

4.17 UTILITIES

This section evaluates the potential effects of implementing the 2040 General Plan on utilities, including water supply, wastewater treatment, solid waste, and gas, electric, and telecommunications infrastructure. As described in the “Approach to the Environmental Analysis” section, above, the following assessment of impacts is based on the characterization of existing environmental conditions and regulatory setting provided in Section 7 of the January 2020 Background Report (Appendix B). Where necessary, each section identifies changes (e.g., new information, regulatory changes) to the environmental and regulatory setting included in the Background Report that are relevant to understanding the 2040 General Plan’s potential impacts.

No comments regarding utilities were received in response to the notice of preparation (NOP). The NOP and comments on the NOP are included in Appendix A.

4.17.1 Background Report Setting Updates

REGULATORY SETTING

In addition to the information provided in Section 7 of the Background Report (Appendix B), the following information is relevant to understanding the potential utilities impacts of the 2040 General Plan:

- ▶ **Ventura County Sewer Policy:** The Ventura County Sewer Policy (Sewer Policy) requires connection to the public sewer for all subdivisions, and for discretionary projects requiring new onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS, e.g., “septic systems”) or increasing the volume of sewage on existing OWTSs. For example, a commercial development on a vacant lot is subject to the Sewer Policy. Additionally, a nonresidential project on a site with an existing OWTS that will add building(s) with plumbing or increase the number of employees such that the OWTS will have to be enlarged is also subject to the Sewer Policy. Projects that are the construction of a single-family dwelling, a duplex, and/or second dwelling unit are exempt from the Sewer Policy (but not Building Code which also has prescriptive requirements for connecting to public sewer). If obtaining a public sewer service is not feasible, the County may issue an exemption or waiver from the Sewer Policy.
- ▶ **California Government Code Section 4216:** California Government Code Section 4216 requires consultation with DigAlert, which notifies utility companies of proposed excavation sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

In addition to the information provided in the Background Report (Appendix B), the following information is relevant to understanding the potential utilities impacts of the 2040 General Plan:

Wastewater Treatment Capacity

The summary of wastewater service providers has been updated, as provided in Table 4.17-1.

Table 4.17-1 Wastewater Treatment Capacity, Ventura County

Agency	Total Number of Connections	Rated Capacity (MGD ¹)	ADWF ² (MGD)	Treatment Level
County Service Area No. 29	307	N/A	0.085	Tertiary
County Service Area No. 30	274	N/A	0.2	Tertiary
County Service Area No. 32	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
County Service Area No. 34	1,364	N/A	N/A	Tertiary
Camarillo Utility Enterprise	57	N/A	0.0356	Tertiary
Todd Road Jail	N/A	0.08	0.044	Secondary
Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	10,000 (37,000 population)	5	2	Tertiary
Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16	544 (2,000 population)	0.5	N/A	Secondary
Camarillo Sanitary District	70,000 (population, city and unincorporated)	7.25	4	Tertiary
Ojai Valley Sanitary District	20,000 (customers)	3	1.4	Tertiary
Saticoy Sanitary District	271	0.25	0.1	Secondary
Triunfo Sanitation District	12,300	16	9	Tertiary
Camrosa Water District	6,900	1.5	1.4	Tertiary
Channel Islands Beach Community Services District	1,800	N/A	N/A	N/A
City of Oxnard	40,000	32.7	17	Tertiary
City of Simi Valley	40,000 (527 unincorporated)	12.5	7.8	Tertiary
City of Thousand Oaks	130,000 (population)	14	8	Tertiary
City of Ventura	25,528	14	7.1	Tertiary

Notes: N/A= data is not available because the County does not provide sewer service or treatment; MGD¹=Million Gallons per Day; ADWF²=Average Dry Weather Flow.

Source: Appendix B (Table 7-2) with updated service connection numbers from Public Works Agency Water and Sanitation customer database and updated treatment plant levels provided by Joseph Pope, Director, Water and Sanitation Department.

4.17.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

METHODOLOGY

This analysis includes a program-level, qualitative assessment of impacts related to water supply, wastewater, solid waste, and electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications infrastructure. The analysis is qualitative and focuses on existing regulations, standards, and the policies of the 2040 General Plan.

