25. Utilities and Service Systems

25.1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

25.1.1 Water Supply

A domestic supply of potable water is that which is used for human consumption or is connected to domestic plumbing fixtures in which the supply is obtained from an approved *individual water system*, a *state small water system* operating with a permit from the Ventura County Resource Management Agency (RMA) Environmental Health Division, or a *public water system* operating with a permit from the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

Fire flow is a component of a water supply system and is defined as the number of gallons per minute of water at a minimum residual pressure of 20 pounds per square inch, for a designated duration available from a fire hydrant in the event of an emergency.

This section also considers requirements for a private water system when the project is not provided with water from a purveyor. Specific concerns for private water systems include, but are not limited to, flow, pressure, duration, and reliability.

Additional information on the existing conditions of the water supply in Ventura County is provided in Chapter 10 of the Ventura County General Plan Background Report ("Background Report").

25.1.2 Solid Waste Management

Solid waste operations and facilities involve solid waste handling, storage, processing, and disposal activities that are subject to solid waste regulations enforced by the *Local Enforcement Agency*/RMA Environmental Health Division.

Sufficient permitted solid waste disposal capacity must be available to accommodate the solid waste disposal needs of current demand and new projects. Any project generating municipality-scale amounts of solid waste would impact solid waste disposal capacity in Ventura County.

California law requires county governments to prepare and adopt a Countywide Siting Element as part of their Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. Title 14, Section 18755 of the California Code of Regulations states that the Countywide Siting Element "shall demonstrate that there is a countywide or region-wide minimum of 15 years of combined permitted disposal capacity, through existing or planned solid waste disposal and transformation facilities or through additional strategies."

Many landfills are privately owned and operated, as are many refuse disposal companies that deliver waste to landfills. While some exceptions exist locally, in general, landfills may accept refuse from geographical areas beyond the county in which the facility is located and refuse haulers may deliver waste to any disposal facility. Market forces, therefore, can have a large impact upon the waste disposal capacity in a county.

Although the County of Ventura maintains responsibility for ensuring adequate permitted disposal capacity in Ventura County, it currently lacks the statutory authority to direct or restrict the flow of waste to local disposal facilities or to extend disposal capacity in the county. Therefore, the County must determine and plan for disposal capacity based on remaining capacity and permitted lifespans of local landfills and both existing, as well as anticipated market conditions, including facility development and expansion plans. If this analysis shows there may be less than 15 years of disposal capacity within Ventura County, Title 14, Section 18755 requires the County to develop strategies addressing this shortfall.

Additional information on waste management and disposal is provided in Section 7.3 of the Background Report.

25.1.3 Utilities

Electricity

Electrical facilities include generation plants and energy production from renewable sources facilities, transmission substations, and transmission lines. Electricity in Ventura County is primarily produced and delivered by the Clean Power Alliance and Southern California Edison. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project also provides some electricity to the agricultural water pump sector, as defined by the California Energy Commission.

Natural Gas

Gas utilities consist of a fixed transmission and distribution system for natural gas which supplies Ventura County. This system also includes underground and above-ground natural gas storage facilities. The Southern California Gas Company provides service to all the cities and communities in Ventura County and owns natural gas transmission lines throughout Ventura County.

Communication and Telecommunication

Communication facilities consist of, but are not limited to, radio and television transmitting and receiving antennas, radar stations, microwave towers and cellular and hard-line telephone facilities. According to the California Public Utilities Commission, telecommunications services include basic phone; long distance phone; Internet, including broadband and wireless; enhanced specialized mobile radio; personal communication services (i.e., messaging and data transfer service such as paging); and paging systems.

The California Public Utilities Commission defines broadband by the definition provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. By this definition, broadband is a "two-way data transmission to and from the Internet with advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream and at least 200 kbps upstream to end users." The California Public Utilities Commission provides two kinds of mapped data depicting areas for broadband services: service availability and service status (the latter describes areas where broadband is available, but where access is limited due to relatively slow download and upload speeds). Within these two categories, information is provided showing types of broadband services. These types include wireline (technology that uses wires or cables to physically connect the provider with the user, such as Cable Modem or Digital Subscriber Line), fixed wireless (which uses radio waves to connect providers and a fixed location – this is not currently available in Ventura County), and mobile (such as cell phone or other devices that are mobile and therefore not used at a fixed location).

