3.9 Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities

This chapter presents the environmental setting and impact analysis for public services, facilities, and utilities in the City of Visalia related to the proposed Visalia General Plan update. The public services and facilities included in this EIR include those related to public safety, education, parks and open space, and others. This section also describes infrastructure conditions and needs for the following utility systems: potable water, wastewater, and solid waste. Water quality and stormwater management are evaluated in Section 3.6 Hydrology, Flooding, and Water Quality.

Environmental Setting

PHYSICAL SETTING

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Visalia Police Department

The Visalia Police Department (VPD) provides police protection in the City of Visalia and collaborates with other law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's office on crime prevention. VPD works with City and County agencies and education and social service providers on a variety of outreach and youth programs. The Department is engaged in gang prevention efforts ranging from school presentations to intensive management of high-risk probation cases to injunctions against two gangs and the establishment of a "safe zone" in north Visalia.

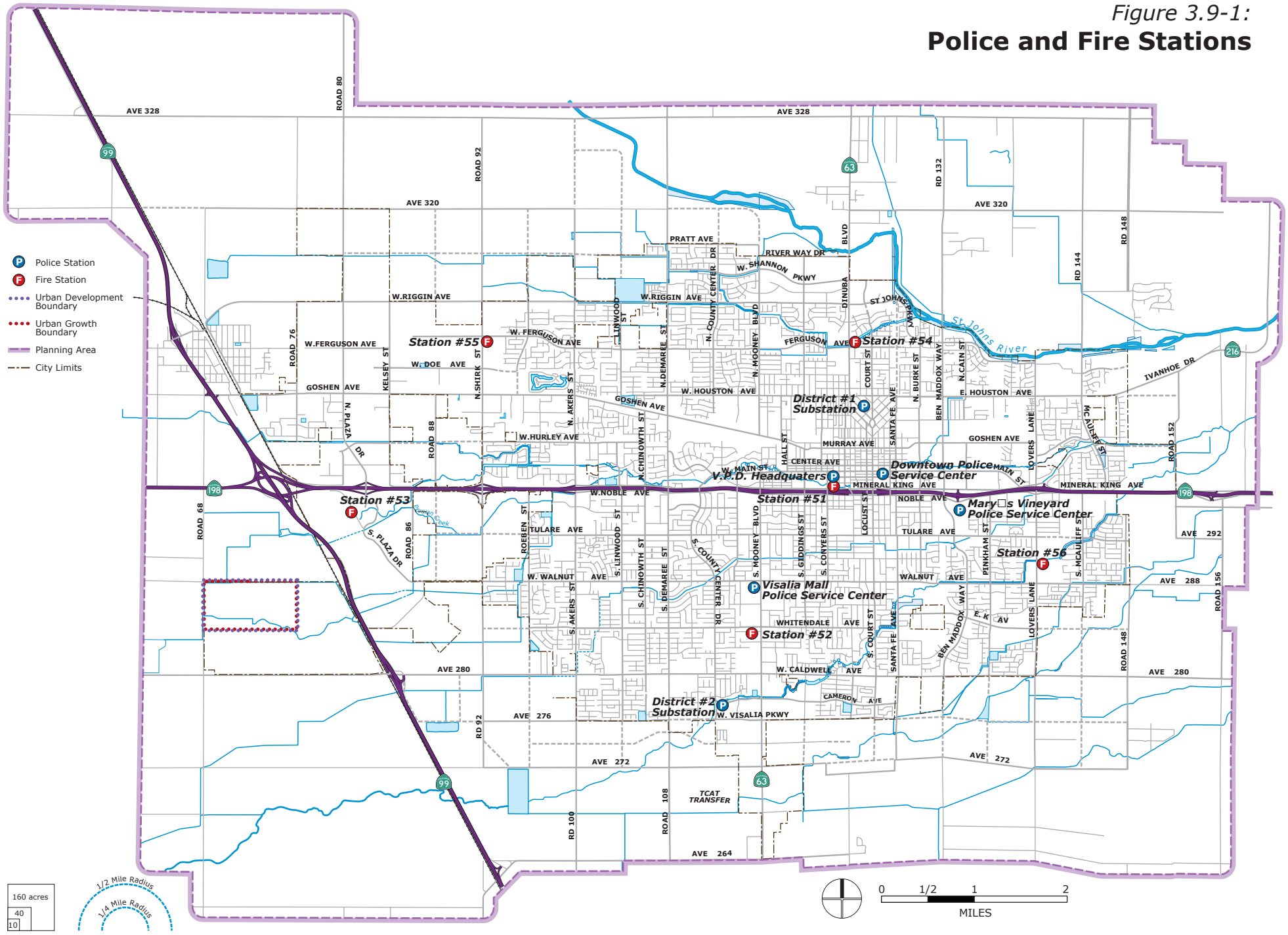
Facilities and Staffing

As of 2010, the Department had 143 sworn officers working out of two districts, as well as seven reserve sworn officers, 64 civilian officers, and 65 volunteers. Dispatch, records, crime analysis, and other essential law enforcement units support operations personnel.

Police headquarters is at 303 South Johnson Street in Downtown Visalia, adjacent to City Hall West. In 2007, the Department opened two substations, and shifted to district-based operations. The District 1 substation, serving northern Visalia, is located at 204 Northwest 3rd Avenue, near Lincoln Oval. District 2, at 4100 South County Center Drive, serves the southern part of the city. Station locations are shown in **Figure 3.9-1**. These facilities are intended to encourage contact with the community and support robust incident response.

Figure 3.9-1:

Police and Fire Stations



Service Standards

VPD does not establish service standards either in terms of officers per thousand residents or in incident response time. In 2008, the Department reported that its response times were under 15 minutes for 85 percent of all calls and that the average response time for Priority 1 calls was 4.2 minutes.[1]

Tulare County Sheriff's Department

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services and investigates crimes in unincorporated areas of the county, including the community of Goshen and other rural and semi-rural areas within the Planning Area. The Department is headquartered on the County administrative campus in Visalia.

Visalia Fire Department

The Visalia Fire Department (VFD) handles emergency and fire calls within the city. In 2008, the Department responded to over 10,000 alarms and calls. The great majority of these calls (94 percent) were not fire-related, with two-thirds of calls being for emergency medical or rescue services. Hazardous conditions, such as gas or oil spills and downed power lines, were the next most frequent source of alarms at 11 percent.

Fire prevention is an important part of the Fire Department's work. The Department conducts weed and abandoned vehicle abatement to remove common sources of fire, and presents public education programs in schools and other venues.

Facilities and Staffing

VFD has 66 uniformed and three non-uniformed personnel, with at least 19 on duty at all times. Personnel are trained in fire suppression and certified as Emergency Medical Responders, and there is a team trained in handling hazardous materials incidents. The Department operates five stations to serve all parts of the city, and has four fire engines and a 105-foot aerial truck, each staffed with at least three personnel. Stations are located in each quadrant of the city, as well as Downtown adjacent to the police headquarters. An additional station at the airport is not staffed. Fire Department Administration is located in City Hall West at 707 W. Acequia Avenue. The City's ISO rating is 4.

Service Standards

The Fire Department follows the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) service ratio standard of one responder per 1,000 residents. The Department does not currently meet that standard; current staffing translates to 0.48 responders per 1,000 residents. VFD also follows the NFPA response time standard, aiming to respond to 95 percent of calls within 5 minutes, including one minute of "turnout" and four minutes of driving. The Department currently has an average response time of 5 minutes and 37 seconds.

[1] Visalia Police Department, General Plan Update Service Provider Response Form, 2010.

The Department has mapped the areas within four-minute driving-time range of each station, shown in **Figure 3.9-1**. Areas of southwest Visalia and smaller areas in the northwest and northeast cannot reasonably be served within the Department's target response time.

Tulare County Fire Department

Response and Prevention

The Tulare County Fire Department (TCFD) provides fire and emergency medical services in unincorporated areas. The Department's Emergency Fire Communications Center, or Fire Com, provides dispatch services for the County Fire Department along with seven other rural fire districts, handling an average of 14,000 incidents annually.[2]

The County Fire Department is also engaged in fire prevention work. This includes inspecting buildings and enforcing fire safety codes, conducting plan review for new buildings and fire protection systems, and interpreting fire safety codes during the design phase of new buildings. It also includes ongoing public education programs.

Facilities and Staffing

TCFD has six battalion chiefs, 72 fire captains and lieutenants, and 400 reserve fire fighters. The Department operates 28 fire stations. Two are in the Planning Area: Fire Station 1 on South Lovers Lane and Fire Station 7 in Goshen. Fire Station 1 is staffed by reserves for the county, and is shared with the City's fire department. The Emergency Fire Communications Center is also within the Planning Area, in Mooney Grove Park. TCFD headquarters are located in Farmersville, approximately seven miles southeast of Visalia.

Evacuation Routes and Potential Shelter Sites

The City has designated several evacuation routes through Visalia to be used in case of catastrophic emergencies. The extent and severity of a disaster will determine which routes and which direction people must take in order to escape or avoid the afflicted areas. Kaweah Delta Health Care District provides emergency health care services.

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, the City will coordinate with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and State and federal agencies responsible for providing emergency shelter for displaced residents. The sites most commonly used are schools, senior centers, community centers, public buildings, and churches.

Schools

Public Schools

Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) provides public education from Kindergarten through 12th Grade in the Planning Area, the communities of Goshen and Ivanhoe, and nearby rural areas. The District includes 25 elementary schools, four middle schools, four traditional high schools, and alternative education programs. Two of the District's elementary schools are outside the Planning Area, but students from these outlying areas attend middle and high school in Visalia.

[2] Tulare County Fire Department, accessed at http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/fire/default.asp, 2010.

Altogether, just over 26,000 students attend public schools in the Planning Area. Public schools and enrollment are detailed in **Table 3.9-1**.

Enrollment and Capacity

VUSD's *School Facilities Needs Analysis* (2009) and *Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study* (2010) determined that, given State guidelines for counting portable classrooms and class size assumptions, the District's current facilities have the capacity to serve 18,212 students—about 8,600 fewer than are actually enrolled. Facilities have been stretched using methods such as holding classes in portables, holding larger classes, and converting special purpose rooms to classrooms.[3] Over the short term, the District projects an increase of 4,071 enrolled students resulting from the development of 6,421 approved housing units.

[3] Visalia Unified School District, *Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study,* 2010.

Table 3.9-1 Schools and Enrollment, Visalia Unified School District

School	2013 Enrollment
Elementary Schools (K-6)	
Annie R. Mitchell	739
Conyer	438
Cottonwood Creek	686
Crestwood	628
Crowley	609
Elbow Creek[1]	494
Fairview	587
Four Creeks	679
Golden Oak	545
Goshen[1]	692
Highland	531
Houston	577
Hurley	601
Ivanhoe[1]	625
Linwood	680
Manuel F. Hernandez	792
Mineral King	675
Mountain View	586
Oak Grove	613
Pinkham	514
Royal Oaks	555
Shannon Ranch	675
Veva Blunt	601
Washington	322
Willow Glen	570
Subtotal Elementary	*15,014*
Middle Schools (7-8)	
Divisadero	937
Green Acres	1,271
La Joya	1,046
Valley Oak	917
Subtotal Middle	*4,171*
High Schools (9-12)	
El Diamante	1,895
Golden West	1,628
Mt. Whitney	1,593
Redwood	2,066
Subtotal High	*7,531*
Educational Options Schools	
Adult School	
Charter Alternative (6-12)	80
Charter Home School[1] (K-8)	68
River Bend	70
Sequoia	349
Visalia Charter Ind. Study	538
Visalia Technical Ed. Center	131
Other (K-6)[3]	357
Other (7-8)[3]	115
Other (9-12)[3]	258
Subtotal Special Programs	1,966
VUSD Enrollment Within Planning Area[2]	*27,603*
Tulare County Programs	
University Prep (9-12)	116
La Sierra (7-12)	306
Court/Community Schools	500
TCOE Enrollment[4]	*922*

1. School located outside Planning Area.

2. Not including students at schools outside Planning Area and "Other" category

3. Other includes special needs students in traditional schools. Enrollment counts are for 2009-10.

4. County schools also draw students from outside the Planning Area.

Source: Visalia Unified School District, 2013, Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.

School Facilities Development

Faced with the pressure of growth, area voters in 1999 passed Measure G, providing $42.5 million for school construction and modernization and land acquisition. The bond measure supported the construction of Visalia's fourth comprehensive high school, El Diamante, modernization projects at several existing schools, and four new elementary schools. El Diamante was completed in 2002, followed by Oak Grove (2004), Cottonwood Creek (2006), Manuel Hernandez (2008), Annie Mitchell (2008), and Shannon Ranch (2012) elementary schools.

Currently VUSD owns eight undeveloped parcels totaling 241 acres, where five new elementary schools, two new middle schools, and a new high school are planned. The District's existing schools, along with potential new school sites, are shown in **Figure 3.9-2**. The District may fund school construction using developer fees, State modernization and new construction grants, and money set aside in a special reserve. In 2010, Measures E was passed, which provides funding to bring needed improvements to all VUSD schools over 10 years old, as well as relieve overcrowding by constructing classrooms and building a new middle school.

Alternative Education

VUSD Programs

Charter Schools

The Charter Alternatives Academy, located southeast of the city on Road 148, emphasizes structure, foundational education, and social rehabilitation for middle and high school students. Visalia Charter Independent Study High School, located at 909 West Murray Avenue near Downtown, aims to give students both more flexibility and more responsibility in completing their high school education. The Charter Home School Academy provides support to families that homeschool their children.

Adult or Continuation Schools

Sequoia High School is a continuation high school, where students may return to earn a high school diploma. It is located on the near north side, adjacent to Green Acres Middle School. VUSD's Adult School, on the Northeast Visalia "super-campus," also gives adults the chance to receive their diploma. It also offers GED programs and programs for students for whom English is a second language.

Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) Programs

University Preparatory High School

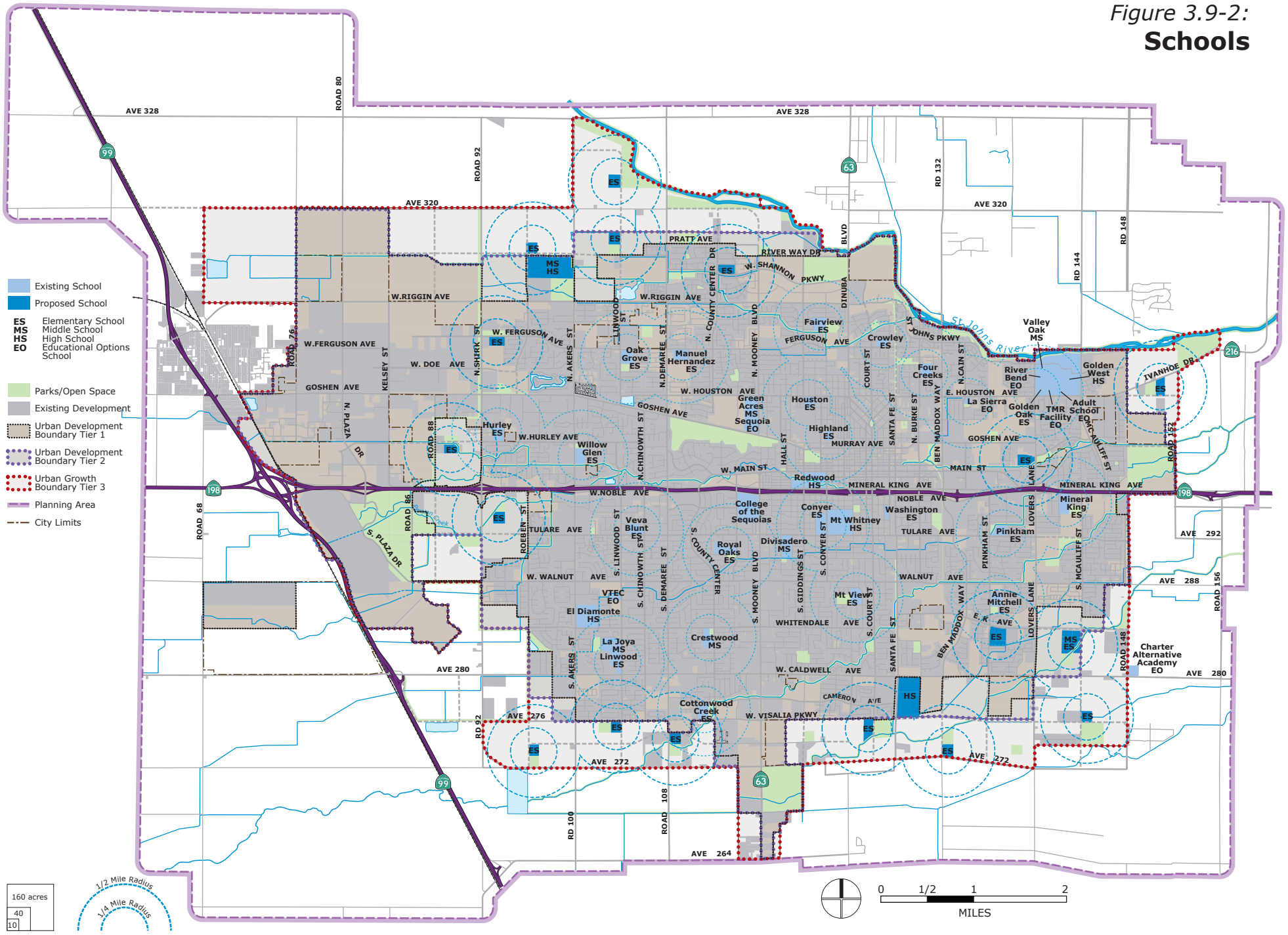
The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), with support from College of the Sequoias (COS), has established an "early college high school" program on the COS campus. University Preparatory High School, which opened in Fall 2009, allows students to earn college credit toward one of five "career pathways," and involves students in service projects in the community.

La Sierra High School and Junior High School

La Sierra is a public charter school governed by TCOE, focused on providing vocational training in graphic arts, printing, building trades, hospitality, and horticulture, in addition to the requirements for a high school diploma. Students may also participate in the SEE Youth Employment

Program. La Sierra has two campuses: one in Porterville, and one at 1735 East Houston Avenue in Visalia. A Junior High School program was added at the Visalia campus in 2006.

Figure 3.9-2:
Schools



Court/Community Schools

TCOE also runs seven community schools and two court- or detention-based schools in Tulare County. These schools enroll an average of 500 students at a time, but a far greater number over the course of a school year. The court and community schools serve students who have been referred by school districts, other public agencies, the Juvenile Court, or the Probation Department. They aim to provide high-risk students with an alternative setting in which they can build social, academic, and life skills, and either return to traditional schools or earn GEDs.

Migrant Education Program

Children of migrant workers experience frequent interruptions in their schooling. Tulare County Office of Education is the local sponsor of a national program whose goal is to help migrant students and their families succeed academically.

Special Education

VUSD's River Bend School, located on the northeast Visalia super-campus, is the District's program for students with special needs. Many students with special needs are taught at their home school.

