Area at buildout of either the existing Area Plan or proposed Area Plan and the fact that nearby landfills are approaching full capacity for waste disposal, there would be a shortfall of capacity by 2014. Therefore, this impact is significant and unavoidable. Since the existing Area Plan would potentially increase the population of the County's Planning Area at buildout more than with the proposed Area Plan, impacts on solid waste would be greater under the existing Area Plan.

**Impact 3.17-5                      Buildout of the Area 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 or recycling. The County's Planning Area currently uses the Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill, Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center, and the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center to divert recyclable materials from the waste stream. As previously described, the County's Planning Area analysis was extrapolated to produce the same as or less than the amount of waste because the County's Planning Area is adjacent to and surrounds the City's

Planning Area. The 2007 total Alternative Daily Cover<sup>24</sup> for the City's Planning Area was 24,168 tons which was sent to a composting facility.<sup>25</sup> The 2007 total alternative daily cover for the City's Planning Area was 2,245.57 tons. The 2006 diversion rate for all of Los Angeles County unincorporated areas was 54 percent and the 2006 City's Planning Area diversion rate was 54 percent, so it is reasonable that the diversion rate for the OVOV Planning Area was 54 percent, which meets the state's 50 percent diversion requirement.

### **Proposed Area Plan Policies**

All of the applicable proposed Area Plan policies are listed above.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies*

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

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

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 County of Los Angeles 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 County 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

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<sup>24</sup> Board-approved materials other than soil used as a temporary overlay on an exposed landfill face.

<sup>25</sup> California Integrated Waste Management Board, Disposal Reporting System, "Jurisdictional Disposal by Facility," <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/DRS/Destination/JurDspFa.aspx>. 2008.

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 County shall require all development projects to coordinate with appropriate County agencies to ensure that there is adequate waste disposal capacity to meet the waste disposal requirements of the County's Planning Area, and the County 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 County's Planning Area will be required to implement existing and future waste reduction programs in conformance with the County'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 County's SRRE.

### **Significance of Impact with Mitigation Framework**

Impacts on solid waste would remain significant and unavoidable with the implementation of the proposed Area Plan policies and incorporation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-1** through **3.17-5**.

## **ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **Summary**

This section evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the County's projected buildout on electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications service to the County'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 County's Planning Area.

## 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.<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup> 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 California's overall demand for electricity resources are not attributable to increasing per capita demands, but population growth.<sup>28</sup>

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.<sup>29</sup>

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 sub-stations throughout the area. The voltage is once again stepped down at the sub-stations and finally distributed to users. The Saugus Substation acts as the major distributor of electricity in the OVOV Planning Area. According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), SCE is projected to deliver approximately 104.8 million megawatt-hours (MWh) to its

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<sup>26</sup> Southern California Edison. "Company Overview," <http://www.sce.com/AboutSCE/CompanyOverview/>. 2008.

<sup>27</sup> *City of Santa Clarita, Landmark Village Recirculated EIR*, November 2008.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

customers during 2009.<sup>30</sup> By 2016, SCE's demand is expected to increase to approximately 113.4 million MWh.<sup>31</sup> The OVOV Planning Area has proportionally more residential consumption and less industrial consumption relative to SCE's system average; the average County 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 the proposed Area Plan is programmatic and does not provide information on proposed types of development projects, it is difficult to estimate the peak megawatt demand for County'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 OVOV Planning Area. Communication lines and facilities are located in the eastern portion of the OVOV Planning Area, southeast of Agua Dulce. Utility facilities are located mostly in the northwestern portion of the City of Santa Clarita, while natural gas and petroleum facilities are scattered throughout most of the OVOV Planning Area. Transmission lines serving the electrical infrastructure would be extended in accordance with SCE's projected development demands.<sup>32</sup>

### **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

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<sup>30</sup> 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.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> CPUC. “Rules July 2007,” [http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES\\_PRAC\\_PROC/70731.htm#P323\\_46666](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES_PRAC_PROC/70731.htm#P323_46666). Rule 3.1. 2008.

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 County promotes energy conservation.

The two most prevalent energy conservation programs for the County include the LACDWP “Green LA” program and the public education and outreach facilitated by the County Web site: [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com). Other energy conservation programs include Title 24 (California’s Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings) measure enforced by the County’s Building and Safety Division and energy conservation programs promoted by SCE and state agencies.