Additional information on communication facilities in Ventura County is provided in Section 7.4 of the Background Report.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

Onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) are systems that dispose of domestic waste (sewage) generated by individual residences and businesses located in areas without access to public sewer service. These are also referred to as septic systems. County Service Area 32 is a countywide monitoring and maintenance district created to monitor and regulate *OWTS* in all areas outside of cities and sanitation/sanitary districts. Typically, when a property requires use of an *OWTS* within County Service Area 32, the property owner may need to grant an easement to the County for access to the property for inspection, operation, maintenance, repair, construction, and reconstruction of the *OWTS*. The easement is reviewed by the RMA Environmental Health Division, and if it is accepted, it is recorded by the Ventura County Public Works Agency (PWA).

Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

Sewage collection/treatment facilities are those which collect wastewater from domestic, commercial, industrial and institutional uses, treat it to remove organic and inorganic hazardous or noxious waste materials, and discharge the treated effluent.

Wastewater collection, treatment, recycling, and disposal in Ventura County is provided by 19 agencies, districts, or service providers (shown in Figure 7-1 of the Background Report). The unincorporated area is served by 16 of these organizations, including the County of Ventura, county service areas, special districts, cities, and contract organizations (see Table 7-1 of the Background Report). The PWA is responsible for administration, billing, customer service, operation, maintenance, design, inspection, and facility construction for County Service Areas 29, 30, and 34, Ventura Waterworks Districts 1 and 16, and the Camarillo Utility Enterprise and Todd Road Jail Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Additional information on wastewater collection and treatment is provided in Section 7.1 of the Background Report.

25.1.4 Pipelines

Section 15284(d) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines defines “pipeline” pursuant to Government Code Section 51010.5(a). This definition includes every intrastate pipeline used for the transportation of hazardous liquid substances or highly volatile liquid substances, including a common carrier pipeline, and all piping containing those substances located within a refined products bulk loading facility which is owned by a common carrier and is served by a pipeline of that common carrier, and the common carrier owns and serves by pipeline at least five such facilities in California.

25.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The determination of significance shall be made on a case-by-case basis and evaluated using the following thresholds of significance as specified below.

UTI-1 A project may have a significant impact if it would a) conflict with applicable state or local requirements related to safe drinking water, water supply, and fire flow, and b) result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict.

~~**UTI-2** A project may have a significant impact if it would substantially increase surface water consumptive use (demand) in the following ways:~~

~~a. Within a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable; or~~

~~b. By diverting or dewatering downstream reaches, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plans.~~

UTI-3 A project may have a significant impact if ~~:~~

~~It would introduce physical development that would adversely affect the water supply of the *groundwater basin* and/or *hydrogeologic unit* in which the project is located; or~~

~~For a "water-demand project" (as defined in Section 15155 of the State CEQA Guidelines),~~ it cannot be determined that the project would have sufficient water supplies during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years for a 20-year projection to serve the project.

UTI-4 A project may have a significant impact if it would:

a. Conflict with applicable state or local requirements related to wastewater treatment and/or sewage collection/treatment, and result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict;

b. Increase demand to a level that would exceed a wastewater/sewer service provider's capacity; or

c. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment or sewage facilities, the construction or relocation of which would cause significant environmental effects.

UTI-5 A project may have a significant impact if it would:

a. Conflict with applicable state or local regulations related to solid waste, including generating solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure that would reduce the local infrastructure's useful life to less than 15 years, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; and

b. Result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict.

UTI-6 A project may have a significant impact if it would cause a substantial disruption or re-routing of an existing utility facility, or substantially increases demand to a level that would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, telecommunications, or other types of utility facilities, which would cause significant environmental effects.

UTI-7 A project may have a significant impact if it would substantially interfere with, compromise the integrity, or affect the operation of an existing pipeline that is currently in operation.

25.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS

Guidance on addressing the questions from the Initial Study Checklist is provided below. In order to determine whether project impacts exceed or meet the criteria of the thresholds of significance in Section 25.2, the level of impact shall be evaluated based on the appropriate assessment methodologies as outlined below.

(a) Would the project a) conflict with applicable state or local requirements related to safe drinking water, water supply, and fire, and b) result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict?