TCOE provides support to VUSD and other County school districts in providing for special-needs students, in the form of psychological services, instructional support, and other auxiliary services. TCOE also conducts special classes for severely handicapped students, on school campuses and at special centers, including one in Visalia.

Private Schools

Visalia is home to five private schools serving a significant number of students, summarized below.

Central Valley Christian School

Central Valley Christian School serves over 900 students in kindergarten through 12th grade at its campus at 5600 West Tulare Avenue. The school aims to provide an education with a strong Christian focus. It also has a full sports program and other extra-curricular activities. Over 100 children are enrolled in the companion pre-school.

Visalia Christian School

Visalia Christian School is affiliated with the Visalia First Assembly Church, and provides Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade education for 644 students. The middle and high school programs were relocated in 2009, joining the elementary school at the Church's recently developed campus at South Akers Street and Caldwell Avenue. About 100 students are enrolled in the companion pre-school program.

George McCann Memorial Catholic School

George McCann Memorial School is the school program of St. Mary's parish, located at Race Avenue and Church Street in Downtown Visalia. The school serves some 240 students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade.

St. Paul's School

St. Paul's serves about 330 students in kindergarten through 8th grade at its campus at 6101 West Goshen Avenue. The school emphasizes high academic standards, critical thinking, and intellectual curiosity, with a spiritual foundation.

Grace Christian School

Grace Christian School serves about 130 students in the elementary grades, in a facility adjacent to Grace Lutheran Church on South Conyer Street. The school aims to provide a strong foundation in core academic subjects, and a Christian education, along with extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

College of the Sequoias

College of the Sequoias (COS), a division of the Community Colleges of California, provides public post-secondary education in Tulare County. Its 62-acre main campus is located on South Mooney Boulevard in Visalia.

In 2008, 777 students graduated with Associate's degrees, with the Liberal Arts program providing by far the greatest number (240) followed by Nursing (60) and Child Development (22).[4] Enrollment in the fall semester of 2009 was 13,620, an increase of 3,200 students or 29 percent in 10 years.

The College's 2005-2006 Educational Master Plan provides a growth framework involving the Visalia campus and satellite campuses in Tulare and Hanford. Most General Education classes are to continue to be held in Visalia, and key programs in child development, nursing, and fine arts would continue to be based there. The College projects that enrollment on the main Visalia campus will grow to 15,000 by 2012, 17,000 by 2020, and 20,000 by 2030, matching added educational capacity.

A new Tulare Center is to become the hub for programs in automotive technology, construction technology, architecture, and agriculture. A 100,000-square foot academic facility is planned for Tulare, to include the library, student services, and lecture and computer labs. The new Hanford Educational Center, co-developed with the Hanford Joint Unified School District, will house programs in public safety and justice. It will be anchored by a planned 40,000-square foot academic center.

Bond measures were passed in 2008 in Visalia and Tulare. Visalia's Measure I provided $28 million for upgrades to the Visalia campus, to be matched by $47 million in state funding. A new Nursing Building was completed on the Visalia campus in 2009, and a new gymnasium was completed in 2010. Tulare's Measure J allows COS to sell $60 million in bonds and qualify for $128 million in state funding to develop its Tulare Center, and add programs in Corcoran and Lindsay.

[4] College of the Sequoias Annual Planning Compendium (2008).

Five-Year Strategic Plan

COS' 2010-2015 Five-Year Strategic Plan includes goals and strategies that have General Plan relevance. The Plan calls for improving access to the physical campuses, including adding bicycle lanes and racks, increasing public transportation, providing an inter-campus shuttle, and increasing the parking supply.

The Strategic Plan calls for more student involvement in the local community, including fundraising, volunteering, and service learning. At the same time, the Plan envisions a role for the College in providing more cultural opportunities for the larger community.

The Plan features a section devoted to economic growth of Tulare and Kings counties, whose goals are to:

- "Ensure that those who complete our programs, certificates, and majors are employed or go on to higher learning;
- Create a culture of innovation and support for new enterprise among the COS community;
- Upgrade skill sets of COS graduates needed to serve local/regional employers; and
- Increase technological literacy of COS graduates."

Strategies identified to accomplish these goals include expansion of job placement and referral services; open communication with the larger community; and strengthening of connections with local businesses through internships, mentoring, and surveys of skill needs.[5]

It is a priority of COS to improve the alignment between certificate and degree requirements and job opportunities. COS sees the General Plan update process as a potential source of information on emerging industries and economic development strategies, which can help the College plan for meeting demand.[6]

Other Colleges and Universities

Five private, multi-campus institutions have local facilities in Visalia.

University of Phoenix

The University of Phoenix, the country's largest private university with 200 campuses, was a pioneer in the model of focusing on providing convenient advanced education for working adults. Its Visalia Learning Center is located Downtown at 301 E. Acequia Avenue, and offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees in range of programs, led by programs in business and nursing.

[5] College of the Sequoias, 2010-2015 Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2010.
[6] College of the Sequoias, Visalia General Plan Update Service Provider Form, 2010.

Brandman University

Brandman University is a fully accredited private university established to provide advanced education to working adults at 25 locations in California and Washington, and online. It is affiliated with Chapman University. Its Visalia Center, at 649 South County Center Drive just south of Highway 198, provides Visalia residents access to the University's degree and credential programs. Business administration programs are predominant, along with education-related credentialing.

Fresno Pacific University

Fresno Pacific University (FPU) is a fully accredited Christian university in Fresno, offering a broad range of Bachelor's degrees as well as advanced degrees or credentials. The college has the highest four-year graduation rate in the Central Valley. While Fresno Pacific remains focused on its 1,600 full-time undergraduate students, it has established three satellite campuses where working adults can work toward degree completion or on Master's degrees. One of these regional centers opened in 2008 on Plaza Drive in west Visalia.

San Joaquin Valley College

San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) provides career training courses and certification online and at eight locations, including its facility at 8400 West Mineral King Avenue in west Visalia. SJVC offers courses providing skills for a variety of business, medical, and technical occupations.

Milan Institute

Milan Institute provides training courses in cosmetology, massage therapy, and associated business skills, online and at several campuses. Its Visalia campus is located at 6500 South Mooney Boulevard, just south of city limits.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

The City maintains several types of parks and facilities. Almost all parkland described here is owned by the City or another public body and used for public recreational purposes, though some small parks are maintained by local landscaping and lighting districts. Parks owned by the County but located within city limits are also included in this discussion and analysis.

Park Classifications

Visalia classifies parks and public open space into five general categories. Facilities at each park type vary according to size. Most neighborhood parks have picnic tables, play equipment, and drinking fountains. Community and regional parks have these amenities as well as a combination of sports fields/courts, barbecue areas, parking, and restrooms. Parks are classified as follows:

- *Pocket Park***.** A park typically between one-half and two acres in size intended to serve the needs of a specific neighborhood within a half-mile radius.
- *Neighborhood Park.* A park typically 2 to 5 acres in size that provides basic recreation activities for one or more neighborhoods. The service area ranges from a half- to one-mile radius. These parks may include facilities such as children's playgrounds, picnic tables, benches, and walkways. Many neighborhood parks are planned adjacent to new schools,

and actual neighborhood park sizes may be as large as 10 acres depending on neighborhood size and need.

- *Community Park***.** A park typically ranging from 5 to 12 acres in size or larger, depending on the needs of the quadrant. Community parks are intended to serve the recreational needs of a larger area of the city, and particularly those residents living or working within a two-mile radius. These parks may include facilities such as sport fields, exercise courses, recreation buildings, and restrooms. Other facilities may include community centers, swimming pools, tennis courts, and concession stands.
- *Large City Park.* A park generally larger than 40 acres in size intended to serve the recreational needs of all city residents and to create opportunities for contact with the natural environment. These parks may include a concentration of sports fields, golf courses, and areas for picnicking and passive enjoyment of open space.
- *Natural Corridors and Greenways.* A network of greenways of varying size intended to serve the recreational needs of city residents. These parks may include facilities such as bikeways, walkways, and riding trails, and are primarily developed along the city's waterways.

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Visalia's current inventory of parks and recreation facilities is listed in **Table 3.9-2**. **Figure 3.9-3** maps their location in the Study Area. Currently, Visalia has 19 neighborhood parks, as well as 17 pocket parks, dispersed throughout the city. Four community parks provide a fuller range of community amenities or are co-located with community centers and range from approximately 9 to 14 acres. Three larger facilities, Plaza Park, Mooney Grove Park, and Riverway Sports Park, are located at the periphery. The St. Johns Riverway forms much of the northern edge of the city. Altogether**,** there are approximately 678 acres of parkland within the city. Tulare County's Cutler Park provides another 50 acres at the east edge of the Planning Area, while Plaza Park Golf Course provides specialized recreation for a fee; neither of these is counted as park acreage.

Table 3.9-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Park or Recreation Facility Name	*Acreage*
City Parks	
Mini-Parks/Pocket Parks	
Community Campus	0.5
Constitution Park	2.2
Crestwood Park	1.9
Fieldstone Oaks 1-4	0.8
Fox Wood 5	1.6
Houk Park	2.4
Lincoln Oval Park	1.6
Mayor's Park	0.6
Memorial Park	1.1
Park Place	0.8

Table 3.9-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Park or Recreation Facility Name	*Acreage*
Shannon Ranch 1 Park	0.9
Shannon Ranch 2 Park	1.2
Village Park	1.3
Pinkham Park	2.6
Rotary Park	2.5
West Park 1 and 2	1
Willow Creek	1.3
Subtotal Mini-Parks	*24*
Neighborhood Parks	
Blain Park	7
Burke Park	6
Cherry Meadow Park	4.7
Combs Park	8.9
Village Park	8.9
Ice House Park	2.7
Jefferson Park	3.6
Kiwanis Park	3
Lions Park	4
Mill Creek Garden	8
River Bend Park	4.5
Alejandro Ruiz Park	9.3
Perry Family Park	4
Soroptimist Park	4.5
Summers Park	3.7
Sunset Park	3.5
West Main Park (County Park)	5.0
Willow Glen Park	3.7
Woodland Park	5.5
Subtotal Neighborhood Parks	*101*
Community Parks	
Recreation Park[1]	13.6
Seven Oaks Park	12.0
Stonebrook Park	10.8
Whitendale Park	8.9
Subtotal Community Parks	*45*

Table 3.9-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

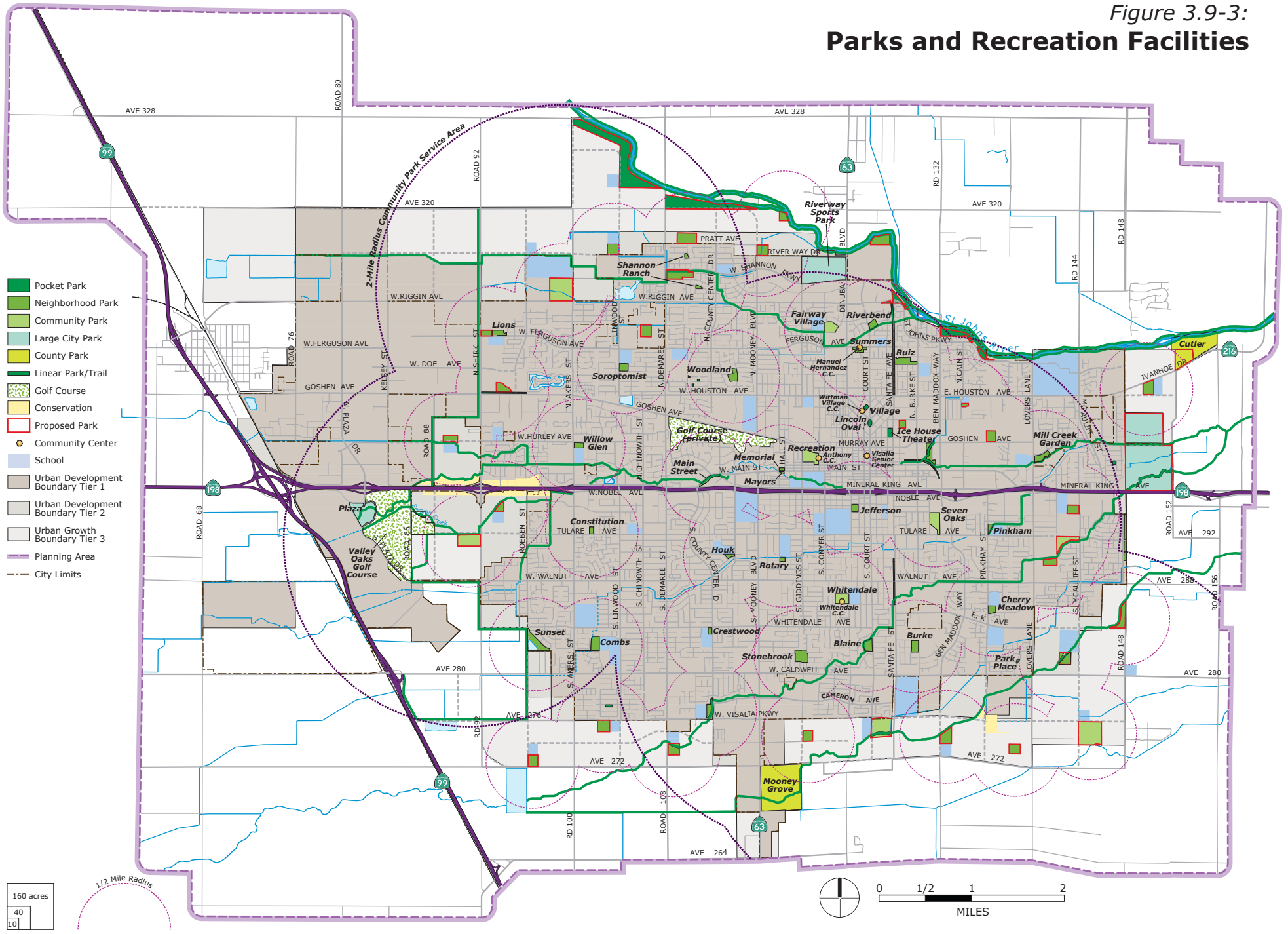
Park or Recreation Facility Name	*Acreage*
Large City Parks	
Plaza Park	40
Riverway Sports Park (Ph. 1, 2, 3 and 4)	83
Subtotal Large City Parks	*123*
Linear Parks and Trails/Bikeways	
St. John's Parkway	111
Other Developed Waterway Trails and Riparian Setbacks	84.9
Subtotal Linear Parks and Trails	*196*
County Parks[2]	
Mooney Grove Park	139.0
Cutler Park	50.0
Subtotal County Parks	*189*
Golf Courses	
Valley Oaks Golf Course[3]	191
Total Parkland	**869**
Not Including Golf Course (GC)	*678*
Not Including GC or County Parks	*489*
Not Including GC, County Parks, or Linear Parks & Trails	*293*

1. Includes Provident Skate Park
2. While these parks are owned and operated by Tulare County, they are accessible to Visalia residents and included in parkland acreage ratio.
3. Golf course not counted toward city parkland acreage ratio.

Source: City of Visalia, 2013.

Figure 3.9-3:

Parks and Recreation Facilities



Park Standards and Maintenance

Visalia's current General Plan defines an overall parkland standard of 7.6 acres per 1,000 residents (**Table 3.9-3**). This total consists of separate standards for city parks, school sites, and private open space. In 2010, with an estimated population of 126,000 and 628 acres of city parks, Visalia's ratio of city parks per 1,000 residents was 5.0.

Table 3.9-3: Existing General Plan Parkland Standards

Park or Open Space Type	*Parkland Standard (Acres per 1,000 Residents)*
City Parks	4.0
School Sites	3.0
Private Open Space	0.6
Total Park Land	**7.6**

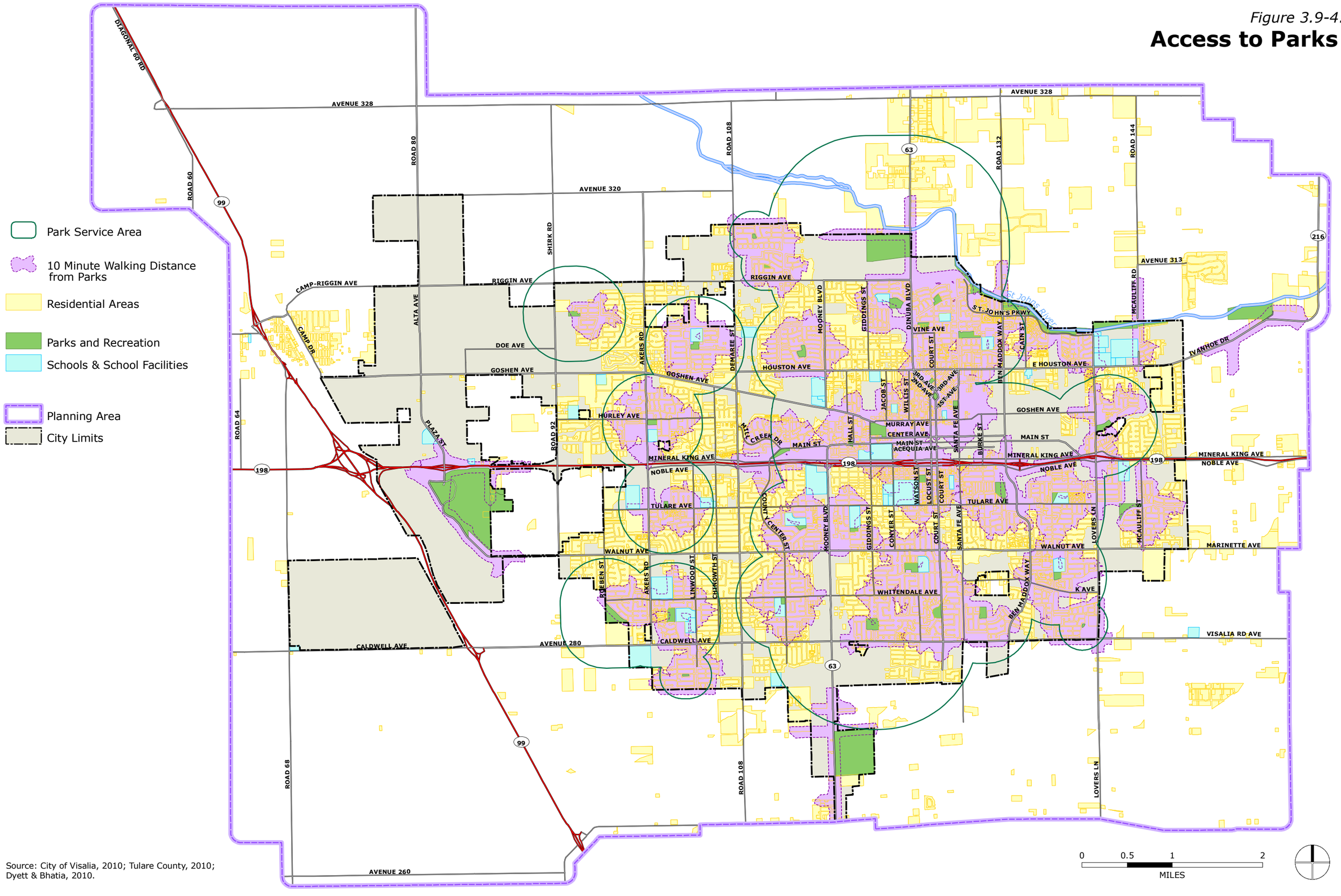
Source: City of Visalia, 2010.

