

3.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

3.16.1 SETTING

Public utilities and service systems include water supply, wastewater treatment, storm drainage and solid waste. Public utilities are provided primarily for environmental management purposes, whereas public services such as fire and police protection services, schools and parks, are generally provided for social purposes (see discussion under Section 3.13 **PUBLIC SERVICES**, above).

The Monterey Bay area incorporates a full range of public utilities serving the urban and agricultural areas of the three counties, including water, wastewater, storm drainage and solid waste facilities. Major water agencies include the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, (PVWMA), San Benito County Water District, San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD), and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department. There are also a few other smaller water providers.

The supply of water could potentially constrain growth in the region, particularly in the Monterey Peninsula area, the Salinas Valley area, and Northern Monterey County, and may also constrain growth in Santa Cruz County. For example, environmental and property rights concerns have required the MPWMD to reduce the amount of water withdrawn from the Carmel River system (both groundwater and surface water). Within the Salinas Valley, overdraft of groundwater has resulted in saltwater intrusion into the valley, especially in the North County area. The North County area is the subject of special remedial and investigative activities, which have identified nitrate contamination from both urban and agricultural activities, resulting in the need for implementation of a Basin Management Plan to achieve a water balance in the area.

Wastewater capacity has also been a concern within some of the Salinas Valley cities, and in the large service area of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) which encompasses most of the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas and Castroville. However, the MRWPCA has expansion and funding plans in place to accommodate growth as it becomes necessary. AMBAG's analysis of potential constraints to population growth (see Table 3 on page 8 of AMBAG's 1997 Regional Population and Employment Forecast for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties, Final Report, November 12, 1997) indicates that the earliest possible year in which some areas (San Benito County and those portions of Santa Cruz County beyond the City of Santa Cruz) would be expected to face landfill capacity constraints is 2015, when new facilities or expansions may be required. All other areas within the region (Monterey County and the City of Santa Cruz) would not be expected to experience any landfill capacity constraints until 2020 or beyond.

The operations and effectiveness of the utility services in the region may depend upon the ability of each entity to respond to new demands from growth and development in their respective jurisdictions. Each utility is responsible for providing new capacity, facilities, personnel and

administrative support to meet the demands of growing communities, and for obtaining adequate public funding for their services.

3.16.2 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Implementation of the three plans could have a significant environmental impact if it were to result in:

- Exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- The construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities (or the expansion of existing facilities) which could cause significant environmental effects;
- The construction of new storm water drainage facilities (or the expansion of existing facilities) which could cause significant environmental effects;
- The need for new or expanded entitlements to water supply resources;
- A determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves (or may serve) the project that it would not have adequate capacity to serve the project's anticipated demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
- Development which could not be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; or
- Non-compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Wastewater Treatment Capacity

Implementation of the three plans would not result in any significant increase in the regional demand for additional wastewater treatment.

Water Supply

The construction and maintenance of some transportation system improvement projects identified in the financially constrained Action Elements of the three plans could incrementally increase the demand for water within the region (see **IMPACT 3.8.2: Depletion of Groundwater Supplies and Interference with Groundwater Recharge** and **MITIGATION MEASURE 3.8.2: Reduce Water Demand/Increase Permeability** in Section 3.8. **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** above).

Landfill Capacity

Implementation of the three plans would not place any significant additional demands on the existing landfill capacity within the region.

Storm Drainage

Some of the projects identified in the financially constrained Action Elements of the three plans would require project-related storm drainage improvements which could entail significant environmental impacts (see **IMPACT 3.8.3: Increased Impervious Surface/Storm Water Runoff** and **MITIGATION MEASURE 3.8.3: Evaluation/Design/Permitting** in Section 3.8. **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**, above).

Construction-Related Disruption of Utility Services

During construction on some projects, some disruption in utility service may be anticipated.

IMPACT 3.16.1: Temporary Disruption of Utility Services/Installation. Proposed roadway construction and other transportation system improvement projects identified in the financially constrained Action Elements of the three plans could result in short-term, temporary disruption of utility services and/or could conflict with planned utility installation. Construction activities could disrupt services through both accidental and scheduled interruption of services. In addition, utility installation could disrupt newly constructed or resurfaced roadways if not properly coordinated between the agency responsible for the implementation of the proposed transportation system improvement and the local public works department or utility provider. As the physical characteristics of each project become more clearly defined, it is possible that some of these projects may be found to have the potential to disrupt utility services. These disruptions could represent **potentially significant environmental impacts** associated with these types of projects.

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURE

MITIGATION MEASURE 3.16.1: Consultation/Notice/USA

Prior to construction, the appropriate agency responsible for the actual implementation of individual projects should consult with affected utility companies to ensure adequate protection of all existing utilities. Advance notice should be given to affected residents and businesses of any scheduled utility disruption. Underground Service Alert (USA) should be contacted at least one week prior to the initiation of any construction activities, to allow utility companies and affected agencies adequate response time.

RESULTING LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Implementation of these measures could reduce these impacts to a level of less than significant.