The following state and local regulations should be considered when evaluating the project as it relates to safe drinking water, water supply, and fire flow.

Water Quality and Supply

- California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapters 4 through 7
- California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code)
- Ventura County Building Code, Article 1, Article 6
- Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 4, Chapter 8
- Ventura County Waterworks Manual (VCWWM), latest edition
- Ventura County Fire Code

Note: Domestic water quality regulations for *public water systems* are enforced by the California State Division of Drinking Water.

Fire Flow

- Ventura County Fire Code
- VCWWM, latest edition

Preliminary Assessment

The PWA, RMA Environmental Health Division, and the Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD), and the appropriate water agency that services the area in which the project is located shall review the project to evaluate the following:

- Whether the project requires a supply of domestic water, including fire flow where required. The fire flow for the project shall be determined based on the size of structures, construction type, use, and proximity to other structures.
- Whether domestic water and fire flow will be provided by a *water purveyor* or from an *individual water system*. If there is not an acceptable *water purveyor*, plans for a private water system shall be required in accordance with the applicable regulations identified above.
- If water is provided by a public *water purveyor*, the project applicant must confirm that the public *water purveyor* has a *Water Availability Letter (WAL)* approved by the PWA prior to

obtaining a Will Serve Letter[12] for the project. The California State Division of Drinking Water regulates and issues permits for *public water systems*. *State small water systems* are regulated and permitted by the RMA Environmental Health Division.

- If domestic water is obtained from an *individual water system*, water quality analysis shall be required in accordance with the applicable regulations identified above.

Chapter 10 of the Background Report contains lists of water agencies, suppliers, and purveyors within the major watersheds identified as Ventura River, Cuyama, Santa Clara River, Calleguas Creek, and Malibu Creek.

Preparation of Initial Study Checklist

The following information shall be used to complete the Checklist:

A determination of **No Impact (N)** shall be made if one or more of the following applies to the project:

- The proposed project does not require a supply of domestic water and there are no requirements for fire flow;
- Domestic water is obtained from a *water purveyor* operating with a *WAL* approved by the PWA and a valid permit from either the California State Division of Drinking Water or the RMA Environmental Health Division, and the *water purveyor* can meet applicable fire flow requirements for the project; or
- Domestic water is obtained from an individual source and the water quality analysis demonstrates compliance with the following drinking water standards, as applicable:
    1. "Primary drinking water standards," as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275(c), consist of:
        - Maximum levels of contaminants that, in the judgment of the state board, may have an adverse effect on the health of persons.
        - Specific treatment techniques adopted by the state board in lieu of *maximum contaminant levels* pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 116365(j).
        - The monitoring and reporting requirements as specified in regulations adopted by the state board that pertain to *maximum contaminant levels*.
    2. "Secondary drinking water standards," as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275(d), specify *maximum contaminant levels* that, in the judgment of the state board, are necessary to protect the public welfare. Secondary drinking water standards may apply to any contaminant in drinking water that may adversely affect the odor or appearance of water and may cause a substantial number of persons served by the public water system to discontinue its use, or that may otherwise adversely affect the public welfare. Regulations establishing secondary drinking water standards may vary according to geographic and other circumstances and may apply to any contaminant in

[12] A Will Serve Letter is defined in the Ventura County Waterworks Manual, as may be amended, which states: A letter from a water purveyor declaring that the purveyor's system will provide a water connection to the proposed project identified in the letter. A water purveyor must have a *WAL* on file and be approved by the County Public Works Agency before the County of Ventura will accept a Will Serve Letter from the purveyor.

drinking water that adversely affects the taste, odor, or appearance of the water when the standards are necessary to ensure a supply of pure, wholesome, and potable water.

A determination of **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made when domestic water is obtained from an individual water source; fire flow is from a private source and the private water system is in compliance with the VCWWM and Ventura County Fire Code; fire sprinklers will be used to reduce fire flow in accordance with the VCWWM and Ventura County Fire Code; and/or the proposed project would utilize an *OWTS*. The use of an *OWTS* has the potential for contaminating groundwater supplies. However, compliance with the Ventura County Building Code would reduce any potential project and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level.

A determination of **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated (LS-M)** shall be made when project related and cumulatively potentially significant impacts to water quality can be successfully mitigated to a less than significant level by project design or measures using currently acceptable technology and/or through adoption of specific project conditions. Mitigation measures shall be developed on a case-by-case basis.