LACDWP launched an initiative to integrate more renewable energy into the County's power supply and to reduce dependence on coal at the same time. While renewable energy made up only 3 percent of the County's power supply in 2005, as of July 1, 2008, it was at 8.5 percent and is on track to have 20 percent by 2010. The goal for 2020 is 35 percent. 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.

## Natural Gas

### *Provider/Service Area*

Natural gas service to the County's Planning Area is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SCG). SCG operates numerous natural gas pipelines in the County'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 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).<sup>33</sup> 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."<sup>34</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup> 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 to 2030 time frame.

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<sup>33</sup> *Summary of the 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report*, California Energy Commission, 11.

<sup>34</sup> *City of Santa Clarita, Landmark Village Recirculated EIR*, November 2008.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

With regards to the SCG service area (50,000-square-mile area of central, coastal and Southern California, excluding the City of Los Angeles), gas demand for all market sectors is expected to grow at an annual average rate of just 0.02 percent from 2008 to 2030.<sup>36</sup> 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 County’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 expected to provide approximately 790.3 billion cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas to its customers in 2009.<sup>37</sup> By 2016, annual natural gas deliveries to SCG customers are expected to increase to approximately 792.4 bcf per year.<sup>38</sup> 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 County’s Planning Area is provided by AT&T and Verizon Communications. As development continues in the County’s Planning Area, the telephone companies would provide additional system capacity and service connections. There are cellular towers located throughout the OVOV Planning Area.

### *Television Service*

Cable television service in the County’s Planning Area is provided by Time Warner Cable and AT&T. Satellite television service in the County’s Planning Area is provided by DirecTV and Dish Network. Geographically, Canyon Country and parts of Saugus are served by Time Warner Cable. As an addition to its cable television franchise with Time Warner in July of 2006, the Santa Clarita City Council executed a Public Benefits Agreement with AT&T that allows AT&T to make competitive television service available to City residents. AT&T began offering television services to Santa Clarita in 2007 and is expected to serve up to roughly 30,000 homes in the OVOV Planning Area.

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<sup>36</sup> *City of Santa Clarita, Landmark Village Recirculated EIR*, November 2008.

<sup>37</sup> 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.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

Federal laws provide oversight of the cable industry. While the County continues to serve as the local franchise authority and will respond to every community inquiry that it receives, it is important for residents to understand the extent of the County's authority. Under current federal law, the County does not have any legal ability to dictate what Time Warner charges for their services or how Time Warner sets its channel line up. 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 line up.<sup>39</sup>

### ***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 its wiring plans to provide new, high-speed Internet service to businesses and neighborhoods in the OVOV Planning Area. Portions of the OVOV Planning Area 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.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Development Constraints from Utility Corridors***

Serving as the gateway to the San Joaquin Valley and Antelope Valley and to all areas to the north and east of 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 OVOV Planning Area, 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 County's Planning Area that often remain vacant, thus reducing the total amount of developable property in the County's Planning Area.

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

- First Los Angeles Aqueduct (LADWP);

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<sup>39</sup> City of Santa Clarita, "Local Television Service Providers," <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/admin/cable/> (accessed October 1, 2007).

<sup>40</sup> City of Santa Clarita, <http://www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/admin/cable/>. 2008.

- Second Los Angeles Aqueduct (LADWP);
- 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, or SR-14) corridor through the Antelope Valley;
- Metropolitan Water District pipeline extending from Castaic Lake to the Granada Hills water treatment facility;
- Southern California Edison electrical transmission system, which includes multiple lines to the north and east;
- Southern California Gas Company natural gas pipeline extending north-south;
- 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:<sup>41</sup>

- 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 SCG has a safety program which has reduced the risk of gas distribution fires by improving welds on the

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<sup>41</sup> California Department of Education, Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance – May 2006

larger diameter (24- to 30-inch) pipelines and by replacing old distribution pipes with flexible plastic pipes. According to SCG staff, high-pressure gas mains are common in developed areas throughout the country, and SCG lines are inspected regularly and must comply with CPUC mandated safety requirements.

### **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.<sup>42</sup>

### **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 August 1, 2009, the "2008 Standards" will come 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;

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<sup>42</sup> Summary of the 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report, California Energy Commission, 2.