While Visalia's total park acreage, when fully developed, would exceed the current standards for the population, parkland is not evenly distributed throughout the city. Ideally, every residence should be within a quarter-mile walk of a neighborhood park. **Figure 3.9-4** shows the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities, and shows half-mile walk-sheds from existing neighborhoods parks. As shown, west Visalia, the area west and east of Demaree Street, and the area in around the city limits on the eastern end of Visalia are currently underserved by existing park facilities.

Meanwhile, the amount of open space on school sites may not meet the established standards. Visalia Unified School District's 25 elementary schools, four middle schools, four traditional high schools, and alternative education programs account for 460 acres of land in the planning area. Assuming that 50 percent of the schools' acreage is devoted to recreational uses (230 acres), then this translates to only 1.8 acres of school land per one thousand residents, short of the 3.0 standard. However, more school property may be devoted to recreational uses than assumed here.

Figure 3.9-4:

Access to Parks



Source: City of Visalia, 2010; Tulare County, 2010; Dyett & Bhatia, 2010.

0 0.5 1 2
MILES

Water Supply

The Kaweah Groundwater Sub-basin

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water within the Planning Area, meaning that Visalia's water comes from large, underground aquifers, rather than rivers, lakes, or reservoirs. The San Joaquin Groundwater Basin encompasses all of the Valley counties between Sacramento County and Kern County and also includes portions of Sacramento County and El Dorado County at the north end and a portion of Kern County at the south end. The San Joaquin Basin is divisible into two hydrologic regions: the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region to the south and the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region to the north.

Visalia is within the Kaweah Groundwater Sub-basin within the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The total surface area of the Kaweah Sub-basin is 446,000 acres or 696 square miles. The Sub-basin lies between the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin on the north, the Tule Sub-basin on the south, crystalline bedrock of the Sierra Nevada foothills on the east, and the Kings River Conservation District on the west. It generally comprises lands in the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD). Major rivers and streams in the sub-basin include the Kaweah and St. Johns Rivers, with the former being the primary source of recharge in the area. Groundwater flow is generally southwestward. In 1999, small groundwater depressions occurred to the north and south of Visalia and at the northwest corner of the sub-basin, and a groundwater mound was present in the central western sub-basin. Based on current and historical groundwater elevation maps, horizontal groundwater barriers do not appear to exist in the sub-basin.

Groundwater Quality

The quality of the groundwater that underlies the city is excellent for domestic and agricultural uses. This is due to abundant Sierra Nevada snowmelt. However, the 2005 Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan for the Visalia District documented several constituents of concern in groundwater in the area. These include:

- Nitrate (fertilizer/private sewage disposal);
- Volatile Organic Chemicals;
- MTBE (gasoline oxygenate);
- DBCP (pesticide used until 1977); and
- Pentachlorophenol (a wood preservative).

Because these constituents have been found in the area and have caused shutdown of some wells, the Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan recommends not drilling new wells within one-half mile of wells that have been affected in the past. More specifically, the Master Plan recommends

that the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) not drill wells within certain sections of land.[7]

Water quality typically deteriorates west of Highway 99. In addition, groundwater has been contaminated in two areas by past industrial activities. Wood preservatives from a 1940s-era utility treatment pool contaminated groundwater at the southeast corner of Ben Maddox Way and Goshen Avenue. Groundwater contamination from toxic chemical solvents has occurred at several sites along Goshen Avenue in the vicinity of Shirk Road. However, groundwater from the treatment pool is considered to be contained on-site.

Specifically, the groundwater in the basin is generally of calcium bicarbonate type, with sodium bicarbonate waters near the western margin. Total dissolved solids (TDS) values range from 35 to 1,000 mg/L, with a typical range of 300 to 600 mg/L. The State Department of Health Services, which monitors water quality standards, reports TDS values in 153 wells ranging from 35 to 580 mg/L, with an average value of 189 mg/L. There are localized areas of high nitrate pollution on the eastern side of the basin. There is also high salinity water between Lindsay and Exeter.

The City and KDWCD have mutual interests in restoring and maintaining groundwater supplies and controlling floodwater. The City and the District have worked on a number of projects in the past that benefit both of their interests. An important Army Corps of Engineers flood control project that also benefited the area's water supply was the recently constructed spillway-raising project at Terminus Dam. This project raised the spillway by 21 feet, thereby increasing water storage capability behind the dam by 30 percent. In general, the City, Cal Water, KDWCD, and other agencies in the area work together in the efficient handling and importation of surface water for the purpose of recharging the Kaweah Sub-basin's groundwater. This effort helps offset declines in groundwater elevations.

Over the years, Cal Water has been operating based on the assumption that groundwater will continue to be pumped in an un-adjudicated groundwater basin. Based on their assessment of water supply reliability, Cal Water concluded in the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan: Visalia District (UWMP) that it will be able to supply its customers' full service demand in the future. The Kaweah Sub-basin continues to be un-adjudicated at this time.

Water Supply and Distribution System

The groundwater supply is distributed by the California Water Service Company (Cal Water). Cal Water's Visalia District supply wells extract groundwater from the Kaweah Groundwater Subbasin. The Cal Water system includes 75 operational groundwater wells, about one third of which have auxiliary power for backup. There are 519 miles of main pipeline in the system, ranging in size from two inches in diameter to 12 inches in diameter. The Cal Water system includes two elevated 300,000-gallon storage tanks, an ion exchange treatment plant, four granular activated carbon filter plants and one nitrate blending facility. These facilities are in place to provide Cal

[7] In Goshen Area:T18S/R23E, the east half of both Section 24 and Section 25 and T18S/R24E, Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, and 30. In Central Visalia Area: T18S/R24E, Sections 25, 26, 34, 35, and 36; T18S/R25E, Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32; T19S/R24E, Sections 1, 2, and 3; and T19S/R25E, Section 6.

Water's customers with safe drinking water of a quality and quantity to meet State and federal drinking water standards.

In addition to the system serving the City of Visalia, Cal Water also operates three other small systems in the Visalia area, defined as Oak Ranch, (wells with distribution pipeline), Post Mitts (two wells with distribution pipeline), and Fairway (well with distribution pipeline). These systems are within Cal Water's Visalia District system, but are outside of Visalia city limits.

In general, the system is a looped water distribution system with deep wells spaced throughout a distribution pipeline grid system. The deep well and pipeline grid has expanded with the growth of the city. Because of the area's flat topography, the entire system is in one pressure zone, with wells spaced throughout the system. Modeling analysis done for the Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan indicate that the grid system pipe sizes and well spacing have kept normal operating pressures in the system above 40 pounds per square inch (psi) and fire flow pressure residuals at fire hydrants above 20 psi.

Cal Water operates as a private utility regulated by the California Public Utility Commission. Cal Water's drinking water must meet standards set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Safe Drinking Water Act. The California Act authorizes the California Department of Public Health to protect the public from contaminants in drinking water by establishing maximum contaminants levels that are at least as stringent as those developed by the US EPA. Cal Water operates within these federal and State requirements and must meet reporting and operating requirements as regulated by the California Department of Public Health.

Current and Projected Demand

The system serves an estimated population of 134,410, which could grow to 214,930 by 2030 according to the adopted 2010 UWMP. Cal Water estimated that it was serving 39,205 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in 2010, with an expected growth to 61,956 customers (households and businesses) by 2030.

According to the UWMP, Cal Water has a design capacity to pump 100,829 acre-feet per year (afy) in 2010, all from groundwater. This maximum pumping capacity is expected to remain relatively constant through 2030. The UWMP indicates that the pumping capacity at this level will continue to keep up with the demand requirements through 2030 and beyond. The water volume pumped in 2010 was 31,762 afy. Cal Water's recent estimates also indicate a relatively uniform growth rate of 43,002 afy by the year 2030. **Table 3.9-4** shows the annual estimated demand for the mix of uses in the Cal Water System for the years 2020 and 2030.

As shown in **Table 3.9-4**, growth is expected in each of the service types with residential and government demand growing at more than twice the rate of the commercial and industrial sector. In fact, Cal Water projects 57 percent more service connections in 2030 compared to 2010, with overall demand expected to be 47 percent higher than 2010. Cal Water projects 24 percent more service connections in 2030 compared to 2020, with demand expected to grow 23 percent over the same period.

Table 3.9-4: Cal Water Projected Deliveries

Customer Type	*Projected Number of Service Connections 2020*	*Projected Annual Demand 2020 Acre-feet (gallons per minute)*	*Projected Number of Service Connections 2030*	*Projected Annual Demand 2030 Acre-feet (gallons per minute)*
		24,725		31,344
Single-Family Residential	44,477	(15,318)	55,165	(19,419)
		2,394		3,035
Multi-Family Residential	562	(1,483)	702	(1,880)
		4,426		5,007
Commercial	3,901	(2,742)	4,348	(3,102)
		463		530
Industrial	73	(287)	82	(328)
		2,289		2,902
Institutional/Government	953	(1,418)	1,190	(1,798)
		145		184
Other	59	(89)	74	(114)
		34,443		**43,002**
Total	**50,024**	**(21,339)**	**61,956**	**(26,642)**

Source: Cal Water, 2011

Future Supply and Distribution Issues

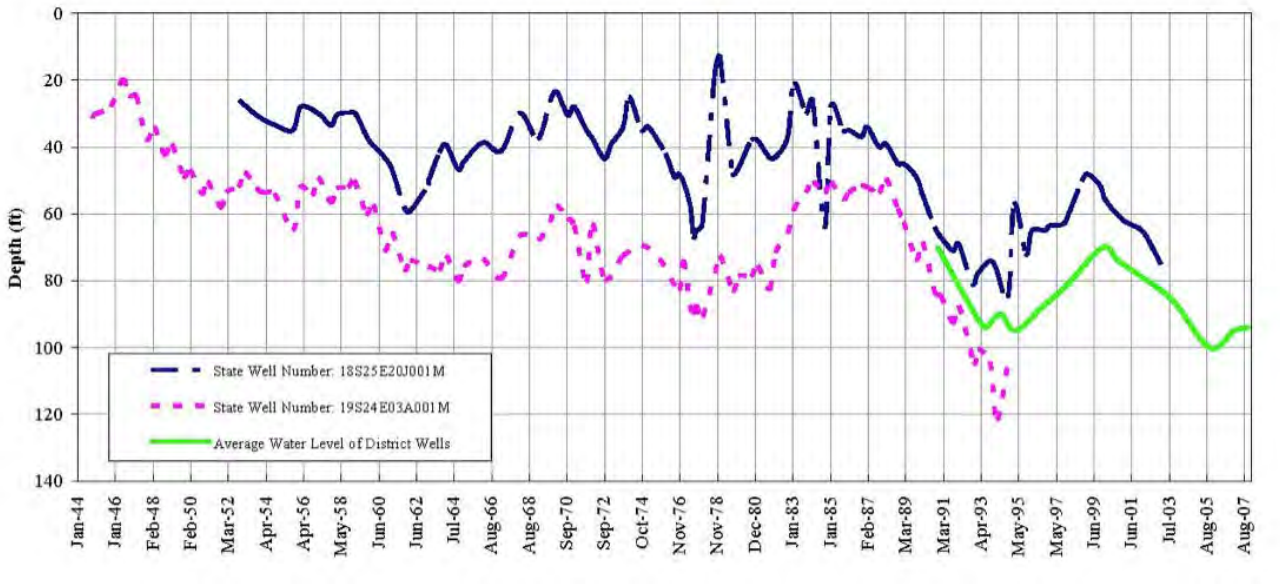
In the current regulatory environment, the water supply for the San Joaquin Basin overall and the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region is at increased risk of further degradation. Though the UWMP indicates that groundwater will continue to be the sole source of water supply for Visalia in the foreseeable future, the next update to the UWMP may need to consider a change to this approach. There are several potential supply issues, described below.

There are a number of inactive wells in the Visalia District because of both mechanical problems and quality degradation of the underground supply. Cal Water has monitored the system over the years for quality as well as mechanical reliability and has taken the necessary corrective actions to keep the system operating within required standards for pressure, quantity, and quality. As the City considers future development updates that will increase water demand, especially for infill areas of Visalia, the inability to drill new deep wells within the sections of land where ground water quality is a concern will need to be taken into account. Larger transmission pipelines, with remote large volume deep wells, or construction of a surface water treatment plant are two alternatives that may need to be evaluated in lieu of drilling new wells within the restricted areas.

The Kaweah Sub-basin is considered to be in an overdraft condition on an average long-term basis. **Figure 3.9-5** shows the downward trend in groundwater depths for the Cal Water System as presented in the UWMP. The UWMP indicates that groundwater elevations have declined up to 80 feet over a 50-year period. The City, Cal Water and the KDWCD recognize the need for responsible management of groundwater resources. KDWCD's 2006 Groundwater Management Plan sets out a goal to gather and evaluate data concerning groundwater quality. KDWCD releases annual reports to offer efficient and effective groundwater management, the most recent up-

date of which was released in 2010. In addition to groundwater management activities, surface water transfers or exchanges will likely be necessary to alleviate overdraft conditions in and around Visalia. The City can use the UWMP update process to set water policy goals consistent with overall City goals.

Figure 3.9-5: Average Depth to Groundwater



One area lacking proposed domestic water infrastructure is the southwest portion of the city since the area is outside the 2005 Master Plan planning area. Generally, the area is west of Akers Street and south of Caldwell Avenue. While development in that area is not anticipated to occur for another five or more years, it is recommended that Cal Water be consulted for design of appropriate water supply infrastructure once conceptual development plans are started.

Additionally, Cal Water believes the East Downtown area, bounded by Ben Maddox Way, Santa Fe Street, Mineral King Avenue and Goshen / Murray Avenue, will require upgrades to the existing water system as more dense development occurs. Their current plans include drilling a new well, constructing a large storage tank, and installing larger twelve-inch mains to serve the area. These improvements will occur as development or redevelopment takes place and once completed will be sufficient to support the increased density in the area. Based on the City's current Civic Center planning effort, it is anticipated these improvements will occur in the next two to seven years.

Water Conservation

The California Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SB X7-7), which mandates a 20 percent reduction in urban per capita water use by December 31, 2020, acts as an incentive for Visalia to reduce its water demand. The law requires urban retail suppliers, such as Cal Water, to develop urban water use requirements. Cal Water has developed a water conservation program for Visalia that includes:

- Residential Water Use Survey Program;
- Residential High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program;
- Conservation Kit Program;
- Large Landscape Monthly Water Use & Survey Program;
- Large Landscape Rebate Program;
- Public Information Program; and
- School Education Program.

In addition to these programs, Cal Water is in the process of converting its non-metered flat rate customers to metered service connections.

Cal Water has also expressed interest in partnering with the City in establishing a reclaimed water system. As supply shrinks and demand increases over time, this type of system may become increasingly valuable. At this time, the City is developing a recycled water system that could greatly expand the use of recycled water and directly affect reductions in groundwater pumping for irrigation or landscaping.

Treated surface water used for municipal purposes is generally more expensive to deliver than groundwater pumped from a deep well. However, surface water treatment and delivery is one of the best ways to directly reduce groundwater pumping and therefore reduce the groundwater overdraft that the area is experiencing. This alternative may become necessary over time as ground water depths increase. A large water treatment plant would affect Cal Water's distribution system by introducing a need for larger transmission mains, which are not presently part of the distribution system. Also, locating and maintaining a reliable and steady surface water supply would be an additional challenge.

Even with an aggressive conservation program, the City will need to look for additional ways to balance groundwater usage against increasing demand and decreasing importation of water to the groundwater basin. The City will need to continue to use surface water for recharging of groundwater and look for increased surface water sources. The City also needs to work with Cal Water to evaluate the potential for using treated water from the City's Water Conservation Plant to maximize the positive groundwater benefits.

Wastewater Management

Wastewater Treatment

The City owns and operates a Water Conservation Plant (WCP), located west of Highway 99 and south of Highway 198. Presently, the WCP's permitted capacity as established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is 20 million gallons per day (mgd). As of the beginning of 2010, the plant operates at an average daily flow of 13 mgd with effluent treated to a secondary treatment level, disinfected then discharged into Mill Creek and/or stored in basins owned by the City. Currently, the treated effluent from the WCP is discharged to Mill Creek under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2006-0091, issued by the California RWQCB, Central Valley Region. Among other requirements, this order limits the WCP discharge to an average flow of 20

mgd, which is 2 mgd below the rated capacity of the existing treatment plant. The order includes a requirement that the ammonia concentration in the discharge be reduced to 0.025 mg/L by March 25, 2011. The 20 mgd discharge limit was determined based on the EIR analysis conducted for the WCP.

In late 2013, the City prepared to upgrade the WCP to discharge tertiary-level effluent, including denitrification. As part of the plant upgrade the City will discontinue the discharge of disinfected secondary effluent to Mill Creek and divert the tertiary plant discharge to City-owned Basin No. 4, to a Tulare Irrigation District channel, or for irrigation purposes east of State Route 99. The EIR for the upgrade project analyzed discharge volumes of 22 mgd (the current capacity of the plant) and 26 mgd, which is its planned future capacity. An updated RWQCB permit for the WCP, anticipated in 2014, will reflect the plant's 22 mgd capacity. When the plant has completed its expansion to 26 mgd, a new permit will be issued to reflect that value.

Recycled Water and Non-potable Irrigation Water Supply

As mentioned above, in recent years, the City's demand for water has increased and resulted in overdraft of the city's groundwater basin. Therefore, recycling and reuse of WCP effluent is a part of the City's plan to reduce its demand for water. The Visalia WCP 2008 Master Plan identified the potential of recycled water reuse for irrigation of the Valley Oaks Golf Course, Highway 99 and 198 interchange, and the local airport. Potential for recycled water reuse was further identified for irrigation of additional parks and agricultural lands within the city as well as a water exchange with the Tulare Irrigation District.

As part of the City's WCP Upgrade Project, starting construction in 2014, recycled water suitable for the identified park, golf course, and agricultural uses will become available. The tertiary treated water delivered will be in conformance with California Administrative Code Title 22. Additionally, plant capacity will be increased to 22 mgd with the ability to ultimately expand to 26 mgd. The treated water will be exchanged for upstream water that can be stored in recharge basins east of Visalia. These basins have greater potential to recharge the underlying aquifers and should help lessen the overdraft situation in the long term. In addition to recharge, treated water may also be used to irrigate the areas noted above, reducing the amount of pumped groundwater.