A determination of **Potentially Significant Impact (PS)** shall be made, and further analysis shall be addressed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) if there is *substantial evidence* that the project would have a significant impact on fire flow because:

- It would cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with the VCWWM and Ventura County Fire Code;
- It cannot provide an acceptable mitigation factor (e.g. fire sprinklers) to allow for a reduction in the required fire flow; or
- For a project involving a private water system, it cannot meet flow, duration, or reliability requirements as defined in the VCWWM and Ventura County Fire Code.

~~*(b) Would the project:*~~

~~*1) substantially increase surface water consumptive use (demand) within a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable; or*~~

~~*2) by diverting or dewatering downstream reaches, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plans?*~~

~~The following outlines the process to be used in completing the Initial Study in consultation with PWA.~~

~~1. Review topographic maps, drainage studies, and other geographic resources to determine whether *surface water* resources occur on or near the project site. Describe where the project occurs in relationship to natural and artificial *surface water* bodies and the hydrologic relationship to those bodies.~~

~~2. Evaluate the project's impacts to any identified *surface waters*. Determine whether the project would substantially increase or decrease supply either individually or cumulatively, in these *surface waters*. Evaluate how this change in *surface water* flow would affect surface water beneficial uses for Ventura County as listed in the Water Quality Control Plan, as amended, for Los Angeles Region No. 4.~~

~~3. Evaluate the project's potential to substantially increase *surface water* consumptive use or demand. If the project utilizes *surface water* for construction or long-term operation, the source of the water must be disclosed and the potential use quantified.~~

~~4. Determine whether the *surface water* for the project would be from a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board. Determine whether unappropriated *surface water* is available for the project.~~

~~5. If the water used for the project is from a municipal source, the source and supply of *surface water* from that municipal source must be disclosed and evaluated to determine whether the project would result in a substantial increase of *surface water* use. Evaluate and disclose the potential impacts of this increase in *surface water* use.~~

~~6. When determining cumulative impacts, obtain a list from the *Lead Agency* of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects, including *adjacent* cities, if applicable, that are located within the vicinity of the project site, in order to assess the project's contribution to cumulative impacts on *surface water* supply.~~

(c) Would the project~~:~~

~~*1) introduce physical development that would adversely affect the water supply of the groundwater basin and/or hydrogeologic unit in which the project is located; or*~~

~~*2) for a "water-demand project,"*~~ *have sufficient water supplies during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years for a 20-year projection to serve the project?*

Water supplied by the following sources shall be determined to constitute a permanent supply of water unless there is a special known adverse situation.

1. Cities, County Waterworks Districts, water districts, special districts, and other public entities; private water companies and mutual water companies.
2. Water from these entities shall constitute a permanent supply if, and only if, the supplier can furnish an approved *WAL* or Urban Water Management Plan[13] and indicates in writing it has a permanent supply for the project. The VCWWM requires an approved *WAL* report prior to issuance of any new water will-serve letters.
3. Calleguas Municipal Water District (MWD), Casitas MWD, and United Water Conservation District are considered wholesale water suppliers. Therefore, a water will-serve letter should be procured from the water retail service provider of Calleguas MWD, Casitas MWD, or United Water Conservation District in the project area. A water will-serve letter from Calleguas MWD, Casitas MWD, or United Water Conservation District will only be accepted under special circumstances.

[13] An Urban Water Management Plan is a plan that describes and evaluates an urban water supplier's source of supply, reasonable and practical efficient uses, reclamation and demand management activities, and other criteria as required in the California Water Code. An "urban water supplier" is a supplier, publicly or privately owned, that provides water for municipal purposes directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers, or supplies more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually. An urban water supplier includes a supplier or contractor for water, regardless of the basis of right, which distributes or sells for ultimate resale to customers. In the case of *water purveyors* classified as urban water suppliers under the Urban Water Management Planning Act, a currently adopted Urban Water Management Plan that has been accepted by the State Department of Water Resources will satisfy the requirement to provide a *WAL*.