- 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;
- 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 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.<sup>43</sup>

### **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

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<sup>43</sup> See <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ghgsectors/ghgsectors.htm#electric>, last visited on January 6, 2009 [highlights targeted improvements for the energy sector].

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.

### ***Local Regulations***

#### **Los Angeles County Code**

Sections 102 through 114 of Chapter 1 of the 2007 California Building Code, as published by the California Building Standards Commission and are adopted by reference and incorporated into Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code and shall be known as Sections 120 through 132, respectively of Chapter 1 of Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code.

The Los Angeles County Building Code became effective for new building permit applications received by the County 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. For purposes of this analysis, impacts related to electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications 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, or
- buildout of the County'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 Area Plan on natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications within the County'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, SCE is projected to deliver approximately 104.8 Megawatt Hours (MWh) to its customers during 2009; the demand is expected to increase to approximately 113.4 MWh in 2016. Implementation of the proposed Area Plan would result in increased demand in electricity service to the County’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 (**Policy CO 1.5.7** and **Policy LU 4.5.3**). The latest update to Title 25, part 6 will be adopted in August of 2009 (**Policy CO 8.1.2**).

### ***Proposed Area Plan Policies***

**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.

**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.

**Policy CO 8.1.3:** Implement the ordinances developed through the County's Green Building Program.

### *Effectiveness of Proposed Area Plan Policies*

The proposed Area Plan policies minimize the effects of the additional demand and consumption of electricity associated with buildout of the County's Planning Area. Implementation of the policies would reduce the effects of growth and development on energy resources. However, the proposed Area Plan 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 County's Planning Area can be further minimized through implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-6** and **MM 3.17-7**.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

The County's electricity needs at buildout would be less under the proposed Area Plan because the buildout population of the proposed Area Plan would be less than the buildout population of the existing Area Plan. Consequently, impacts on electricity would potentially be greater from the County's existing Area Plan when compared to the proposed Area 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 SCG was expected to be approximately 790.3 billion cubic feet (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 Area Plan will require that natural gas purveyors expand existing facilities or increase supply (**Policy LU 4.4.4**). 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. Greater energy efficiency in building and site design would be met through **Policies LU 7.1.1** through **LU 7.1.4**, which require use of shade trees, promote the use of solar panels, encourage development of energy-efficient buildings, and support the

establishment of energy-efficient industries. Through the County's environmental review process, future development projects will be evaluated for potential impacts pertaining to the provision of natural gas.

### *Proposed Area Plan 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.
- 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 Area Plan Policies*

The proposed Area Plan policies minimize the effects of additional demand and consumption of natural gas associated with buildout of the County's Planning Area. Implementation of the policies would reduce the effects of growth and development on energy resources. However, the proposed Area Plan 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 County's Planning Area can be further minimized through implementation of mitigation measures **MM 3.17-6** and **MM 3.17-7**.

### **Plan to Plan Analysis**

Both the existing and proposed Area Plans do not incorporate performance standards for the development of energy resources or a means of enforcement. Mitigation measures have been proposed

which will provide performance standards for natural gas consumption. Consequently, impacts are greater under the existing Area Plan, as it lacks these mitigation measures.

**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 County's Planning Area includes telephone service, television service, and internet services. As described in (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 County 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 and would use the best available technology to provide the needed services and to be able to meet state guidelines (**Policy LU 4.4.1** and **Policy LU 4.5.3**).

### *Proposed Area Plan 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 Area Plan Policies*

The proposed Area Plan policies would minimize the potential effects of the additional demand for telecommunications from buildout of the County'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 Analysis**

The County's telecommunication needs at buildout would be less under the proposed Area Plan because the buildout population of the proposed Area Plan would be less than the buildout population of the existing Area Plan. Consequently, impacts on electricity would potentially be greater from the County's existing Area Plan when compared to the proposed 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 3.17-6** The County shall review all development proposals to guarantee that sufficient energy resources and facilities are available to supply adequate energy to the proposed project and associated uses prior to approval.

**MM 3.17-7** The County shall review all development plans to guarantee that energy conservation and efficiency standards of Title 24 are met and are incorporated into the design of the proposed project prior to approval.

## Significance of Impact after Mitigation Measures

The implementation of the preceding proposed Area Plan policies and mitigation measures **MM 3.17-6** and **MM 3.17-7** will result in less than significant impacts on energy resources and telecommunications.