Sewer Collection System

The currently adopted Sewer System Master Plan (SSMP) for the city was completed in February 1994. The citywide system was divided into eight service areas based on proposed and existing sewer trunk lines. The proposed improvements in the Sewer System Master Plan were also divided according to three growth rings established for the 2020 Land Use Element of the current General Plan. The City has used this information to aid in the development of its Capital Improvement Program for sanitary sewer facilities as development and growth have occurred. The current sanitary sewer system comprises over 468 miles of gravity-flow sanitary sewer pipe ranging in size from four inches to 48 inches, with 12 SCADA-connected lift stations.

In 2005, an update to the 1994 SSMP was undertaken that has not yet been adopted by the City Council. In general, the updated Master Plan includes ten basin service areas and uses better modeling software. The 2005 SSMP refined what was proposed in the 1994 Master Plan and confirmed the majority of the pipe network along with trunk sewer pipe sizes.

Since the preparation of the 2005 SSMP, the City has completed additional follow-up analysis as growth patterns have changed and specific development projects have been proposed. These analyses are contained as appendices to the 2005 SSMP and focus on the ability of the existing system to handle proposed development projects prior to installing Master Planned facilities and the ability of a proposed Master Plan trunk line to handle the added load for one project planned to be outside the Urban Development Boundary.

As part of the East Downtown Parks and Infrastructure Master Plan in 2007, Akel Engineering performed an analysis using proposed higher population densities for approximately 170 acres in the area bounded by Bridge Street, Ben Maddox Way, Goshen/Murray Avenue, and Mineral King Avenue. The results of this analysis indicate that the sanitary sewer trunk line improvements noted in the 2005 SSMP will need to be extended to the east to support the proposed increased densities in the East Downtown area. With the addition of the noted improvements in the November 2007 report, the sanitary sewer system will be able to handle the planned load increases associated with increased development and redevelopment of the East Downtown area (which is consistent with the proposed General Plan). In general, the enhancements include upsizing pipes (either existing or identified in the 2005 SSMP) and rerouting a section of pipeline, thereby providing a more direct route for flow to the west.

In the summer of 2013, the City began design of the Mineral King Avenue sanitary sewer improvements west of Court Street noted in the 2005 SSMP. Depending on available funding and completion of the plans, construction could begin in mid to late 2014.

Expanded development in the southwest quadrant is not included in the 2005 SSMP and therefore was not accounted for when analyzing 2005 sanitary sewer infrastructure needs. Sewer flows from this area will need to be analyzed as the area develops, or as part of a Master Plan update. The area is generally the undeveloped portion of the Planning Area west of Akers Street to State Route 99 and south of Walnut Avenue to Avenue 272.

Additional water conservation measures will likely cause reductions in average daily flows to the WCP. However, peak flows, which are unlikely to decrease significantly, will need to be considered as a key parameter in the sizing of sewer trunk lines as increased densities are proposed.

Stormwater Management

The 1994 Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP) identified required facilities to accommodate buildout to the 2020 development boundary under the current General Plan. This plan was expanded from a very similar prior plan adopted in 1989. The 1994 SWMP identified waterways throughout the city that convey stormwater toward the southwest into a number of large basins on the west side of the city. Prior to beginning its General Plan update, the City embarked on an effort to update the SWMP. A consultant modeled the existing conditions of the city's storm sewer system and is expected to finish the SWMP update once the General Plan update has been completed.

The 1994 SWMP established tributary areas for seven waterways through the plan area, plus the Goshen Drain. The main drains identified included the St. Johns River, Modoc Ditch, Goshen Drain, Mill Creek, Evans Ditch, Packwood Creek, Cameron Creek, and Persian/Watson ditches.

The proposed system takes street and lot drainage into a storm drain pipeline system that flows generally by gravity, augmented with lift pumps, toward the main drain system. The system relies on detention basins and several retention basins to slow and divert stormwater for larger storms. This allows the creeks and ditches to convey stormwater both during and after storms, and permits the existing creek and ditch system to handle larger storms than would otherwise be the case.

The creeks and ditches used for stormwater conveyance also convey irrigation flows. The City has a number of agreements with agencies and companies that use these facilities for irrigation deliveries. The agreements set requirements and limitations on each of the parties for use of these creeks and ditches.

The City, in conjunction with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and Tulare Irrigation District, continues to develop ways to increase groundwater recharge capabilities. These efforts include use of the city's existing stormwater basins as surface water layoff basins for groundwater recharge. Some of this effort is discussed in a document called Phase I Storm Water Master Plan, City of Visalia, prepared for the City and Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District by Dennis Keller in December 2005. Shared use of facilities including creeks and ditches through the city, as well as upstream basins and downstream basins, are discussed and proposed for dual use to the benefit of both groundwater recharge and stormwater protection. The Phase II portion of the Storm Water Master Plan will build on the Phase I recommendations as the extent of proposed improvements are evaluated in conjunction with the update to the General Plan.

The SWMP, adopted before more restrictive NPDES-2 measures were required, indicates direct connection of many storm drain pipelines to creeks and ditches. Because of flat topography, the direct discharge concept in many cases has not been practical and therefore has not been implemented in as many locations as originally proposed. The City now has a goal of not allowing new direct connection to creeks and ditches, although there are some exceptions in existing developed areas where there are no other options.

It is expected that over time, stormwater treatment measures will become more important. Low Impact Design (LID) measures are already being proposed in some areas of the city and will likely be replicated to some degree throughout the city with increased demand for higher quality stormwater discharge and the need to reduce stormwater impacts with higher density development.

The City is also working to improve and increase the capacity of several stormwater recharge basins at the fringes of the city. Doing so will provide opportunities to reduce the amount of water in Mill Creek during major storm events.

Solid Waste

Regionally, the Tulare County Resource Management Agency manages solid waste disposal in accordance with the Tulare County Integrated Waste Management Plan. Programs include household hazardous waste disposal, electronics recycling, tire recovery, yard waste recycling, metal recycling and appliance recovery programs. The county landfills approximately 300,000 tons of waste per year, which is equivalent to about 5 pounds per person per day or one ton per county resident per year. The County operates three disposal sites: the Visalia Disposal Site,

northwest of Visalia; the Woodville Disposal Site, southeast of Tulare; and the Teapot Dome Disposal Site, southwest of Porterville. The current permits for the sites are summarized in **Table 3.9-5**. The County also operates seven transfer stations. These transfer stations are located in rural areas for the convenience of the people who live near them and these facilities do not accept large volumes of waste. The County does not provide waste collection services.

The County is currently in the process of reviewing the solid waste system to upgrade its disposal sites. It is seeking to expand both the capacity and lifespans of the sites to ensure that waste from the county continues to be disposed locally.

Table 3.9-5: Disposal Site Capacity

Disposal Site	*Maximum Permitted Throughput (tons/day)*	*Maximum Permitted Capacity (cu. yds.)*	*Remaining Capacity (cu. yds.)*	*Ceased Operation Date*
Teapot Dome	600	6,546,407	1,465,483[1]	12/31/2022
Visalia	2,000	18,630,666	16,145,591[2]	1/1/2024
Woodville	1,078	11,924,450	6,970,183[3]	12/31/2026
Total	**3,678**	**37,101,523**	**24,258,052**	

1. As of July 1, 2009.
2. As of March 31, 2006.
3. As of February 28, 2006.

Sources: CalRecycle Solid Waste Information System, 2013; Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2013.

Locally, Sunset Waste Systems provides solid waste collection and recyclable material processing services to several municipalities and commercial enterprises located throughout Fresno, Kern, Tulare and Kings counties, including the cities and jurisdictions of Fresno, Visalia, Sanger, Reedley, Delano, Woodlake, Biola, Lindsay, the Lemoore Naval Air Station, and unincorporated Fresno and Kings counties.

Recycling and Solid Waste Diversion

The City provides split containers for residential trash and recycling, and green waste containers for residential green waste and compostable materials. The City also actively encourages commercial recycling and provides refuse, green waste and recycling bins or boxes to the commercial accounts it services. As of 2006, Visalia also has a construction and demolition debris recycling and reuse plan requirement.

The Consolidated Waste Management Authority (CWMA) is a joint powers authority that is recognized by the State and collectively manages the solid waste recycling and diversion activities for eight local area members including Tulare County, Tulare, Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay and Porterville. The CWMA has continued to improve its diversion rate as established by the State. The State recently changed its diversion calculation method from a percentage of waste diverted from the landfill to a calculation of pounds per person per day (PPD) that goes to the landfills. Most recent data shows that the CWMA has a base rate to achieve of 6.2 PPD, and the

CWMA has been able to successfully achieve an annual PPD significantly lower than the benchmark established by the State. In 2008 the CWMA achieved a diversion rate of 5.2 PPD, and in 2009 lowered it even further to 4.4PPD.

Table 3.9-6 shows the collection efforts of the City of Visalia and a comparable PPD calculation.

Table 3.9-6: Waste and Recyclables Collected by the City of Visalia

Year	*Total Waste Tonnage Collected*	*Population*	*PPD[1]*
2009	70,844.22	123,670	3.1
2008	72,917.29	120,958	3.3
2007	79,614.62	117,138	3.7
2006	81,758.65	110,488	4.1

1. Calculated as pounds of waste per year/365/population.

Source: City of Visalia, 2010

Visalia waste collection efforts indicate that the city's recycling rate calculated as PPD is consistently decreasing year to year, and is consistently below the PPD calculated for the CWMA (note that there is no established benchmark for the City of Visalia so a determination cannot be made as to whether or not the City of Visalia is meeting State goals for diversion on its own).

In an effort to increase the recycling and reuse participation rate in the city, Visalia recently began a household compost collection program. According to an article in the *Visalia Times-Delta*, in July 2010, about 6,000 homes along four waste-collection routes received brochures describing common kitchen leftovers—such as pizza boxes and hamburger wrappers—that may be placed in the new green-waste containers. In subsequent months, more homes (about 4,000 at a time) were notified of the waste diversion effort. The City was hoping to achieve an additional 20 percent participation rate once this program is fully and correctly implemented.

REGULATORY SETTING

Definitions

Emergency Response Time

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) defines "response time" as "the travel time that begins when units are en route to the emergency incident and ends when units arrive at the scene."

ISO Rating System

Insurance Service Office (ISO) is a private company that inspects and ranks fire departments across the country to help insurance companies determine premiums for homeowners in the areas they serve. The ISO collects and analyzes firefighting capability information on nearly 46,000 areas and rates departments on fire suppression ability, water availability and communications. ISO's methodology, known as the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, assigns a class rating on a scale of 1 to 10, with Class 1 given to exemplary fire departments and Class 10 to departments that do not meet minimum criteria.

Federal, State, and Local Regulations

Fire Services

Uniform Fire Code

The National Fire Protection Association publishes the Uniform Fire Code which provides standards for fire protection. The nationally recognized standards require that fire departments "have the capability to deploy an initial full alarm assignment within eight (8) minute response time to 90 percent of the incidents (NFPA 1710)."

California Fire Code

The California Fire Code (Title 24, Part 9 of the California Code of Regulations) establishes regulations to safeguard against hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises. The provisions of the Fire Code apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every building or structure throughout the State of California. The Fire Code includes regulations regarding fire-resistance-rated construction, fire protection systems such as alarm and sprinkler systems, fire services features such as fire apparatus access roads, means of egress, fire safety during construction and demolition, and wildland-urban interface areas.

City of Visalia Fire Department Plan Check and Hydrant Ordinance

Visalia's requirements for new construction include provisions for the Fire Department to review building and site plans prior to the issuance of any permit. The Fire Department ensures that proposed projects will be adequately served by water, and accessible to emergency vehicles. The Department also enforces the City's Hydrant Ordinance, which states that subdividers are responsible for the installation of water mains and hydrants, and determines the minimum spacing for fire hydrants. Street dimensions are scrutinized to ensure that space will be preserved for ladder trucks to be stabilized, and for emergency vehicles to turn around. Basic requirements in the City's subdivision ordinance include 52-foot minimum right-of-way widths and a 53-foot turning radius for cul-de-sacs.

Master Mutual Aid Plan

The City of Visalia actively participates in the California Master Mutual Aid Plan. Formal mutual aid agreements have been written between the City and surrounding jurisdictions. A broad automatic aid agreement encompassing 59 square miles surrounding Visalia exists between Tulare County and the City.

Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazards Mitigation Plan

Visalia is one of 11 member jurisdictions of a Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazards Mitigation Plan (MJ-LHMP) led by the Tulare County Office of Emergency Services. The MJ-LHMP is a formal document designed to significantly reduce loss of life and injuries resulting from a disaster; minimize damage to structures and property, as well as destruction of essential services and activities; protect the environment; and promote hazard mitigation as an integrated public policy. The most

recent version of the MJ-LHP was adopted in 2011; updates to the plan are carried out every five years.

Visalia Emergency Operations Plan

The California Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550-8668) requires each city to prepare and maintain an Emergency Plan for natural, manmade, or war-caused emergencies that result in conditions of disaster or in extreme peril to life. The Visalia Emergency Operations Plan was updated and adopted in 2011. The Plan includes planning and response scenarios for seismic hazards, extreme weather conditions, landslides, dam failure and other flooding, wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, transportation emergencies, civil disturbance, and terrorist attacks. It is meant to work in conjunction with the Tulare County Emergency Operations Plan and the State Emergency Plan. The Emergency Council of the Tulare County Operational Area meets for regional coordination purposes at least four times per year. In addition, the Visalia Fire Department has specific procedures for hazardous materials emergency response.

Parks

Quimby Act

The 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code section 66477) authorized cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. The Act states that the dedication requirement of parkland can be a minimum of three acres per thousand residents or more and up to five acres per thousand residents if the existing ratio is greater than the minimum standard. Revenues generated through in-lieu fees collected and the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities. In 1982, the Act was substantially amended. The amendments further defined acceptable uses of or restrictions on Quimby funds, provided acreage/population standards and formulas for determining the exaction, and indicated that the exactions must be closely tied (nexus) to a project's impacts as identified through studies required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

State Open Space Standards

State planning law (Government Code Section 65560) provides a structure for the preservation of open space by requiring every city and county in the state to prepare, adopt, and submit to the Secretary of the Resources Agency a "local open-space plan for the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of open-space land within its jurisdiction." The following open space categories are identified for preservation:

- *Open space for public health and safety,* including, but not limited to, areas that require special management or regulation due to hazardous or special conditions.
- *Open space for the preservation of natural resources,* including, but not limited to, natural vegetation, fish and wildlife, and water resources.
- *Open space for resource management and production,* including, but not limited to, agricultural and mineral resources, forests, rangeland, and areas required for the recharge of groundwater basins.

- *Open space for outdoor recreation,* including, but not limited to, parks and recreational facilities, areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations (such as trails, easements, and scenic roadways), and areas of outstanding scenic and cultural value.
- *Open space for the protection of Native American sites,* including, but not limited to, places, features, and objects of historical, cultural, or sacred significance such as Native American sanctified cemeteries, places of worship, religious or ceremonial sites, or sacred shrines located on public property (further defined in California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.9 and 5097.993).

City of Visalia General Plan Policies

Conservation, Open Space, Recreation and Parks Element

The Conservation, Open Space, Recreation and Parks Element of Visalia's General Plan was last comprehensively updated in 1989, with numerous amendments in subsequent years. With regards to parks and recreation, the element covers community waterways, open space resources, park acquisition and development, park location and design, trails and bikeways, and recreation programs and facilities. The implementation section includes fundraising and proposed park development and improvement projects. The element goals pertaining to parks and recreation include:

- **Goal 2:** Create and preserve an open space system in the Visalia planning area to meet a variety of needs.
- **Goal 3:** Develop a high quality public park system which provides adequate space and facilities for varied recreational opportunities which are conveniently accessible to all Visalia residents.
- **Goal 4:** Provide a range of leisure, recreation, and cultural programs and facilities that are accessible and affordable to all segments of the community.
- **Goal 5:** Structure an Implementation program for achieving the policies of this Element through a combination of public and private funds, regulatory processes, and innovative strategies.

There are four different categories of open space resources, those used for:

- Preservation of natural resources;
- Managed production of resources;
- Outdoor recreation; and
- Public health and safety.

Open space designated for outdoor recreation consists of parks, trails, natural preserves, and bikeways. These areas may also serve dual natural functions as natural habitat, flood control, and irrigation. Policies pertaining to open spaces specify setbacks, appropriate adjacent uses, location

and design standards for new facilities, and programming. Implementation policies for securing and funding open space resources include utilization of conservation easements, restrictive covenants, transferable development rights, and fees on new development.

Open Space Plans

Waterways and Trails Master Plan

The Waterways and Trails Master Plan, adopted in 2004, outlines goals, policies, design standards, and implementation strategies for the development of a multi-purpose trail system along Visalia's primary community waterways. The trail system would link neighborhoods, parks, schools, Downtown, and other activity centers. The plan focuses on developing trails along three waterways: Packwood Creek, Mill Creek, and Cameron Creek. These trails are designed to link up to the city's existing trail system along the St. Johns River and the bike network. Mill Creek is proposed to be fully daylighted through Downtown. Ultimately, the completed system would form a "ring recreational trail" around the city's periphery, several cross-town routes along waterways and other primary corridors, and a major north/south route along Santa Fe Avenue. Along each waterway, a preferred trail alignment is identified, and recommendations and policies are made for landscaping improvements and habitat restoration within the waterway setback.

East Downtown Visalia Park and Infrastructure Master Plan

This Master Plan, completed in 2008, is a companion to the East Downtown Visalia Strategic Plan, going into more depth on streets and public spaces. The Strategic Plan's definition of six distinct districts was used as an organizing principle for streets and public spaces. Community workshops helped to prioritize Plan goals, with stream restoration, preservation of old oak trees, and street connectivity ranking highly. The Master Plan has not been adopted.

Civic Center Park and Central Park

This Plan focuses on two proposed parks, Civic Center Park and Central Park, and the waterways associated with each. Civic Center Park would be linear, and would have a more formal character. Mill Creek, along its southern edge, would remain seasonal. Three options are presented for the creek, to leave flexibility given its current location on private property.

Central Park, at 12 acres, would be the main open space for East Downtown, and would have a natural character. Year-round water flow would be introduced, and meanders would be created. New "oxbow" ponds would play both landscape and drainage roles.

West Highway 198 Corridor Concept Plan

In 2002, a preliminary Concept Plan was completed for the primarily non-urbanized land on both sides of Highway 198 between central Visalia and Highway 99. The Plan's vision is of a corridor whose rural character is preserved to define the western entry to the city, achieved by means that balance community and property owner objectives.

The Concept Plan promotes rural residential uses, clustered development, and landscaped buffers. It also calls for 374 acres of open space to be preserved, primarily south of Highway 198. The open space system would be developed concurrently with urban uses, and would include trails, neigh-

borhood and community parks, recreation facilities, water features, and oak woodlands. To minimize public costs, the Plan recommends coordination between the City, school districts, and stormwater and irrigation districts. The Concept Plan has not been adopted.