4. Groundwater from a well that meets one of the following criteria as described in the VCWWM, Section 2.12, Criteria for Demonstrating a Long-Term Domestic Groundwater Supply:

    a. A category 1 well for which a well pump and recovery test has been completed and the results successfully meet all requirements as described for a Category 1 Well Test (Section 2.12.3 of the VCWWM); or

    b. A category 2 well for which a study and report have been completed that meet all the requirements for a Category 2 Groundwater Supply Study and Report (Section 2.12.4 of the VCWWM).

Projects with water that is not supplied from one of the sources listed above shall be considered to have a potentially significant impact and further analysis shall be addressed in an EIR. Note that a spring does not meet the requirement for a permanent source of water supply.

"Water-demand projects" (as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15155) shall, as part of the CEQA review process, demonstrate adequate water supply pursuant to Section 15155 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This may include, where applicable, preparation of a water assessment pursuant to Sections 10910 to 10915 of the Water Code to determine whether water supplies are available during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years for a 20-year projection. The water supply assessment shall be prepared to the satisfaction of and approved by the governing body of the affected *public water system* and the *Lead Agency*.

In addition, consult with the *Lead Agency* regarding past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects that are located within the same *groundwater basin* and/or *hydrogeologic unit* as the project site in order to assess the project's contribution to cumulative impacts on water supply.

(d) Would the project:

1) conflict with applicable state or local requirements related to wastewater treatment and/or sewage collection/treatment, and result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict,

2) increase demand to a level that would exceed a wastewater/sewer service provider's capacity; or

3) require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment or sewage facilities, the construction or relocation of which would cause significant environmental effects?

The following state and local regulations should be considered when evaluating the project as it relates to wastewater treatment and/or sewage collection/treatment:

- California Water Code
- California Code of Regulations, Title 22
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board *Basin Plans*
- Uniform California Plumbing Code
- Ventura County Building Code, Article 1 and 6

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Review the project and groundwater quality information (if available) to determine the following:

- Whether the project would require the installation of an *OWTS*.
- If the project would require the installation of an *OWTS*, whether septic system feasibility has been adequately demonstrated. This is accomplished by reviewing and evaluating soil engineering/percolation testing reports, proposed *OWTS* design, and other required information submitted with the project application.
- If an existing *OWTS* would be utilized, a septic tank inspection report dated no more than three years from the date of the discretionary application, system design information and other related materials shall be reviewed to determine whether the system is in good repair and is not posing any health hazards, and whether additional ministerial reviews will be required prior to use inauguration.

Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

Review the project and consult with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, where applicable, to obtain the following information:

- Determine whether the project requires connection to a public sewer.
- For projects with existing sewer service connections, a property tax statement or sewer utility bill shall be provided to confirm existing sewer service.
- If sewage disposal would be provided by a public sewer agency identified in the Wastewater Districts Map (Figure 7-1) and Wastewater Service Providers List (Table 7-1) in Section 7.1 of the Background Report, a sewer availability letter must be provided by the sewer agency. The letter shall include information to demonstrate that the sewer agency has sufficient sewer/treatment capacity to serve the project and other cumulative development.
- If sewage disposal would be provided by a permitted sewer facility not listed in the Wastewater Districts Map (Figure 7-1) and Wastewater Service Providers List (Table 7-1) in Section 7.1 of the Background Report, a sewer availability letter must be provided by the sewer facility. The letter shall include information to demonstrate that the sewer facility has sufficient sewer/treatment capacity to serve the project and other cumulative development. Additional information such as, but not limited to, soils engineering/percolation testing reports may be required for review and evaluation.
- If the project is proposing a new onsite sewage treatment facility either to service an area or to accommodate the proposed project, the applicant should provide information such as, but not limited to, soils engineering/percolation testing reports, detailed engineering plans of the treatment works, site plans of the collection system and treatment works, initial assessments and evaluations related to water quality and discharge requirements as appropriate, and other permitting and documentation as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other agencies as appropriate, such as the California Public Utilities Commission.

The following guidance is provided to help complete the Initial Study Checklist.

A determination of **No Impact (N)** shall be made if one or more of the following applies to the project:

- The project would not utilize an *OWTS*, generate sewage, would not require a connection to public sewer, or no new sewage treatment facility is proposed; or
- The sewer agency whose service area includes the project has indicated that the facility has existing capacity to serve the project and cumulative development, and no improvements to existing facilities are required.