Consideration of wastewater includes a general evaluation of available treatment capacity in the county. This information is used to determine if treatment capacity is generally available for future development under the 2040 General Plan. The assessment of available water supply considers the current regional demand and supply of water based in part on analyses available in current Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) for major water providers and available groundwater resources. This information is used to determine if supplies are available for future development under the 2040 General Plan.

The water supplies provided in the UWMPs, groundwater resources information, and estimated demands provided in the Background Report (Appendix B) inform the analysis of where additional demand may exceed the capacity within different watersheds in the county. Impacts related to solid waste are based on the following generation rates compiled by CalRecycle: 10.53 pounds (lbs)/employee/day, assuming commercial employment; and 12.23 lbs/household/day (CalRecycle 2019b). Generation and disposal quantities are assumed to be the same for this analysis and consist of waste that is disposed of at landfills and transformation facilities, or exported from the State.

Water supply assumptions were based on the 2015 UWMP for the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1, which indicates that residents demand an average of 120 gallons of water per day (Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1. 2016).

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

As discussed in the “Approach to the Environmental Analysis” section, the thresholds used to determine the significance of the 2040 General Plan’s impacts are based on Ventura County’s adopted Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAG), which include threshold criteria to assist in the evaluation of significant impacts for individual projects. Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines also provides considerations for determining the significance of a project’s impacts, in the form of initial study checklist questions.

To develop thresholds of significance for this section of the draft EIR, the County has deviated from the ISAG threshold criteria, where appropriate, to appropriately consider the programmatic nature of a general plan for the entire unincorporated area and to incorporate the 2019 revisions to the Appendix G checklist.

Specifically, ISAG Section 29c, related to solid waste treatment and disposal facilities, has been combined with Appendix G question XIX(d). ISAG Section 30, Threshold 2, which addresses increased demand for gas, electric, and communications facilities, has been combined with Appendix G question XIX(a) to include water supply and wastewater. ISAG Section 30, Threshold 1, related to disruption of existing facilities, is included as a separate threshold. ISAG Section 28b, Threshold 3, regarding water supply, has been combined with Appendix G question XIX(b) to consider whether sufficient water supplies would be available during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry year scenarios. ISAG Section 28b, Thresholds 1 and 2 address impacts on water supply based on consistency with the existing general plan. Thresholds related to consistency with the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or applicable Area Plan, are not discussed in this analysis because this draft EIR is an evaluation of an update to the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies, and Programs. Area Plans were updated to maintain consistency with the General Plan. Future projects would be required to demonstrate consistency with the 2040 General Plan, and the ISAGs provide for a project-level evaluation of discretionary projects by County staff on a case-by-case basis.

Issues pertaining to groundwater, stormwater drainage, and OWTS are addressed in Section 4.10, “Hydrology and Water Quality.”

For the purpose of this draft EIR, implementation of the 2040 General Plan would have a significant impact on utilities if it would:

- ▶ Be inconsistent with any applicable water supply quality requirements included in the California Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations, Ventura County Building Code, and the NCZO.
- ▶ Be inconsistent with fire flow requirements based on the Ventura County Fire Code and the Ventura County Water Works Manual.
- ▶ Be inconsistent with sewage collection and treatment regulations included in the California Water Code, the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plans, the California Plumbing Code, and the Ventura County Building Code.
- ▶ Be inconsistent with applicable solid waste facility requirements included in the California Health and safety Code, California Code of Regulations, California Public Resources Code, and Ventura County Ordinance Code.
- ▶ Cause a disruption or rerouting of an existing utility facility.
- ▶ Increase demand on a utility that results in the relocation or construction of new or expansion of existing water, wastewater, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications infrastructure, resulting in the potential for significant environmental impacts.
- ▶ Result in insufficient water supplies available to serve the plan area during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years.
- ▶ Result in inadequate wastewater treatment capacity to serve the 2040 General Plan's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments.
- ▶ Result in a direct or indirect adverse effect on a landfill's disposal capacity, such that it reduces its useful life to less than 15 years or is not consistent with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes related to solid waste.

ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER

The Area Plans for communities of El Rio/Del Norte, Lake Sherwood, North Ventura Avenue, Oak Park, Ojai, Piru, and Thousand Oaks were reviewed for policies and implementation programs specific to these Area Plans that would potentially have impacts on the environment with respect to utilities. The 2040 General Plan would not result in substantive changes to Area Plan policies and implementation programs related to utilities. The Area Plan goals and policies related to these issues are consistent with the 2040 General Plan policies and implementation programs, which are addressed in the following discussions. Therefore, the environmental effects of the Area Plan policies and implementation programs are not addressed separately in this section.

Water Supply - Quality

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would be required to be consistent with all applicable water supply quality requirements for the California Health and Safety Code,

California Code of Regulations, Ventura County Building Code, and Ventura County Ordinance Code. Therefore, issues related to water supply quality requirements are not addressed further.

Water Supply - Fire Flow Requirements

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would be required to be consistent with fire flow requirements based on the Ventura County Fire Code and the Ventura County Water Works Manual, the latter of which requires proof of water availability for fire flow. Therefore, issues related to fire flow requirements are not addressed further.

Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities - Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would be consistent with sewage collection and treatment regulations included in the California Water Code, the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plans, the California Plumbing Code, and the Ventura County Building Code. Therefore, issues related to sewage collection and treatment regulations are not addressed further.

Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities - Solid Waste Facilities

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would be required to be consistent with applicable solid waste facility requirements included in the California Health and safety Code, California Code of Regulations, California Public Resources Code, and Ventura County Ordinance Code. Therefore, issues related to solid waste facility requirements are not addressed further.

2040 GENERAL PLAN POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

Policies and implementation programs in the 2040 General Plan related to utilities and, specifically, the thresholds of significance identified above, include the following.

Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

- ▶ **Policy PFS 1.7: Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Availability.** The County shall only approve discretionary development in locations where adequate public facilities, services, and infrastructure are available and functional, under physical construction, or will be available prior to occupancy. (RDR) *[Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.1.2.2]*
- ▶ **Policy PFS-4.1: Wastewater Connections Requirement.** The County shall require development to connect to an existing wastewater collection and treatment facility if such facilities are available to serve the development. An onsite wastewater treatment system shall only be approved in areas where connection to a wastewater collection and treatment facility is deemed unavailable. (RDR) *[Source: Ventura County Sewer Policy, and Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.1, modified]*
- ▶ **Policy PFS-4.5: Onsite Water Reuse.** The County shall encourage on-site water reuse for landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge consistent with health standards, to reduce demand for potable water, and increase drought and disaster resiliency. (SO, RDR) *[New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy PFS-4.6: Reclaimed Water.** The County shall encourage public wastewater system operators to upgrade existing wastewater treatment systems to reclaim water suitable for reuse for landscaping, irrigation, and groundwater recharge. (SO, IGC) *[Source: New Policy]*

- ▶ **Policy PFS-4.7: Design to Minimize Inflow/Infiltration.** The County shall require that new wastewater lateral and trunk collection lines be designed to allow the minimum feasible amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater collection system. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.3]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-5.3: Solid Waste Capacity.** The County shall require evidence that adequate capacity exists within the solid waste system for the processing, recycling, transmission, and disposal of solid waste prior to approving discretionary development. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-5.4: Solid Waste Reduction.** The County shall support and promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting efforts, including food waste reduction in cases where consumable food can be redistributed rather than disposed. (SO) [Source: New Policy]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-5.5: Agricultural Waste Reuse.** The County shall support the beneficial reuse of agricultural wastes for activities such as composting and energy generation. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-5.6: Value-Added Alternatives to Waste Disposal.** The County shall promote value-added alternatives to solid waste management, such as compost, energy, biochar, and wood products to avoid open burning of agricultural biomass wastes. (SO, PI) [Source: New Policy]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-5.9: Waste Reduction Practices for Discretionary Development.** The County shall encourage applicants for discretionary development to employ practices that reduce the quantities of wastes generated and engage in recycling activities to further reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills. (RDR, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.6]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-7.1: Accessible Public Utilities.** The County shall work with utility companies and service providers to ensure that gas, electric, broadband, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines are located appropriately to provide for adequate services throughout the unincorporated area. (JP) [Source: New Policy]
- ▶ **Policy PFS-7.5: Broadband Service Access.** The County shall encourage broadband service providers to expand service areas and provide high quality access to broadband (high-speed internet) and cellular mobile communications services to residents and businesses, including unserved and underserved areas. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