Recent Actions

In April 2010, City Council approved the establishment of a 200-foot setback from Highway 198, creating a substantial open space scenic corridor along both sides of the roadway. The open space corridor would also include land at the northwest corner of Highway 198 and Shirk, which allows the area around Mill Creek to develop an urban waterway trail in accordance with the Waterways and Trails Master Plan. In turn, the 1,100 acres of land beyond the corridor will be considered for urban uses in the General Plan Update, thus ensuring land owners that the opportunity to develop their land remains even after the establishment of the corridor. City Council directed the Parks and Recreation Department to begin developing an open space corridor design for the 200-foot setback area.

Water

Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), administered by the U.S. EPA in coordination with the states, is the main federal law that ensures the quality of drinking water. Under the SDWA, EPA sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards. The Department of Public Health administers the regulations contained in the Act in the State of California.

California Water Code and Regional Water Quality Control Boards

The California Water Code (Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act) established the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) as the principal state agencies having primary responsibility in coordinating and controlling water quality in California. The Code establishes the responsibility of the RWQCBs for adopting, implementing, and enforcing water quality control plans (i.e. Basin Plans), which set forth the State's water quality standards (i.e. beneficial uses of surface waters and groundwater) and the objectives or criteria necessary to protect those beneficial uses. The Planning Area lies within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley RWQCB, which has adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to implement plans, policies, and provisions for water quality management.

Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SB X7-7)

This State legislative package mandates a 20 percent statewide reduction of urban per capita water use by the year 2020. Its provisions require urban water suppliers to adopt reduction targets according to baseline water use determinations, and agricultural water suppliers to prepare agricultural water management plans. Following SB X7-7, urban water management plans must include baseline water use and reduction targets, and report on target compliance. In addition to adopting agricultural water management plans, agricultural water suppliers must measure the volume of water delivered according to methodology adopted by the Department of Water Resources, and adopt specified efficient water management practices. Non-compliance will be penalized by dis-

qualification for State water grants and loans. Failure to meet targets after the 2020 deadline will be considered a violation of the law.

Urban Water Management Planning Act

Since 1984, the Urban Water Management Planning Act has required "urban water suppliers" to develop written urban water management plans. While generally aimed at encouraging water suppliers to implement water conservation measures, it also created long-term planning obligations. In preparing urban water management plans, urban water suppliers must describe the following:

- Existing and planned water supply and demand;
- Water conservation measures and a schedule for implementing and evaluating such measures; and
- Water shortage contingency measures.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires urban water suppliers to use a 20-year planning horizon and to update the data in the urban water plans every five years. In preparing their 20-year management plans, water suppliers must address the subject of future population growth.

California Department of Public Health

The Drinking Water Program, which regulates public water supply systems, is a major component of the State Department of Public Health Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management. Regulatory responsibilities include the enforcement of the federal and State Safe Drinking Water Acts, the regulatory oversight of public water systems, issuance of water treatment permits, and certification of drinking water treatment and distribution operators. State regulations for potable water are contained primarily within the Food and Agricultural Code, the Government Code, the Health and Safety Code, the Public Resources Code, and the Water Code. Regulations are from Title 17 and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

The regulations governing recycled water are found in a combination of sources including the Health and Safety Code, Water Code, and Titles 22 and 17 of the California Code of Regulations. Issues related to treatment and distribution of recycled water are generally under the influence of the RWQCB, while issues related to use and quality of recycled water are the responsibility of the California Department of Public Health.

California Environmental Quality Act, SB 610, and SB 221

Section 15083.5 of the CEQA Guidelines requires the City to request certain information from the public water supply system(s) serving the Planning Area. This requested information includes: an indication of whether the projected water demand associated with the proposed General Plan was included in its last Urban Water Management Plan; and, an assessment for any major development projects “whether its total projected water supplies available during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years as included in the 20-year projection contained in its urban water man-

agement plan will meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project, in addition to the system's existing and planned future uses."

Senate Bill 610 became effective January 1, 2002 and requires cities in connection with CEQA review to consider water supply assessments to determine whether projected water supplies can meet the project's anticipated water demand. SB 610 also requires additional factors to be considered in the preparation of urban water management plans and water supply assessments.

SB 610 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15083.5 identifies those projects generally as a residential development of more than 500 dwelling units; a commercial or industrial business employing more than 1,000 persons; or any other project that would have a water demand at least equal to a 500 dwelling unit project. SB 221 contains similar provisions as SB 610 but is intended for use with large residential subdivisions and is usually required at the time of tentative tract map approval.

State Water Quality Certification Program

The RWQCBs also coordinate the State Water Quality Certification Program, or Section 401 of the CWA. Under Section 401, states have the authority to review any permit or license that will result in a discharge or disruption to wetlands and other waters under state jurisdiction, to ensure that the actions will be consistent with the state's water quality requirements. This program is most often associated with Section 404 of the CWA, which obligates the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits for the movement of dredge and fill material into and from the "waters of the United States." Additionally, Section 404 requires permits for activities affecting wetlands. Prospective alterations of hydrologic features such as wetlands, rivers, and ephemeral creek beds resulting from construction require Section 404 permits.

City of Visalia Water Conservation Ordinance

The City's Water Conservation Ordinance was adopted in 1989 and can be found in Chapter 13.20 of the Municipal Code. The Ordinance sets regulations to minimize outdoor water use and reduce unnecessary consumption of potable water. It defines and places restriction on wasteful uses of water and establishes water conservation alert stages to be enacted during periods of water shortage.

Cal Water Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) – Visalia District

The most recent UWMP was prepared by Cal Water in 2010 and adopted in 2011 in compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act. The UWMP describes the Visalia District service area, system demand and usage, available water resources, reliability of the water supply, and contingency planning for water shortage. It also contains a conservation section in compliance with SB X7-7 describing water usage reduction targets and implementation measures. The UWMP identifies five core programs for water conservation in the District that involve promotion of high-efficiency fixtures in residential settings, promotion of high-efficiency irrigation systems, and public information and education.

Wastewater

Federal Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) was enacted in Congress in 1972 and has been amended several times since its adoption. It is the primary federal law regulating water quality in the U.S. and forms the basis for several state and local laws throughout the country. Its objective is to reduce or eliminate water pollution in the nation's rivers, streams, lakes, and coastal waters. The CWA prescribes the basic federal laws for regulating discharges of pollutants and sets minimum water quality standards for all surface waters in the U.S. At the federal level, the CWA is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At the state and regional levels, the CWA is administered and enforced by the SWRCB and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

In 1987, amendments to the CWA added section 402(p), which established a framework to protect water quality by regulating industrial, municipal, and construction-related sources of pollutant discharges to waters of the U.S. The regulations require that discharges of stormwater from construction activity of one acre or more must be regulated and covered by a NPDES permit and that the applicant must develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to control non-point pollution. In California, the NPDES is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through the RWQCBs and requires that municipalities obtain permits which outline programs and activities to control stormwater pollution.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Plan

California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Plan 1998 – 2013 was developed by the SWRCB and California Coastal Commission, in cooperation with the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards, to conform to the requirements of Coastal Zone Reauthorization Act (CZARA) and the CWA.[8] The plan is intended to protect the State's water quality by expanding its polluted runoff control efforts. It specifies 60 management measures to prevent or reduce water quality degradation from agriculture, forestry, urban areas, marinas and boating, hydromodification, and wetlands. The Plan provides a single statewide approach to dealing with Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution. A total of 28 state agencies are working collaboratively through the Interagency Coordinating Committee to implement the NPS Pollution Control Program Plan.

Construction General NPDES Permit

Stormwater discharges from construction activities on one acre or more are regulated by the RWQCB and are subject to the permitting requirements of the NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Runoff Associated with Construction Activity (General Construction Permit, 99-08-DWQ). Effective July 1, 2010 all dischargers were required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ adopted on September 2, 2009. The RWQCB established the General Construction Permit program to reduce surface water impacts from construction activities. The General Construction Permit requires the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction activities. The

[8] State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Coastal Commission (CCC), 2000.

SWPPP must be prepared before the construction begins, and in certain cases, before demolition begins. The SWPPP must include specifications for BMPs that would be required during project construction. BMPs are measures that are undertaken to control degradation of surface water by preventing soil erosion or the discharge of pollutants from construction areas. The SWPPP must describe measures to prevent or control runoff after construction is complete and identify procedures for inspecting and maintaining facilities or other project elements.

Examples of typical construction BMPs include scheduling or limiting activities to certain times of year; installing sediment barriers such as silt fences and fiber rolls; maintaining equipment and vehicles used for construction; tracking controls such as stabilizing entrances to the construction site; and developing and implementing a spill prevention and cleanup plan. Non-stormwater management measures include installing specific discharge controls during certain activities, such as paving operations, and vehicle and equipment washing and fueling. The California Stormwater Quality Association established BMPs for the State of California in the California Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook (2003).

Solid Waste

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Amended 1986)

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act is a federal act regulating the potential health and environmental problems associated with solid waste hazards and non-hazardous wastes. Specific regulations addressing solid waste issues are contained in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

California Integrated Waste Management Board

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CalRecycle) establishes the statewide regulations for solid waste collection and disposal, including state-mandated diversion goals. Regulations authored by CalRecycle (Title 14) were integrated with related regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board pertaining to landfills (Title 23, Chapter 15) to form Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, or AB 939, mandated that all jurisdictions in the state divert at least 50 percent of their solid waste by 2000 through source reduction, composting, and recycling activities. The Act gives the highest priority to source reduction and defines it as the act of reducing the amount of solid waste generated in the first place. Recycling and composting are given the next highest priority. The Act specifies that all other waste that is not diverted be properly and safely disposed of in a landfill or through incineration. The California Integrated Waste Management Act also mandates that each jurisdiction adopt a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), which specifies how the community will meet the 50 percent goals set forth in the Act. Each community is also required to take measures to reduce solid waste generation and to provide for the safe disposal of special and hazardous wastes.

In 2009, AB 737 amended the Integrated Waste Management Act to require CalRecycle to adopt programs to increase statewide diversion to 75 percent by 2020. AB 737 also addresses recycling in the largely under-served commercial sector.

The California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act

Subsequent to the California Integrated Waste Management Act, additional legislation was passed to assist local jurisdictions in accomplishing the goals of AB939. The California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991 directs the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to draft a model ordinance relating to adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. The model ordinance is used by the County as the basis for imposing recycling conditions on new development projects and on existing projects that add 30 percent or more to their existing floor area. Beginning in 1994, the model ordinance requires that any new development project for which an application is submitted include adequate, accessible and convenient areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

The Solid Waste Disposal Measurement System Act

The Solid Waste Disposal Measurement System Act of 2008, SB 1016, amended the California Integrated Waste Management Act procedures for measuring and reporting diversion requirements. Starting in 2009, jurisdictions are required to calculate the 50 percent diversion requirement in a per capita disposal rate equivalent. CalRecycle will determine the per capita disposal rate equivalent for each jurisdiction.

CalRecycle delegates local permitting, enforcement, and inspection responsibilities to Local Enforcement Agencies (LEA). The Visalia Municipal Code contains regulations related to solid waste and recycling in Title 8, Chapters 28 and 29.

Impact Analysis

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Implementation of the proposed Project would have a potentially significant adverse impact if it would:

Criterion 1: Result in new development for which the provision of increased staffing, facilities, and equipment necessary to maintain acceptable levels of fire and police service could cause adverse environmental effects.

Criterion 2: Interfere with the provision of existing or planned school services or allow new development for which the provision of appropriate increases in school staffing or facilities could cause adverse environmental effects.

Criterion 3: Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Criterion 4: Require more water than currently available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources.

Criterion 5: Require or result in new, altered, or expanded wastewater or storm drainage systems, the construction of which could cause adverse environmental effects.

Criterion 6: Require or result in new or expanded solid waste disposal systems, the construction of which could cause adverse environmental effects.

Criterion 7: Conflict with existing city standards for parks provision.

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

This EIR addresses impacts to city infrastructure due to projected growth arising from proposed General Plan land use changes. Subsequent CEQA review at the project level may be required to determine whether significant environmental effects would result from the construction of water distribution lines, wastewater collection system components, storm drainage conveyance pipes, and any onsite storage or pumping facilities on development sites. Project-level review will occur when proposed development plans are prepared.

Population and Housing

Existing housing unit estimates are based on 2010 data from the Tulare County Assessor's office. Existing population estimates are based on results of the 2010 Census.

Buildout housing unit estimates are calculated using the gross acres of residential land designated in the proposed General Plan and the proposed development intensity for each residential classification. This housing unit estimate is then used to determine the number of new households at buildout by applying a projected vacancy rate of 5.5 percent. Buildout population estimates are then calculated using 2030 TCAG projections for household size of 3.0 persons per single-family unit and 2.1 persons per multi-family unit. The total buildout population is a sum of new residents generated by the proposed General Plan (67,700), new residents expected from pipeline development (17,500) and the 2010 population (124,442).

Police Services

The need for additional police services was evaluated based on the City Police Department maintaining the current service ratio of 1.7 officers (including sworn, reserve, and civilian) per 1,000 residents. The number of additional officers needed at General Plan buildout was determined using the estimated increase in population resulting from residential development within the Planning Area.

Fire Protection Services

The need for additional fire stations, staffing and equipment is evaluated based on the Fire Department's preliminary analysis in light of the General Plan's proposed growth areas and the need to maintain standards. The number of additional responders needed at plan buildout was determined using both the current service ratio of 0.48 responders per 1,000 residents and the NFPA service standard of 1 responder per 1,000 residents. The number of responders needed corresponds to the population of the entire Planning Area rather than just the area within city limits.

Schools

The projected student population at buildout was calculated using the buildout estimates for new single-family and multi-family households. These were multiplied by student generation rates

provided in the 2009 VUSD School Facilities Needs Analysis (see **Table 3.9-7**). The total buildout student population is a sum of new students generated by the proposed General Plan, new students expected from pipeline development, and the 2010 student population estimate provided by VUSD.

The assumption for the number of students per school is based on the target capacity for new schools adopted by the VUSD School Board. The assumption for the number of acres required per school is based on VUSD and the State of California school site guidelines. These are shown in **Table 3.9-7**.

Table 3.9-7: School Assumptions

	Student Generation Rates		*Site Requirements*	
	Household Type			
School Type	*SF*	*MF*	*Students per Sch.*	*Acres per School*
Elementary	0.448	0.144	650	10
Middle	0.092	0.017	900	22
High School	0.156	0.025	1800	60

Source: VUSD School Facility Needs Analysis, 2009.

Parks

This analysis considers the proposed General Plan policies and applicable regulations, as well as existing parks and recreation facilities in the Study Area. Acres of parkland needed for the park standard were calculated by dividing the projected new population at buildout (210,000) by 1,000, multiplying by 5.0 acres, and subtracting existing parkland. Recreational facilities needs are taken as those identified by the City as priorities. An increase in population without progress toward meeting parkland standards or identified recreational needs is regarded as a significant impact. It is assumed that a significant decrease in the parkland ratio would accelerate park deterioration.

Wastewater, Stormwater, and Domestic Water Infrastructure

The water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure analyses involve a review of Visalia's current infrastructure master plans to identify potential impacts based on changes in land use classifications and densities noted in the proposed General Plan, and determine whether existing and planned infrastructure would be adequate to accommodate the changes. The master plans referenced include: the September 1994 SWMP (adopted November 21, 1994), the 1994 SSMP (adopted February, 1994), and the March 2008 Visalia Water Conservation Plan (the 2008 Master Plan). Additionally, more recent infrastructure analysis and studies such as the 2008 East Downtown Parks and Infrastructure Master Plan (EDPI) and the as-yet-adopted Sanitary Sewer Collection System Master Plan, December 2005 (2005 SSMP) have been taken into consideration as part of the infrastructure review.

Changes in demand for infrastructure capacity were determined through a comparison of the proposed General Plan's land use designations and those in the existing General Plan. A majority of the land use classifications identified within the proposed General Plan have corresponding land use classifications in the existing General Plan. Therefore, where there are similar land use

classifications in the existing Plan and the Proposed Plan, there will be negligible effects on proposed master plan infrastructure. Urban Reserve classification areas that are proposed to change to an "active" or non-reserve specific land use classification are also seen to have little impact on the servicing infrastructure, as the City's master plans have anticipated the reclassification and have included these areas when developing the SWMP and SSMP infrastructure plans.

Wastewater

For the sanitary sewer system, the Adjusted Flow Coefficients (AFCs) used in the 2005 SSMP were applied to proposed like land use classifications to determine if the proposed land use would result in an increase, decrease, or no change in expected sanitary flow. The majority of the land use classifications in the proposed General Plan have a corresponding land use designation in the existing General Plan, so matching the Flow Coefficient is straightforward. However, the proposed General Plan proposes two more intense land uses that are not included in the existing Plan: Commercial Mixed Used (CM) and Downtown Mixed Use (DM). Based on similar development densities, the Medium Density Residential AFC of 1,300 gallons per day per gross acre (gpd/ga) was used for the CM designation. By adapting a study prepared by Akel Engineering as part of the EDPI, the flow coefficient for the DM classification was calculated to be 1,720 gpd/ga. Finally, a breakdown of development sub-categories for the Urban Reserve classification is considered in the 2005 SSMP and associated infrastructure plan, although in Table 3.6 of the 2005 SSMP, the sub-categories are combined into a single classification with a single AFC.

The coefficients were used to map areas where land use classifications are changing and whether those changes are expected to cause increases, decreases, or no change to sanitary sewer flows. This was then compared to the 2005 SSMP Proposed Improvements plan to see if planned sanitary sewer infrastructure would be adequate to support the land use changes. Areas on the map where less intense land use is proposed indicate the possibility of excess pipe capacity for existing and proposed lines. Areas where there is a proposed increase in land use intensity were reviewed to see if adequate infrastructure is included within the 2005 SSMP and supplemental studies.

To analyze the land use changes and impacts to the WCP, the sanitary sewer AFCs used in the 2005 SSMP and those identified for the CM and DM uses were applied to the gross acreages of the proposed land use categories to calculate total daily Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF) to the plant.

Stormwater

A similar analysis was conducted for the stormwater system. The Runoff Coefficient from the 1994 Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP) was used to determine which land use classification changes would cause an increase, decrease, or no net change in stormwater runoff. These changes in runoff were mapped and compared to the stormwater infrastructure plan to show where additional or less improvements are likely to be required.

Domestic Water

To calculate anticipated demands, the Demand Coefficients from the 2005 Water Master Plan were applied to the gross acreages of the proposed General Plan's land use classifications, and compared to the demand calculated in the 2005 Master Plan. Analysis of the domestic water system was based on domestic water demands reflecting sanitary sewer flows. The sewer system spa-

tial analysis was used to identify areas in California Water Service Company's (Cal Water's) system that might warrant further study. Additionally, it is assumed that because Cal Water's domestic water system is an interconnected grid system, adding the Southwest area that is outside the existing General Plan development boundaries (and outside Cal Water's proposed infrastructure plan) should not be problematic.