A determination of **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made if one or more of the following applies to the project:

- An *OWTS* would be utilized and the RMA Environmental Health Division has determined that sewage disposal feasibility has been demonstrated;
- The existing *OWTS* is operating properly and does not appear to be creating a potential health hazard;
- The project meets the requirements of the Local Agency Management Program for *OWTSs*, or if utilizing an *OWTS* but is exempt from these requirements;
- The new *OWTS*, if one is proposed, complies with applicable regulations as enforced by the RMA Environmental Health Division;
- A connection to a sewage treatment facility is required and the sewer agency whose service area includes the project has indicated that the facility has sufficient capacity when the project includes improvements to existing, or construction of new, sewer mains and/or facilities;
- The California Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements include improvements to existing facilities; or
- The new sewage treatment facility, if one is proposed, would operate in conformance with California Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements and the requirements of other agencies where applicable (e.g., California Public Utilities Commission).

Compliance with applicable regulations pertaining to *OWTS* and through adoption of specific project conditions would reduce any potential individual and cumulative *onsite wastewater treatment* impacts to a less than significant level. For projects seeking waivers from the Ventura County Sewer Policy or Plumbing Code to allow *OWTS* in lieu of sewage treatment or connections to a sewage treatment facility, consult with the RMA Environmental Health Division to determine the level of impact that may result from the project.

A determination of **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated (LS-M)** shall be made if one or more of the following applies to the project:

- The existing *OWTS* is substandard or has the potential to create a public health hazard. However, incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce the potential impact to a less than significant level;
- The sewer agency or California Regional Water Quality Control Board has indicated that the existing sewer facility does not have sufficient capacity to serve the project and cumulative development. However, incorporation of project conditions and mitigation measures required by the sewer agency or Regional Water Board would reduce the potential impact to a less than significant level; or

- The new sewage treatment facility, if one is proposed, would require incorporation of mitigation measures for improvements or modifications to the proposed facility as required by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board or other regulatory agencies.

A determination of **Potentially Significant Impact (PS)** shall be made, and further analysis shall be addressed in an EIR if there is *substantial evidence* that one or more of the following applies to the project:

- Project-specific or cumulatively significant impacts from an *OWTS* cannot be feasibly mitigated to a less than significant level using currently available information;
- The project may individually or cumulatively generate sewage effluent which would exceed the capacity of an existing facility or ancillary facilities;
- The project would result in a determination by the wastewater treatment or sewer service provider, which serves or may serve the project, that the provider would not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; or
- The new sewage treatment facility, if one is proposed, would conflict with California Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements or the requirements of other regulatory agencies (e.g., California Public Utilities Commission), and would result in a significant environmental impact due to that conflict.

(e) Would the project:

1) conflict with applicable state or local regulations related to solid waste, including generating solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure that would reduce the local infrastructure's useful life to less than 15 years, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; and

2) result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict?

The following state and local regulations should be considered when evaluating the project as it relates to solid waste:

- California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 13, Chapter 4, Article 7
- California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 14
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 7
- California Code of Regulations, Title 27, Division 2
- California Public Resources Code, Division 30
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board *Basin Plans*
- Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 4, Chapter 7

Because available disposal capacity is ever-changing, any project generating solid waste should be referred to the Integrated Waste Management Division for project specific review.

Review the project application, description and requested materials, and consult with the RMA Environmental Health Division to determine whether the project would involve a solid waste operation subject to solid waste regulation.

The following guidance is provided to help complete the Initial Study Checklist.

A determination of **No Impact (N)** shall be made when the project does not generate solid waste.

A determination of **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made when the project does not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards; does not generate solid waste in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure that would reduce the local infrastructure's useful life to less than 15 years; does not otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or is a solid waste operation or facility that complies with state regulations enforced by the *Local Enforcement Agency*/RMA Environmental Health Division. Compliance with applicable state regulations enforced by the *Local Enforcement Agency*/RMA Environmental Health Division would reduce potential individual and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level.

A determination of **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated (LS-M)** shall be made when the project has the potential to cause a significant impact. However, the project can be mitigated to a less than significant level by project design or measures using currently acceptable technology and/or through adoption of specific project conditions.