Implementation Programs

- ▶ **Implementation Program A: Infrastructure Improvements and Funding.** The County shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update capital improvement programs for all County-owned and operated facilities and services to maintain adequate levels of service and consistency with the General Plan. [Source: New Program]
- ▶ **Implementation Program H: Ventura County Sewer Policy.** The County shall maintain a policy regarding the requirements and exemptions related to the connection to a wastewater treatment system. [Source: New Program, Ventura County Sewer Policy]

- ▶ **Implementation Program L: Food Waste Reduction.** The County shall provide educational and informational materials to restaurants, grocery stores, and other food providers, as part of food handler permitting, to support donation of safe, unused food to non-profit service agencies. *[Source: New Program]*

Water Resources Element

- ▶ **Policy WR-1.1: Sustainable Water Supply.** The County should encourage water suppliers, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the county's water resources, and to identify and implement measures to ensure a sustainable water supply to serve all existing and future residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment. (IGC, SO) *[Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.1 and Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Goal 4.2.1.1, modified]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.2: Watershed Planning.** The County shall consider the location of a discretionary project within a watershed to determine whether or not it could negatively impact a water source. As part of discretionary project review, the County shall also consider local watershed management plans when considering land use development. (MPSP, RDR) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.3: Portfolio of Water Sources.** The County shall support the use of, conveyance of, and seek to secure water from varied sources that contribute to a diverse water supply portfolio. The water supply portfolio may include, but is not limited to, imported water, surface water, groundwater, treated brackish groundwater, desalinated seawater, recycled water, and stormwater where economically feasible and protective of the environmental and public health. (IGC) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.4: State Water Sources.** The County shall continue to support the conveyance of, and seek to secure water from, state sources. (IGC) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.5: Agency Collaboration.** The County shall participate in regional committees to coordinate planning efforts for water and land use that is consistent with the Urban Water Management Planning Act, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the local Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and the Countywide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (stormwater and runoff management and reuse). (IGC) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.6: Water Supplier Cooperation.** The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to ensure immediate and long-term water needs are met efficiently. (IGC) *[Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.3.1.3, modified]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.7: Water Supply Inter-Ties.** The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to establish and maintain emergency inter-tie projects among water suppliers. (IGC) *[Source: New Policy]*

- ▶ **Policy WR-1.8: Water Supplier Consolidation.** The County shall encourage the consolidation of water suppliers where necessary to ensure all residents are receiving water of adequate quality and quantity, to promote management efficiencies, and to encourage sharing of local resources and enhancement of managerial and technical expertise and capacity. (IGC) [*Source: New Policy*]
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.9: Groundwater Basin Use for Water Storage.** Where technically feasible, the County shall support the use of groundwater basins for water storage. (IGC) [*Source: New Policy*]
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.10: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.** The County shall continue to support and participate with the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County in implementing and regularly updating the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. (IGC) [*Source: New Policy*]
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.11: Adequate Water for Discretionary Development.** The County shall require all discretionary development to demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water. (RDR) [*Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.3.2.1, modified*]
- ▶ **Policy WR-1.14: Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval – Golf Course Irrigation.** The County shall require that discretionary development for new golf courses shall be subject to conditions of approval that prohibit landscape irrigation with water from groundwater basins or inland surface waters identified as Municipal and Domestic Supply or Agricultural Supply in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan unless:
 - The existing and planned water supplies for a Hydrologic Area, including interrelated Hydrologic Areas and Subareas, are shown to be adequate to meet the projected demands for existing uses as well as reasonably foreseeable probable future uses within the area; and
 - It is demonstrated that the total groundwater extraction/recharge for the golf course will be equal to or less than the historic groundwater extraction/recharge for the site as defined in the County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