Solid Waste

Projected solid waste at proposed General Plan buildout was calculated using 2009-estimated PPD for the City of Visalia. The solid waste system's adequacy to accommodate project waste volumes was determined using assessments found in the Solid Waste Facility Permits for the three landfills serving the city, additional information provided by CalRecycle's Solid Waste Information System, and input from the Tulare County Resource Management Agency.

IMPACT SUMMARY

Proposed Project Impact	*Mitigation Measure*	*Significance after Mitigation*
Implementation of the proposed Plan will result in new development that will require increased staffing, facilities, and equipment in order to maintain acceptable levels of fire and police service, but which would not cause adverse environmental effects.	None required	Less than significant
Implementation of the proposed Plan will increase would not interfere with the provision of existing or planned school services. It will allow new development that will require appropriate increases in school staffing or facilities, but these are not expected to have adverse environmental effects.	None required	Less than significant
Implementation of the proposed Plan would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.	None required	Less than significant
Implementation of the proposed Plan will not require more water than currently available to serve the city from existing entitlements and resources.	None required	Less than significant
Implementation of the proposed Plan will not require or result in new, altered, or expanded wastewater or storm drainage systems, the construction of which could cause adverse environmental effects.	None required	Less than significant
Implementation of the proposed Plan would not require or result in new or expanded solid waste disposal systems, the construction of which would cause adverse environmental effects.	None required	Less than significant
Implementation of the proposed Plan would not conflict with existing City standards for parks provision.	None required	Less than significant

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact

3.9-1 Implementation of the proposed Plan will result in new development that will require increased staffing, facilities, and equipment in order to maintain acceptable levels of fire and police service, but which would not cause adverse environmental effects. (*Less than Significant*)

Projected Demand for Police Services

As Visalia's population continues to increase over time, the Police Department will need to expand its staff and facilities in order adequately respond to increasing demands for service. In 2010, the Visalia Police Department had a service ratio of 1.7 officers (sworn, reserve, and civilian) per 1,000 Planning Area residents. While the service ratio alone is not sufficient to gauge the adequacy of police service provision, it is nonetheless useful for long-term staffing trend analysis and for its correlation to the crime index. In order to maintain adequate levels of service, the Police Department will need to consider the typical nature and type of calls for service; crime prevention and safety; appropriate measures for determining adequate levels of service; and the requirements for additional facilities and staffing.

Under the proposed Plan, Visalia's population is projected to increase by more than 85,000 residents by 2030. To maintain its current service ratio at buildout, the Visalia Police Department would need 146 additional officers, including 98 new non-reserve sworn officers, for a full staff of 360.

The Police Department has identified a new headquarters as a critical need. A new 44,000-square foot public safety building is included in the first phase of the Civic Center Master Plan, which has not yet been approved. The Police Chief notes that growth will impact service delivery over time, and there may be the need for additional substations within the 20-year planning period, located to serve growth areas.

Projected Demand for Fire Protection

With a larger population, call volume, and complexity of fire protection services would likely increase. Increased call volumes could lead to simultaneous alarms and periods of either non-coverage or a requirement to employ mutual aid. Because the adequacy of fire protection emergency service (for both medical and fire suppression) hinges on call volume, call complexity, and response times, potential increases in staff would depend upon these factors. Without expansion of staff and facilities to accompany population increases, the Visalia Fire Department's ISO rating would be expected to decline over time, and service ratios and response times would also be expected to suffer.

The current service ratio for the Visalia Fire Department is 0.48 responders per 1,000 Planning Area residents, which is lower than the standard of 1 responder per 1,000 residents set by the NFPA. In order to maintain the current service ratio, the Fire Department would require 41 additional responders by 2030. However, in order to meet the NFPA standard, it would require 85 additional responders.

As the City plans for future growth, fire station location will be an important consideration to meet demand for emergency calls and minimize the response times across the entire service area. According to the Department, additional facilities are needed in the southwest, northeast, and southeast sections of the city.[9] These needs would become more acute if growth were to occur in the southwest, northeast, and southeast. The Department notes that increasing population has historically been accompanied by an increasing number of service calls, and that there will be a need to increase staffing.

Potential Impacts

Any additional facilities built to accommodate growth under the proposed Plan, including police and fire stations, would have less than significant environmental impacts on the Planning Area. These facilities would constitute the necessary provision of public safety services made to maintain service levels in proportion to population growth. If siting and construction practices are consistent with the proposed General Plan's policies and other existing regulatory standards, environmental impacts should be minimal.

Policies in the proposed General Plan that will help to minimize this impact include those discussed in Section 3.1 Land Use, as well as those that stress continual safety evaluations of the city's structures and resources. Due to the proposed Plan's emphasis on infill development and adherence to the urban growth and development boundaries, the need for additional services will most likely develop within the city limits, meaning that new construction would likely take place on vacant or underutilized land there. Additionally, any new construction of police or fire facilities would be subject to project-level environmental review, construction permitting, and Fire and Building Code standards. Meanwhile, proposed Plan policies seek to manage emerging safety hazards, such as structurally unsound or deteriorating structures; ensure that new critical facilities, such as nursing homes, consider proximity to emergency services in their locations; and maintain resources and relationships in order to make full and efficient use of them when necessary. Adherence to General Plan policies that provide for the concurrent expansion of public safety facilities and services to serve new growth ensures that the impact is less than significant.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

S-P-35 Continue a program designed to eliminate unfit, unhealthy, dangerous, structurally unsafe, and fire hazardous housing units by rehabilitation or removal.

S-P-36 Continue the use of an "inspection team" to inspect all deteriorated and dilapidated housing units in the City.

S-P-38 Locate critical facilities, such as nursing homes, housing for the elderly, and other housing for the mentally and physically infirm, within a reasonable distance (3 miles or 3 minutes) from fire stations.

S-P-40 Continue to rely on the Tulare County Office of Emergency Services to maintain inventories of available resources to be used during disasters.

[9] Visalia Fire Department, 2010.

S-P-41 Continue to upgrade preparedness strategies and techniques in all departments so as to be prepared when disaster, either natural or man-made, occurs.

S-P-42 Continue to coordinate a public education program in order to foster public awareness of fire hazards with the intention of reducing injury and loss of life, damage to property, and degradation of the natural environment, particularly in conjunction with the public school system and "critical facility."

S-P-43 Periodically conduct joint training exercises with the County, State and federal agencies and others with the goal of developing the best possible coordinated action in fire suppression and crowd control.

S-P-44 Continue to keep geographically-indexed fire data in a GIS form that includes:

- Number of fires by activity and area
- Number of users in the activity
- Number of fires by ignition index in State responsibility areas
- Any other methods determined by the Safety Committee as necessary

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Impact

3.9-2 Implementation of the proposed Plan would not interfere with the provision of existing or planned school services. It will allow new development that will require appropriate increases in school staffing or facilities, but these are not expected to have adverse environmental effects. (*Less than Significant*)

Projected Demand for Schools

The increase in population resulting from buildout of the proposed Plan will be accompanied by an increase in demand for school facilities. Given an additional 32,150 housing units (including units already planned and approved), and a projected buildout population of 210,000, the student population is expected to increase by 17,713 by the year 2030. The increase in the number of students per school type represents an increase of 66 percent over the 2010 enrollment of 26,800 students and will require a number of additional schools in order to meet demand. **Table 3.9-8** summarizes projected student populations and site requirements.

Using the District's targets for school capacity and State guidelines for determining space needs, Visalia will need 18 new elementary schools, two new middle schools and two new high schools over the next 20 years. Following the District's site size standards, this would require 354 acres of land. In reality, this enrollment projection may be low, while expectations regarding school sizes and site areas may be higher than those that future schools will actually utilize.

Currently, VUSD owns eight undeveloped parcels totaling 241 acres, where five new elementary schools, two new middle schools, and a new high school are planned. However, this still leaves a

projected need for 12 additional elementary schools and an additional high school by the year 2030. Ongoing assessments of school needs will be required as growth and demographic patterns change over time, and, while it is unlikely that full buildout will occur during the planning period, VUSD should plan to provide more space in addition to the sites designated.

Table 3.9-8: Projected Enrollment and Site Requirements

	New Students			*Site Requirements*[1]	
Age Group	*Pipeline*	*Proposed General Plan*	*At Buildout*	*New Schools Needed*	*New Acres Needed*
Elementary (1-6)	2,458	9,108	11,566	18	190
Middle (7-8)	494	1,796	2,290	2	44
High (9-12)	833	3,023	3,857	2	120
Total	**3,785**	**13,927**	**17,713**	**22**	**354**

1. Target capacity for new schools and school sites are as adopted by the school board; actual school and site sizes may be different.

Sources: Visalia Unified School District Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study, 2010; Dyett & Bhatia, 2013.

Potential Impacts

To accommodate the projected demand, the proposed General Plan includes policies to ensure that facilities are provided as needed. By requiring the City to coordinate with VUSD and other districts and providers, it facilitates the identification and development of appropriate sites for future schools. Development of the General Plan Land Use Diagram included extensive consultation with VUSD over potential future school site locations and sizes. The proposed General Plan identifies adequate sites for schools needed to serve the future population, including and in addition to the properties that VUSD already owns.

Additionally, the City's objective to coordinate joint use of open space features on school property for public recreational or ecological benefit may have positive impacts on the city's green infrastructure system. Moreover, land use policies that limit where new development may take place over time, as well as a policy that promotes the alignment of school district boundaries with the proposed UGB and UDB, should ensure that construction of new facilities will take place on vacant or underutilized land within the UGB and UDB. These policies, as well as existing development regulations governing design and construction practices, will allow the City to meet its needs for additional facilities while minimizing any environmental impacts from new school development.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

PSCU-P-33 Coordinate land use and development with school location and site design, working with the Visalia Unified School District and other districts to ensure that adequate facilities are available and integrated with neighborhoods.

PSCU-P-34 *Work with Visalia Unified School District and the Tulare County Office of Education to establish School District boundaries that are coterminous with the City's Urban Growth Boundary.

PSCU-P-36 Work with Visalia Unified School District and the Tulare County Office of Education to locate additional continuation schools and other special programs.

PSCU-P-39 Continue to develop cooperative agreements with COS and the Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) that ensure recreational open space lands and facilities are available for community use.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Impact

3.9-3 Implementation of the proposed Plan would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board. (*Less than Significant*)

The existing Waste Discharge Requirements placed on the City of Visalia WCP limit discharge to an average flow of 20 mgd, and required that the ammonia concentration in the discharge be reduced to 0.025 mg/l by 2011. The recently certified EIR for the WCP analyzed impacts for average flow volumes of 22 mgd and 26 mgd. An updated RWQCB permit to be issued in 2013 will reflect the 22 mgd current capacity of the plant, while a future permit expected at the completion of the WCP upgrade will reflect its full 26 mgd capacity.

As seen in **Table 3.9-9**, the projected ADFW to the WCP at buildout of the proposed General Plan would be 25,034,050 gallons per day (25 mgd), which is less than both the 25,949,996 gallons per day (gpd) anticipated by the 2005 SSMP and the 26 mgd capacity of the upgraded plant. Policies within the proposed General Plan support activities—such as diversion of wastewater to recycling facilities, review of the 2005 SSMP, and assessment of the infrastructure needs of new development—that ensure that new development does not exceed the WCP's discharge limits. As the ADWF to the plant at proposed General Plan buildout is projected to be less than the WCP's full capacity, and thus less than its anticipated permitted capacity at the time of buildout, this impact is less than significant.

Table 3.9-9: Proposed and Existing Land Use Classifications – Sanitary Sewer Analysis

	Existing General Plan		*Proposed General Plan*		*Based on 2005 SSMP Update Table 3-6*		
Land Use Classification	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Adjusted Flow Coeffi-cient (gpd/ga)*	*Projected ADWF Balance (gpd)*	*Totals (gpd)*
Residential							
Rural Residential	879	1.3%					
Very Low Density Residential			1,346	2.0%	400	538,400	
Low Density Residential	14,571	21.9%	12,870	19.3%	800	10,296,00	
Medium Density Residential	919	1.4%	1,357	2.0%	1,300	1,764,100	
High Density Residential	329	0.5%	493	0.7%	2,000	986,00	
Residential Subtotal	*16,698*	*25.1%*	*16,066*	*24.1%*			*13,584,500*
Commercial							
Convenience Commercial	28	0.0%					
Community Commercial	179	0.3%					
Regional Retail Commercial	503	0.8%	483	0.7%	650	313,950	
Shopping/Office Commercial	487	0.7%					
Service Commercial	798	1.2%	568	0.9%	650	369,200	
Highway Commercial	57	0.1%					
Neighborhood Commercial	131	0.2%	214	0.3%	650	139,100	
General/Service Commercial							
Professional/Administrative Offices	581	0.9%					
Office			334	0.5%	650	217,100	
Commercial Subtotal	*2,765*	*4.1%*	*1,599*	*2.4%*		*1,039,350*	
Commercial - Mixed Use							

Table 3.9-9: Proposed and Existing Land Use Classifications – Sanitary Sewer Analysis

	Existing General Plan		*Proposed General Plan*		*Based on 2005 SSMP Update Table 3-6*		
Land Use Classification	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Adjusted Flow Coefficient (gpd/ga)*	*Projected ADWF Balance (gpd)*	*Totals (gpd)*
Central Business District	266	0.4%					
Commercial Mixed Use[1]			911	1.4%	1,300	1,184,300	
Downtown Mixed Use[2]			147	0.2%	1,720	252,840	
Mixed Use Subtotal	266	0.4%	1,058	1.6%	600	1,437,140	
Sum of Commercial and Mixed Use	3,030		2,657				**2,476,490**
Industrial/Business							
Business Research Park	174	0.3%					
Light Industry	993	1.5%	361	0.5%	600	216,600	
Heavy Industry	2,499	3.7%	3,420	5.1%	1,200	4,104,000	
Industrial/R&D			126	0.2%	600	75,600	
Industrial/Business Subtotal	3,667	5.5%	3,907	5.9%			4,396,200
Public/Institutional							
Public/Institutional	2,053	3.1%	2,467	3.7%	400	986,800	
Public/Institutional Subtotal	*2,053*	*3.1%*	*2,467*	*3.7%*			*986,800*
Other (Parks/ Agriculture/ Conservation/ Reserve etc.)							
Park	1,359	2.0%	1,611	2.4%	0	0	
Agriculture	32,893	49.3%	31,261	46.9%	0	0	
Conservation	1,453	2.2%	133	0.2%	0	0	

Table 3.9-9: Proposed and Existing Land Use Classifications – Sanitary Sewer Analysis

	Existing General Plan		*Proposed General Plan*		*Based on 2005 SSMP Update Table 3-6*		
Land Use Classification	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Adjusted Flow Coefficient (gpd/ga)*	*Projected ADWF Balance (gpd)*	*Totals (gpd)*
Regional Retail Reserve	117	0.2%					
Heavy Industry Reserve	619	0.9%					
Urban Reserve	4,764	7.1%	993	1.5%	710	705,030	
Canal			642	1.0%	0	0	
Right of Way			5,695	8.5%	0	0	
		61.8%	40,335	60.5%			**705,030**
Point Loads							
Industrial Point Loads	0	0.0%				1,080,000	
Goshen Community Plan Area	0	0.0%	1,222	1.8%		1,100,000	
Point Load Subtotal	*0*	*0.0%*	*1,222*	*1.8%*			*2,885,030*
Total	66,654	100.0%	66,654	100.0%			**25,034,050**
					Total from Sanitary Sewer Collection System Master Plan[3]		25,949,996

1. This Commercial Mixed Use classification is less dense than Downtown Mixed Use but greater than existing Commercial classifications. Therefore, an Adjusted Flow Coefficient for Medium Density Residential Use is used
2. Flow Coefficient derived from Akel Engineering's report for the Parks and Infrastructure Master Plan Report
3. See Table 3.6 from the Sanitary Sewer Collection System Master Plan (December 2005)

Source: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, 2013.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

PSCU-O-14 Provide for long-range community water needs by adopting best management practices for water use, conservation, groundwater recharge and wastewater and stormwater management.

PSCU-O-16 Ensure that adequate wastewater collection, treatment, recycling and disposal facilities are provided in a timely fashion to serve existing and future needs.

PSCU-P-53 *Continue to develop and expand the City's water recycling capacity to produce water suitable for landscape and crop irrigation and trade with agricultural water users in exchange for water for groundwater recharge. Promote the development of a purple-pipe recycled water distribution system.

PSCU-P-56 Update the Water Conservation Plant Master Plan, Sewer System Master Plan, and any other specific Master Plans related to infrastructure development to ensure that existing levels of service can be maintained for proposed land uses and development densities.

PSCU-P-57 Coordinate urban growth management planning with public and private utilities. Develop and carry out an infrastructure and public services assessment during annexation reviews to determine infrastructure needs, feasibility, timing, and financing.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Impact

3.9-4 Implementation of the proposed Plan will not require more water than currently available to serve the city from existing entitlements and resources. (*Less than Significant*)

Projected Water Demand

As with the sanitary sewer and stormwater systems, significant impacts on water demand would result mainly from changes to existing land use designations that introduce either higher densities or additional developed acreages. **Table 3.9-10** summarizes projected demand at full buildout of the proposed General Plan land use designations. Total demand at General Plan buildout is projected at 29,377 gallons per minute (gpm), which is 2,735 gpm greater than the demand projected in the Cal Water Urban Water Management Plan (26,642 gpm).