A determination of **Potentially Significant Impact (PS)** shall be made, and further analysis shall be addressed in an EIR if there is *substantial evidence* that the project would conflict with solid waste regulations and would result in a significant environmental impact due to that conflict.

(f) Would the project cause a substantial disruption or re-routing of an existing utility facility, or substantially increase demand to a level that would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, telecommunications, or other types of utility facilities, which would cause significant environmental effects?

The project applicant shall identify the utilities that are in proximity to and would serve the project.

Water

Refer to the analyses conducted for Initial Study Checklist questions 24(a) through 24(c) to determine whether the project would cause a substantial disruption or necessitate re-routing of existing water facilities or infrastructure or increase demand to a level that would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water facilities. Determinations of **No Impact (N)** and **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made consistent with analyses in questions 24(a) through 24(c), where applicable. The project may have the potential to cause a significant impact if it would cause a substantial disruption or necessitate re-routing of existing water facilities or infrastructure or require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water facilities.

Stormwater Drainage

A determination of **No Impact (N)** shall be made for projects that do not require stormwater drainage. A determination of **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made when the project design integrates stormwater drainage in compliance with applicable state and local regulations. If the project cannot comply with applicable state and local regulations, consult with the PWA to evaluate the project for any potentially significant impacts.

Electricity

A determination of **No Impact (N)** shall be made if the project is already served by existing electrical facilities. A determination of **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made when the project is

not currently served with electricity but is in an area that is currently served by existing electrical facilities. If new, aboveground transmission lines of 66 kV or greater are required, the project should be expanded to include these facilities, and the facilities shall be evaluated for any potential significant environmental impacts (e.g., scenic resources) and whether such impacts, if any, could be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Natural Gas

A determination of **No Impact (N)** shall be made when the project would not use natural gas. A determination of **Less than Significant Impact (LS)** shall be made when the project would use natural gas and there are existing natural gas transmission facilities in the immediate area.

If the project would use natural gas and there are no natural gas facilities in the immediate area, the project applicant shall determine how the project could connect to these facilities to serve the project. The extension of gas service facilities must be made part of the project (if not already included) and shall be evaluated accordingly for any potentially significant impacts.

Communication Facilities (cellular, telephone, cable)

The *Lead Agency* shall determine whether the project should be referred to the Ventura County Information Technology Services, Network Services Division for further evaluation. If consulted, the Network Services Division shall determine whether further study or design work is required and determine whether the project will have the potential to result in any significant impacts. In addition, the *Lead Agency* shall consult with any applicable military base within the county regarding the project's use of radio frequencies to ensure the project does not impede military wireless or radio communications. If the project would use radio frequencies intended for emergency communication, then the project may interfere with, and result in an adverse impact on, emergency communication facilities.

(g) Would the project substantially interfere with, or compromise the integrity, or affect the operation of an existing pipeline that is currently in operation?

The *Lead Agency* shall review the Oil and Gas Pipeline data layer on the Ventura County *Resource Management Agency Geographic Information System Viewer* to determine whether the project would be located over a pipeline facility or route. The Oil and Gas Pipeline data layer may not be released to the public in accordance with the directions of the Federal Office of Homeland Security.

If the project is located over a pipeline facility, contact the appropriate facility owner to discuss the project and determine the potential project impact on the pipeline facility, as well as any measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts, if necessary.

25.4 RESOURCES & REFERENCES

Source	Managing Agency/Organization	Online Access
Resources		
Ventura County CEQA Implementation Manual	Ventura County Resource Management Agency (RMA) Planning Division	PDF | Website

Source	Managing Agency/Organization	Online Access
Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, Introduction	Ventura County RMA Planning Division	PDF | Website
Ventura County Initial Study Checklist Template	Ventura County RMA Planning Division	PDF | Website
References		
California Environmental Quality Act	California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, formerly Office of Planning and Research	Website
Central Valley Project	US Bureau of Reclamation	Website
Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan	CalRecycle	Website
Ventura County General Plan Background Report, Chapter 7	Ventura County RMA Planning Division	PDF | Website
Ventura County General Plan Background Report, Chapter 10	Ventura County RMA Planning Division	PDF | Website
Ventura County Water and Sanitation Districts	Ventura County Public Works Agency (PWA)	Website
Ventura County RMA Geographic Information Systems Viewer	Ventura County Information Technology Services	Website