Table 3.9-10: Proposed and Existing Land Use Classifications – Domestic Water Analysis

	Existing General Plan		*Proposed General Plan*		*Based on 2005 Water Supply Update Table 3-6*		
Land Use Classification	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Demand Coefficient (gpm/ac)*	*Projected Demand (gpm)*	*Totals (gpm)*
Residential							
Rural Residential	879	1.3%					
Very Low Density Residential			1,346	2.0%	1.1	1,481	
Low Density Residential	14,571	21.9%	12,870	19.3%	1.1	14,157	
Medium Density Residential	919	1.4%	1,357	2.0%	1.1	1,493	
High Density Residential	329	0.5%	493	0.7%	2.9	1,430	
Residential Subtotal	**16,698**	**25.1%**	**16,066**	**24.1%**			**18,560**
Commercial							
Convenience Commercial	28	0.0%					
Community Commercial	179	0.3%					
Regional Retail Commercial	503	0.8%	483	0.7%	1.25	604	
Shopping/Office Commercial	487	0.7%					
Service Commercial	798	1.2%	568	0.9%	1.25	710	
Highway Commercial	57	0.1%					
Neighborhood Commercial	131	0.2%	214	0.3%	1.25	268	
General/Service Commercial							
Professional/Administrative Offices	581	0.9%					
Office			334	0.5%	1.25	418	
Commercial Subtotal	2,765	4.1%	1,599	2.4%		1,999	
Commercial - Mixed Use							

Table 3.9-10: Proposed and Existing Land Use Classifications – Domestic Water Analysis

	Existing General Plan		*Proposed General Plan*		*Based on 2005 Water Supply Update Table 3-6*		
Land Use Classification	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Demand Coefficient (gpm/ac)*	*Projected Demand (gpm)*	*Totals (gpm)*
Central Business District	266	0.4%					
Commercial Mixed Use[1]			911	1.4%	1.1	1,002	
Downtown Mixed Use[2]			147	0.2%	2.9	426	
Mixed Use Subtotal	266	0.4%	1,058	1.6%		1,428	
Sum of Commercial and Mixed Use	3,030		2,657				3,427
Industrial/Business							
Business Research Park	174	0.3%					
Light Industry	993	1.5%	361	0.5%	0.6	217	
Heavy Industry	2,499	3.7%	3,420	5.1%	0.6	2,052	
Industrial/R&D			126	0.2%	0.6	76	
Industrial/Business Subtotal	3,667	5.5%	3,907	5.9%			2,344
Public/Institutional							
Public/Institutional	2,053	3.1%	2,467	3.7%	1.25	3,084	
Public/Institutional Subtotal	2,053	3.1%	2,467	3.7%			3,954
Other (Parks/ Agriculture/ Conservation/ Reserve etc.)							
Park	1,359	2.0%	1,611	2.4%	0.54	870	
Agriculture	32,893	49.3%	31,261	46.9%	0	0	
Conservation	1,453	2.2%	133	0.2%	0	0	
Regional Retail Reserve	117	0.2%					

Table 3.9-10: Proposed and Existing Land Use Classifications – Domestic Water Analysis

	Existing General Plan		*Proposed General Plan*		*Based on 2005 Water Supply Update Table 3-6*		
Land Use Classification	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Demand Coefficient (gpm/ac)*	*Projected Demand (gpm)*	*Totals (gpm)*
Heavy Industry Reserve	619	0.9%					
Urban Reserve	4,764	7.1%	993	1.5%	1.1	1,092	
Canal			642	1.0%	0	0	
Right of Way			5,695	8.5%	0	0	
		61.8%	40,335	60.5%			1,092
Point Loads							
Industrial Point Loads	0	0.0%					
Goshen Community Plan Area	0	0.0%	1,222	1.8%			
Point Load Subtotal	0	0.0%	1,222	1.8%			
Total	66,654	100.0%	66,654	100.0%			**29,377**
					Total from Cal Water Urban Water Management Plan[3]		26,642

1. This Commercial Mixed Use classification is less dense than Downtown Mixed Use but greater than existing Commercial classifications.
2. Demand Coefficient based on High Density Residential classification.
3. From Cal Water's Urban Water Management Plan: Visalia District (2010)

Source: Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, 2013.

Potential Impacts

Based on the proposed land use classifications contained in the General Plan Update, Cal Water's UWMP, and the 2005 Water Supply and Facilities Master Plan for the Visalia District, sufficient improvements have been identified to support the proposed land use classifications and associated acreages. The UWMP indicates that the sole source of water supply for customers of the District for the foreseeable future will be groundwater, although the next update to the UWMP may consider a change to this approach if reliable surface supplies can be identified. Cal Water estimated in 2010 that its maximum groundwater pumping capacity was 100,829 afy, which is expected to remain relatively constant through 2030. At the time, Cal Water determined that capacity was adequate to meet a projected 2030 demand of 57,364 afy. As this capacity is greater than the 43,002 afy demand projected at proposed General Plan buildout, and as projected demand for the proposed General Plan is less than the projected demand previously anticipated by Cal Water, existing resources are considered adequate.

On a long-term basis, however, development and demand can have negative impacts on the quality and quantity of groundwater supplies. Even with an aggressive conservation program, the City will need to look for additional ways to balance groundwater usage against an increasing demand and decreasing importation of water to the groundwater basin. Policies included in the proposed General Plan will promote improved long-term management of the Kaweah Sub-basin and the continuation of efforts to support groundwater recharge, as well as promote development of alternative sources for appropriate uses, such as recycled and surface waters. Policies also promote demand management strategies to minimize water volumes required by land uses such as agriculture and public and institutional.

Given sufficient groundwater quantities to support buildout over the planning horizon and proposed policies the support the conservation of existing groundwater supplies, this impact is less than significant.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

PSCU-O-14 Provide for long-range community water needs by adopting best management practices for water use, conservation, groundwater recharge and wastewater and stormwater management.

PSCU-O-15 Preserve groundwater resources.

PSCU-P-44 Continue to improve and expand the City's Water Conservation Program, consistent with the Urban Water Management Plan as appropriate, including an active public outreach component and an online presence. The program should provide information and links to additional resources on water-efficient plumbing fixtures and planting and irrigation methods, and the development of safe and effective gray water systems. It should also maintain an up-to-date list of incentive programs.

PSCU-P-45 Continue the City's active role in regional and local water management planning, building on partnerships with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and participation in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWM) in implementing the Urban Water Management Plan and the Groundwater

Management Plan. Continue to develop and implement projects that address groundwater overdraft mitigation, and support additional groundwater recharge, using funds generated from the Water Resources Management and Groundwater Overdraft Mitigation Fee Ordinance and other sources. Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of surface water rights and surface water supplies;
- Development of groundwater recharge programs and facilities;
- Reconfiguration of stormwater facilities designed to retain as much storm-water as possible within and near the City;
- Enhancement of cooperative programs with local water management agencies and companies; and
- Development of more extensive recycled water delivery systems in support of the Urban Water Management Plan.

PSCU-P-46 Adopt and implement a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance for new and/or refurbished development that exceeds mandated sizes, and ensure that all new City parks, streetscapes, and landscaped areas conform to the Ordinance's requirements. The Ordinance should include provisions to optimize outdoor water use by:

- Promoting appropriate use of plants and landscaping;
- Establishing limitations on use of turf including size of turf areas and use of cool-season turf such as Fescue grasses, with exceptions for specified uses (e.g., recreation playing fields, golf courses, and parks);
- Establishing water budgets and penalties for exceeding them;
- Requiring automatic irrigation systems and schedules, including controllers that incorporate weather-based or other self-adjusting technology;
- Promoting the use of recycled water; and
- Minimizing overspray and runoff.

PSCU-P-47 *Implement a program of irrigation water use analyses, irrigation surveys, irrigation audits or similar techniques using available technology to evaluate water use in existing City parks and landscape areas, and undertake improvements to reduce water use to a level that does not exceed the Maximum Applied Water Allowance as calculated under the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance under Policy CO-P-3.

PSCU-P-48 *Establish a program to reduce water use in municipal buildings and allow use of recycled water (treated wastewater) in buildings and irrigation, as feasible and appropriate.

PSCU-P-49 *Require that industrial development projects submit plans for water recycling and conservation and demonstrate how water use will meet requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System during the plan review process.

PSCU-P-50 *Ensure that City building plan inspectors are adequately prepared to implement the requirements of the California Green Building Code (CalGreen), including mandatory low-water-use plumbing and water meters.

PSCU-P-51 Continue development of a conveyance system to allow for the reuse of treated wastewater for groundwater recharge, irrigation for farmland, ornamental landscaping, and golf courses, and expand the use of recycled water with a "purple pipe" delivery system, to the greatest extent feasible.

PSCU-P-52 Continue to support the Tulare County Environmental Health Division in protecting groundwater by promoting responsible use, storage and disposal of household hazardous materials.

PSCU-P-53 *Continue to develop and expand the City's water recycling capacity to produce water suitable for landscape and crop irrigation and trade with agricultural water users in exchange for water for groundwater recharge. Promote the development of a purple-pipe recycled water distribution system.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Impact

3.9-5 Implementation of the proposed Plan will not require or result in new, altered, or expanded wastewater or storm drainage systems, the construction of which could cause adverse environmental effects. (*Less than Significant*)

Projected Demand for Wastewater Capacity

As with domestic water demand, significant impacts on the city's demand for wastewater and storm drainage capacity can be projected based on changes to land use designations that would result in higher or lower densities or additional acreages. **Table 3.9-9** summarizes anticipated flows at buildout for the land use designations presented in the proposed General Plan, using the ACF from the 2005 SSMP. The total projected flow to be delivered to the WCP is 25,034,050 gpd.

Figure 3.9-6 displays areas where the sanitary sewer flow coefficient would be expected to change as a result of changes in land use designations. In general, areas where the coefficient would increase correspond to areas where proposed land use changes would increase density. Similarly, decreases in the coefficient tend to correspond to decreases in density. Areas where the flow coefficient increases have a potential need for increased sewer capacity. These are concentrated in the Downtown area—where higher density mixed-use designations are proposed—and in the western and southwestern portions of the city, where proposed redesignations include changing lands from agricultural to industrial or residential uses, and light industrial to industrial uses. Likewise, areas where the flow coefficient decreases have potential excess capacity. These are located in the east and northeast where proposed redesignations would change urban reserve land to agricultural land. Much of the central portion of the Planning Area is expected to experience no change in required capacity.

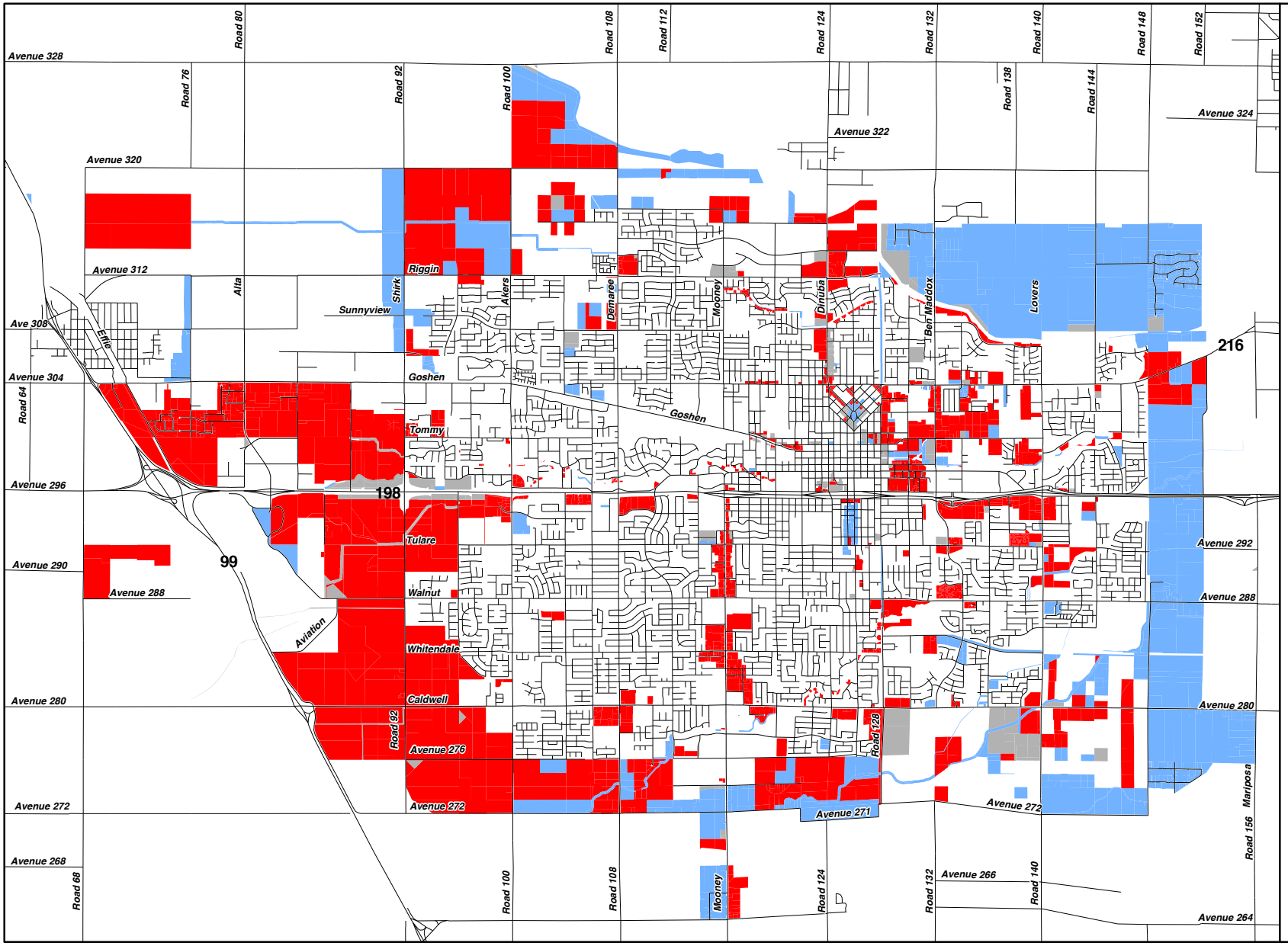


Figure 3.9-6

Land Use Comparison - Sanitary Sewer (General Plan Update vs. 2020 General Plan)

City of Visalia/
Tulare County Road

Change in Sanitary Sewer Flow Coefficient

- Increase
- Same
- Decrease

0 1 2
Miles

EST. 1968
PROVOST & PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP
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Projected Demand for Storm Drainage Capacity

Projected demand for storm drainage capacity follows a pattern similar to that for wastewater capacity, in that redesignations to lower-density uses tend to correspond to a decrease in an area's runoff coefficient while higher-density uses tend to correspond to an increase. Similar to the result of the wastewater capacity analysis, areas where additional capacity might be required are concentrated in the western portion of the city, where the proposed General Plan would reassign agricultural-designated land to industrial or residential uses, and where buildout would result in higher concentrations of impervious surfaces. Slight increases would also be expected in the developed central portion of the city in areas such as Downtown, which would experience increased density. Areas with decreased coefficients, and thus excess capacity, would be located in the eastern, northern, and southern edges of the city, where the urban reserve designation would be replaced by agriculture, parkland, and relatively low-intensity residential uses. **Figure 3.9-7** summarizes anticipated increases and decreases in runoff coefficients for the proposed General Plan.

Potential Impacts

With the proposed upgrades to the plant processing capabilities and the rerouting of the discharge stream away from Mill Creek, the WCP has sufficient capacity to process the expected flows from land use classifications noted in the proposed General Plan for the near future and would expand its treatment capacity as the need dictates. Based on the analysis shown in **Table 3.9-9**, the projected sanitary sewer flows entering the WCP at proposed General Plan buildout (25,034,050 gpd in 2030) is expected to be less than the volume previously anticipated for the SWMP (25,949,996 gpd in 2030), meaning further expansions could be delayed. The proposed 2014 upgrade at the WCP will provide the ability to increase capacity to 26 mgd as the demand increases. Additional mandated water conservation measures will likely cause reductions in average daily flows to the WCP. This will also help delay the need for future expansions of the Water Conservation Plant and give the City more flexibility in determining the types of development that are appropriate.

Similarly, review of the 2005 SSMP indicates that the city's sewer system will be adequate to support the proposed land use classifications identified in the proposed General Plan, given the recommended improvements to be constructed as development occurs. As noted, some areas that are no longer designated for urban uses in the proposed Plan show sewer trunk lines to be extended for service. In many cases these extensions, will not be needed under the proposed General Plan, and may be delayed indefinitely or may be eliminated from the Master Plan entirely.

Expansion at the outer rings of the development boundaries will not cause significant impacts to the sewer system, since the majority of the area was included in the 2005 SSMP as Urban Reserve and accounted for in future development as a combination of residential, commercial, and open space uses.

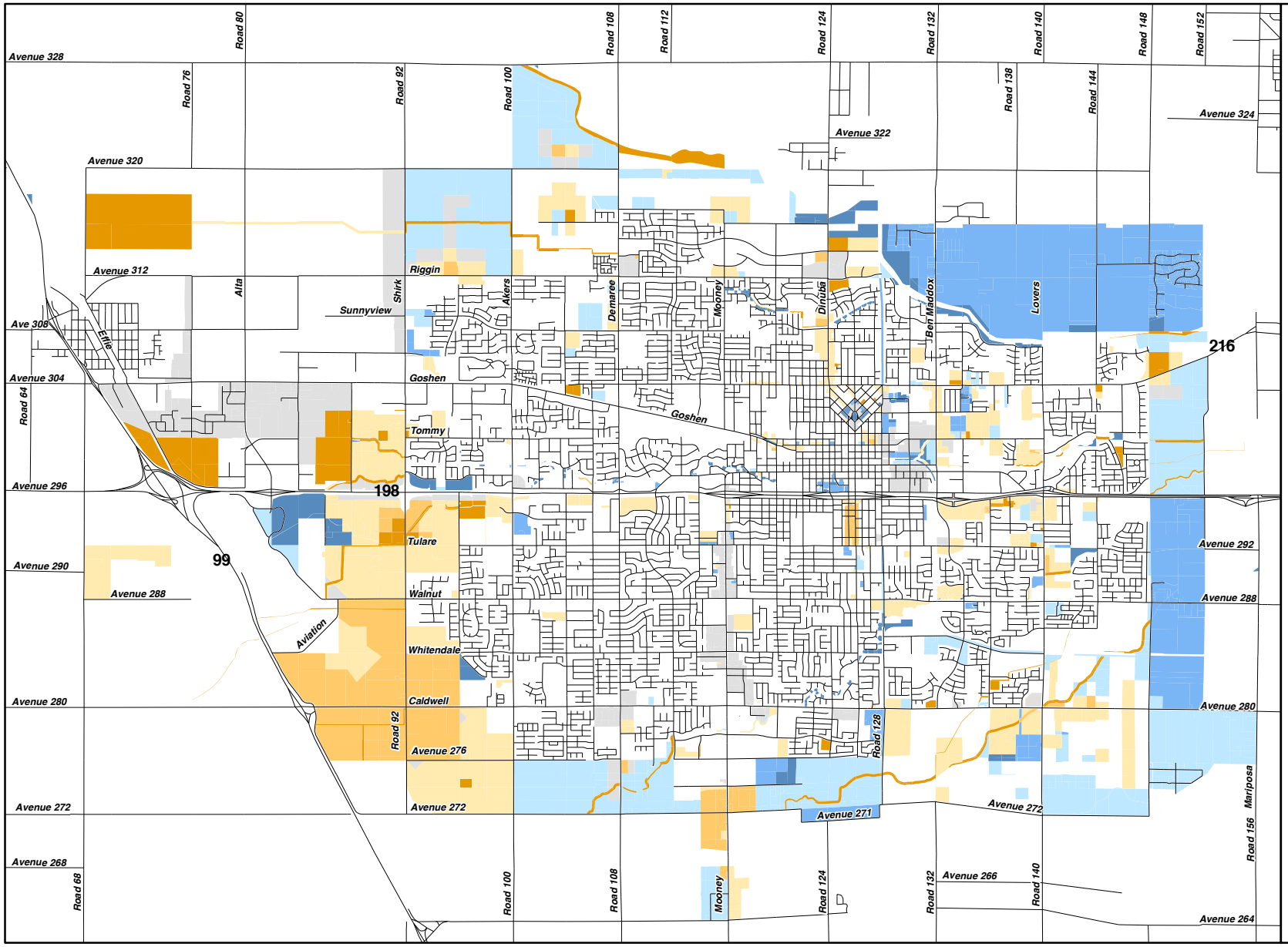

Figure 3.9-7

Land Use Comparison - Stormwater (General Plan Update vs. 2020 General Plan)

Tulare County Roads

Change in Runoff Coefficient (C)

- -0.45 or less
- -0.44 to -0.25
- -0.24 to -0.01
- 0
- 0.01 to 0.25
- 0.26 to 0.45
- 0.46 or more

0 1 2

Miles

EST. 1968
PROVOST & PRITCHARD
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Capital is available for adequate ongoing maintenance and expansion of the sewer system where necessary. It is anticipated that shifting development-ready land use classifications from the northeast to the southwest will result in similar overall costs for the required sewer infrastructure. Formerly planned capital costs associated with no-longer-necessary pipes identified to serve the area north of the St Johns River east of the Santa Fe Street alignment could be reallocated for yet-to-be-identified improvements that will now be needed to serve the area west of Akers Street and south of Walnut Avenue. Thus, impacts associated with deterioration of the existing system would be unlikely to occur.

The stormwater system, as well, is sufficient to accommodate the classifications and densities in the proposed General Plan without any substantial changes or additional improvements beyond those already identified in the SWMP. The City has begun evaluation of the storm system in the East Downtown area, which may result in the removal of several direct pipe connections to Mill Creek. The City is also preparing to develop upgrades (including a peaking basin) to the storm-water system in this area. The new East Downtown lines would be directed to an existing basin that is proposed to expand on the site of the former Soroptimist Park along Douglas Avenue east of Santa Fe Street. Redirection of Mill Creek direct discharges along with the peaking basin would provide capacity in Mill Creek during major events, lessening the chance that Mill Creek will breach its banks in the Downtown area, and provide better service to areas where water ponds in the streets. Additionally, the City's efforts to improve and increase the capacity of several storm-water recharge basins at the fringes of the city will provide opportunities to reduce the amount of water in Mill Creek during major storm events. With the expectation that the analysis and design will be completed in the next few years, these revised basin facilities will support the land uses and densities proposed in the proposed General Plan.

Intensification of development through densification of developed areas or the conversion of land to industrial use would have minimal impacts to the storm drain system. In areas of the city where density is projected to increase, this is because the majority of the land is already developed, and additional development may be more vertical than horizontal. Additionally, proposed General Plan policies provide for review of an area's storm drainage system before more intense development of redevelopment occurs. In newly designated industrial areas, industrial developments must hold their own water on-site, limiting their impacts on the Master Plan stormwater system.

As with the other master plan infrastructure improvement costs, those storm drain infrastructure improvements costs noted for the northeast area would be expected to shift to the southwest, where more new development may be concentrated. Therefore, there should not be a significant increase in the Storm Water Infrastructure Capital costs.

Any construction associated with the recommended improvements and expansions are already anticipated as part of the SSMP and SWMP. This will be subject to existing codes governing construction and project-specific environmental review, minimizing any adverse effects on the environment. The project to upgrade the WCP has been scrutinized and certified as part of its own EIR process.

Various policies included in the proposed General Plan support assessments and updates of the SSMP and SWMP to ensure that any alterations to the WCP, and sewer or stormwater systems are adequately planned. They also establish requirements for on-site detention and LID measures

to reduce negative impacts from stormwater runoff. Given these policies; the overall adequacy of the WCP, sewer system, and stormwater system as planned in the SSMP and SWMP to accommodate anticipated changes in capacity demands; and existing controls governing construction and infrastructure projects, this impact is less than significant.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

PSCU-O-16 Ensure that adequate wastewater collection, treatment, recycling and disposal facilities are provided in a timely fashion to serve existing and future needs.

PSCU-P-54 *Periodically review and update development impact fees, wastewater connection charges, groundwater mitigation fees, and monthly service charges to ensure that adequate funds are collected to operate and maintain existing facilities and to construct new facilities.

PSCU-P-56 Update the Water Conservation Plant Master Plan, Sewer System Master Plan, and any other specific Master Plans related to infrastructure development to ensure that existing levels of service can be maintained for proposed land uses and development densities.

PSCU-P-57 Coordinate urban growth management planning with public and private utilities. Develop and carry out an infrastructure and public services assessment during annexation reviews to determine infrastructure needs, feasibility, timing, and financing.

PSCU-P-59 Require new developments to incorporate floodwater detention basins into project designs where consistent with the Stormwater Master Plan and the Groundwater Recharge Plan.

PSCU-P-60 Control urban and stormwater runoff, and point and non-point discharge of pollutants. As part of the City's Stormwater Management Program, adopt and implement a Stormwater Management Ordinance to minimize stormwater runoff rates and volumes, control water pollution, and maximize groundwater recharge. New development will be required to include Low Impact Development features that reduce impermeable surface areas and increase infiltration.

Such features may include, but are not limited to:

- Canopy trees or shrubs to absorb rainwater;
- Grading that lengthens flow paths over permeable surfaces and increases runoff travel time to reduce the peak hour flow rate;
- Partially removing curbs and gutters from parking areas where appropriate to allow stormwater sheet flow into vegetated areas;
- Use of permeable paving in parking lots and other areas characterized by significant impervious surfaces;
- On-site stormwater detention, use of bioswales and bioretention basins to facilitate infiltration; and

- Integrated or subsurface water retention facilities to capture rainwater for use in landscape irrigation and other non-potable uses.

PSCU-P-61 Update the Stormwater Master Plan to provide site-appropriate solutions that protect surface water quality in Planning Area waterways and correspond to the approach directed by the Stormwater Management Program.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Impact

3.9-6 Implementation of the proposed Plan would not require or result in new or expanded solid waste disposal systems, the construction of which would cause adverse environmental effects. (*Less than significant*)

If Visalia customers were to continue generating waste at the 2009 rate of 3.1 PPD, they would generate 325 tons of solid waste per day, or 118,581 tons per year at buildout. This would represent a 60 percent increase from 2009 volumes. This does not account for waste collected by contractors, but should be considered a high estimate in light of the waste reduction trends seen in the city over the past several years. This quantity would be accommodated under the current Solid Waste Facility Permits for the County's three disposal sites (see **Table 3.9-5** above) while capacity remains. The disposal sites however, will reach their permitted ceased operation dates before buildout; Teapot Dome in 2022, Visalia Disposal Site in 2024, and Woodville in 2026. The County is undertaking efforts to expand the landfills and extend their lifespans. Expansion plans for the three disposal sites are currently in development, and revised permits would be issued upon their completion. Any expansion or development of a disposal site must be in accordance with requirements of the RWQCB and California Air Resources Board, and must adhere to the environmental quality controls provided in Title 27 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

With the expected increased capacity of the Visalia and Woodville disposal sites and continuing efforts within the city and county to maintain a high waste diversion rate, sufficient capacity is anticipated to accommodate the volume of waste projected for the proposed General Plan. The California Integrated Waste Management Act requires that counties prepare a solid waste management plan that plans for solid waste disposal sites at least 15 years into the future. Tulare County is currently in the process of reviewing its solid waste system to upgrade its disposal sites. It is seeking to expand both the capacity and lifespans of the sites to ensure that waste from the county continues to be disposed locally. Future development would be required to comply with the Tulare County Integrated Waste Management Plan, which includes source reduction, recycling, composting, special waste management and household waste programs, all of which strive to reduce overall solid waste generation. Implementation of these programs may further extend the life of existing landfills that would or are expected to serve the city. In addition, the proposed General Plan contains policies that support additional reductions in waste and that promote waste prevention and recycling at the municipal level. Given these factors, this impact is less than significant.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

PSCU-P-62 Periodically evaluate the City's solid waste management system to ensure that operations are as cost-effective as feasible.

PSCU-P-63 Develop a quadrant transfer station for the Southwest part of the City.

PSCU-P-64 Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing program for all City departments.

PSCU-P-65 Continue to achieve the State waste reduction standard established for the Consolidated Waste Management Authority, and establish a more stringent local standard based on recent waste reduction trends.

PSCU-P-66 Promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting to Visalia residents and businesses as important ways to conserve limited natural resources.

PSCU-P-67 Maintain and expand the Recycling and Source Reduction Program to serve all customer types, and to be provided by all waste collection service providers.

PSCU-P-68 Maintain and expand innovative solid waste service and programs including the City's green waste program, the construction and demolition debris recycling and reuse program, and the food waste composting program.

PSCU-P-69 Continue the City's partnership with the Tulare County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program and support the proper disposal of hazardous household waste and waste oil through public education, the disposal facility, and collection services.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Impact

3.8-7 Implementation of the proposed Plan would not conflict with existing City standards for parks provision. (*Less than Significant*)

The existing General Plan includes a parkland standard of 7.6 acres per 1,000 residents, though in 2010 the actual parkland ratio was only 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The proposed General Plan would revise the standard to match the 5.0-acre ratio, while making additional provisions that address the distribution of parkland throughout the city.

In order to maintain this standard for the projected 2030 population of 210,000 residents, the City would need to provide a minimum of 429 additional acres of park land at Plan buildout, for a total of 1,048 acres. The proposed Plan would provide 441 additional acres of parkland, for a total of 1,057 acres. This total does not include additional land to be dedicated to large city parks (115 acres), the St. Johns Riverway and trails (133 acres), County-maintained Cutler Park (50 existing

acres and 27 additional acres), and new parks in the Civic Center area in East Downtown (eight acres). Existing and proposed park ratios are summarized in **Table 3.9-11**.

To support the new park standard, the proposed Plan contains a number of policies that seek to improve the overall quality of the park system and ensure that proper management takes place. In its requirements for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the proposed General Plan ensures that new and existing parks serve the needs of the community, that new parkland is adequately financed, and that the park system functions as a network of facilities, services, and linkages. Other policies require that land designated as park space on the Land Use Diagram be reserved as such, that park development is targeted in currently underserved areas as well as new neighborhoods, that smaller parks be promoted throughout the city, and that access to parks be improved through the development of greenway connections and through the siting of park space according to residents' needs. The proposed Plan also updates the Park Acquisition and Development Fee Program, which acts as both a financing mechanism for the city's parks and open space, and an incentive to dedicate more park land throughout the city.

Table 3.9-11: Parks Acreage and Parks Ratio

	Acres		
Park Type	*Existing*	*General Plan*	*Total*
City Park Land			
Neighborhood Parks[1]	125	203	316
Community Parks	45	122	167
Large City Parks[2,3]	262	115	377
Usable Linear Parks[4]	196	-	196
Subtotal	*628*	*441*	*1,057*
Population	*124,442*	*85,200*	*209,600*
Parks Ratio	*5.0*	*5.2*	*5.0*
Additional Park Land			
Large City Parks[2]	-	115	115
St. Johns Riverway and Trails[4]	-	133	133
Cutler Park (County)	50	27	77
Civic Center Parks	-	8	8
Total	**678**	**724**	**1,390**

1. Only about one half of the pocket park acreage is assumed to meet the design criteria of Policy PSCU-P-8 and count toward the overall parkland standard.
2. Only half of the future park on east edge of city is counted toward the parkland standard because this facility also will be used for groundwater recharge.
3. Mooney Grove Park is counted as a large city park since it is within city limits.
4. Proposed additional parkland along St. Johns River is estimated to be appropriate as a regional effort.

Sources: City of Visalia, 2012; Dyett & Bhatia, 2012.

The proposed Plan articulates a strong commitment to maintaining its stated parks standard and establishes the framework for doing so. As it also includes policies to improve the service standard of existing parks and ensure design quality in new parks, its impact on the City's standards for park provision can be considered beneficial. Any negative environmental impacts are less than significant.

Proposed General Plan Policies that Reduce Impact

Park System Planning

PSCU-P-1 Prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to implement Park policies in this General Plan. The Plan should include:

- An assessment of existing and future recreational needs, including the needs of specific user groups and the needs of older areas of the community as well as those in new neighborhoods;
- An assessment of opportunities for joint-use of City-owned stormwater detention basins on a year-round or seasonal basis, including priorities, access, improvement needs, security and cost-sharing arrangements;
- Involvement of teens in design of teen programs and seniors in programs serving them;
- A comprehensive program for providing facilities and recreational activities for identified needs, developed in consultation with VUSD and others involved in recreation programs, including joint-use opportunities with VUSD and other school districts and COS, and joint-use opportunities with City facilities, such as detention basins;
- Proposals for coordinating affordable child care with the City's recreation programs;
- Detailed design, construction and maintenance standards for parks and community centers and aquatic facilities emphasizing universal accessibility and barrier-free design, durability, low maintenance, and low water use;
- A program for retrofitting existing facilities to remove barriers to handicapped users over time;
- An action plan to define priorities, responsibilities and scheduling; and
- A comprehensive financing strategy for park and recreation facilities, including but not limited to the Park Acquisition and Development Fee, Recreation Program Fee policies, including provisions for fee reductions, scholarships and sponsorships, and marketing, including recreation as part of the City's overall economic development plan.

PSCU-P-2 Strive to achieve and maintain a citywide standard of at least five acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents.

PSCU-P-3 *Reserve land and develop parks and public open spaces and recreation facilities consistent with designated Parks and Open Space land on the Land Use Diagram.

This designation is intended to cover existing and proposed new neighborhood, community, and regional parks; recreation centers; golf courses; multi-use paths and trails; and other open space areas.

PSCU-P-5 Create new community parks in the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast quadrants, consistent with the Parks and Open Space diagram and the following planning guidelines:

- Size: 5-12 acres or more; and
- Facilities to be provided: large children's play area, reserved picnic facilities, open play fields, community building, bicycle parking, and off-street parking. They also may include tennis courts, outdoor concert areas or other special facilities based on neighborhood needs and community input.

PSCU-P-6 Create a high-quality, accessible neighborhood park system based on the needs of the surrounding community, the Parks and Open Space diagram and the following planning guidelines:

- Size: 2 to 5 acres; and
- Facilities to be provided: open lawn area, small picnic area, paths, bicycle parking, play equipment for children, backstop, multi-use courts, drinking fountain, landscaping.

PSCU-P-7 *Promote development of small pocket parks or play lots dispersed throughout new neighborhoods and in existing neighborhoods, where needed, on a voluntary basis in coordination with new infill development, consistent with the following planning guidelines:

- Size: 0.5 to 2 acres; and
- Facilities: the specific features of pocket parks should address the anticipated needs of nearby residents and/or workers. In a residential environment, the needs of small children and seniors should be emphasized. In mixed-use or commercial areas, lunchtime use by office workers and shoppers should be facilitated.

PSCU-P-8 Establish design review criteria for allowing pocket parks (parks less than 2 acres) and linear parks to be counted toward meeting the neighborhood and community parkland standard of this General Plan.

These criteria may include minimum park size and the types of amenities and facilities, specified in a schedule of credits (the percentage of the acreage standard met) up to a maximum of 100 percent. Provisions for funding park maintenance through a landscape and lighting district also will have to be met as a condition of receiving a pocket park credit. Pocket parks are not a substitute for neighborhood parks with playing fields and facilities for active recreation although they do meet a community need.

PSCU-P-9 Continue to implement a Park Acquisition and Development Fee Program updated to be consistent with this General Plan, including the following:

- Land and fees received shall support a standard of five acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents and provide park and recreation facilities serving the neighborhood quadrant in which the contributing development occurs;
- A portion of the fees collected are to be used for community-wide recreation facilities;
- Dedicated park land meeting specified criteria for community parks, neighborhood parks and pocket parks may be provided at the City's discretion, in lieu of fees, or earn fee credits (the City will not accept undevelopable, unusable land); and
- Fee credits may also be given for storm drainage basins designed and built for dual recreational use, but these credits may be on a less than 1:1 basis depending on the amenities and facilities provided and their availability throughout the year.

Storm drainage basins can be under water and not available for public use three to four months a year; they also are difficult to maintain and turf is usually in poor condition compared to turf on year-round playing fields. For these reasons, full fee credit will not be granted.

PSCU-P-10 Adopt and implement parkland dedication requirements for all subdivisions, consistent with the Quimby Act and Policy PSCU-P-2. This requirement will be integrated with the City's Park Acquisition Development Fee Program.

Greenways

PSCU-P-11 *Develop a system of natural corridors and greenways, consistent with the Parks and Open Space diagram ([General Plan] Figure 5-1).

These corridors will have biking and walking trails offering recreational opportunities and links between neighborhoods, parks, and Downtown. The system of corridors will include waterway corridors as well as linear landscaped corridors to create natural gateways, parkways or buffer areas. More specifically, this system is envisioned to include:

- *Greenway corridor along the St. Johns River, including broader areas to the northwest to accommodate open space areas, large group picnic facilities, a nature center, or other uses;*
- *Greenway corridors along Mill, Packwood and Cameron Creeks, and segments of other waterways, with sufficient width to protect riparian habitat and accommodate a multi-use trail;*
- *A landscaped corridor on both sides of Highway 198 providing a scenic gateway into Visalia from the west; and*
- *A landscaped buffer zone or parkway along Shirk Road separating industrial from residential areas, and a greenway along Road 148 marking the eastern edge of the City, both accommodating a multi-use trail.*

Park Design and Improvements

PSCU-P-12 Improve existing parks to support a high quality of life in older parts of the City.

PSCU-P-18 Continue to work closely with Tulare County to ensure that Mooney Grove and Cutler regional parks are operated, maintained, and enhanced.

PSCU-P-20 Review cooperative agreements with public and private sector groups that use parks, and update them as needed to ensure that public needs are being met and City costs are fully covered.

PSCU-P-21 Require private open space and recreational facilities in large-scale multi-family residential developments to meet a portion of resident recreation, except in Downtown and East Downtown.

Private open space and private recreation facilities, however, will not be counted toward the citywide parkland standard or Quimby Act requirements.

Park Design

PSCU-P-22 Review park and recreation facilities demand and use though periodic surveys. Park amenities, recreation programs, proximity and means of transportation should all be addressed.

Shared Use

PSCU-P-25 Encourage cooperative agreements with the City and the Kaweah Water Conservation District, levee districts, irrigation companies, school district, College of the Sequoias, Southern California Edison Company and other public agencies and utilities to explore innovative recreation open space facilities throughout the Visalia planning area.

PSCU-P-26 Develop standards for recreation use on dual purpose park/pond sites to ensure that slopes and pumping equipment do not preclude recreation use and maintenance.

PSCU-P-29 *Incorporate barrier-free design in all new recreation and sports facilities, and renovate existing facilities to remove barriers to handicapped users.

Implementation and Fundraising

PSCU-P-30 Continue to work with the Visalia Parks and Recreation Foundation and other foundations and grant sources to provide funding for conservation, open space, parks and recreation.

PSCU-P-31 Seek to ensure that Visalia receives its full share of federal and state grant funds including matching and competitive grants by regularly exploring all relevant funding possibilities.

PSCU-P-32 Explore an "Adopt-a-Park" concept with industry, service clubs, and citizens. Identify interested corporations, clubs, or individuals and create an action plan tailored to fit the adopting organization's budget and interest.

Mitigation Measures

None required.