Further, where feasible, reclaimed water shall be utilized for new golf courses. (RDR) [*Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.10, modified*]
- ▶ **Policy WR-3.1: Non-Potable Water Use.** The County shall encourage the use of non-potable water, such as tertiary treated wastewater and household graywater, for industrial, agricultural, environmental, and landscaping needs consistent with appropriate regulations. (RDR) [*Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.6, modified*]
- ▶ **Policy WR-3.2: Water Use Efficiency for Discretionary Development.** The County shall require the use of water conservation techniques for discretionary development, as appropriate. Such techniques include low-flow plumbing fixtures in new construction that meet or exceed the state Plumbing Code, use of graywater or reclaimed water for landscaping, retention of stormwater runoff for direct use and/or groundwater recharge, and landscape water efficiency standards that meet or exceed the standards in the California Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance. (IGC, RDR) [*Source: New Policy*]

- ▶ **Policy WR-3.3: Low-Impact Development.** The County shall require discretionary development to incorporate low impact development design features and best management practices, including integration of stormwater capture facilities, consistent with County's Stormwater Permit. (RDR) *[Source: NBVC JLUS, Strategy BIO-1A]*
- ▶ **Policy WR-3.4: Reduce Potable Water Use.** The County shall strive for efficient use of potable water in County buildings and facilities through conservation measures, and technological advancements. (SO) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR 4.1: Groundwater Management.** The County shall work with water suppliers, water users, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and manage groundwater resources within the sustainable yield of each basin to ensure that county residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment have reliable, high-quality groundwater to serve existing and planned land uses during prolonged drought years. (IGC, RDR, SO) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR 4.2: Important Groundwater Recharge Area Protection.** In areas identified as important recharge areas by the County or the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the County shall condition discretionary development to limit impervious surfaces where feasible and shall require mitigation in cases where there is the potential for discharge of harmful pollutants within important groundwater recharge areas. (IGC, RDR) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR 4.3: Groundwater Recharge Projects.** The County shall support groundwater recharge and multi-benefit projects consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater. (IGC, RDR, SO) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR 4.4: In-Stream and Recycled Water Use for Groundwater Recharge.** The County shall encourage the use of in-stream water flow and recycled water for groundwater recharge while balancing the needs of urban and agricultural uses, and healthy ecosystems, including in-stream waterflows needed for endangered species protection. (RDR) *[Source: New Policy]*
- ▶ **Policy WR 4.5: Discretionary Development Subject to CEQA Statement of Overriding Considerations – Water Quantity and Quality.** The County shall require that discretionary development shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins. (RDR) *[Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.4, modified]*

Implementation Programs

- ▶ **Implementation Program F: Discretionary Development Review for Adequate Water and Wastewater.** The County shall verify that all discretionary development proposals demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water, adequate methods for sewage disposal, provide adequate drainage to avoid flooding, prevent erosion, and prevent contamination of local water. *[Source: New Program]*

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact 4.17-1: Cause a Disruption or Rerouting of an Existing Utility Facility

The proposed land use diagram of the 2040 General Plan would accommodate future development of relatively higher intensity residential, commercial, mixed use, and industrial land uses within the Existing Community area designation (boundary) and the Urban area designation (boundary). These are areas with existing residential, commercial, and/or industrial uses developed with urban building intensities generally located adjacent to the boundaries of incorporated cities or along highway corridors such as SR 33, SR 118, SR 126, and Highway 101. The residential, commercial, mixed use, and industrial land use designations of the 2040 General Plan would apply to approximately 1.2 percent of land in the unincorporated county. Potential uses within these designations include small- and large-lot detached single-family homes, one- to three-story attached single-family dwellings and lower density multifamily developments, mixes of commercial, office, residential, civic, and/or recreational uses, one- to two-story structures for retail and commercial services, and industrial employment-generating uses, such as production, assembly, warehousing, and distribution.

The Rural land use designation would allow for low-density and low-intensity land uses such as residential estates and other rural uses which are maintained in conjunction with agricultural and horticultural uses or in conjunction with the keeping of farm animals for recreational purposes, such as greenhouses, principal and accessory structures related to agriculture, and also oil and gas wells, and would apply to approximately 0.9 percent of land in the unincorporated county.

Approximately 97.1 percent of the unincorporated county would remain designated as either Open Space (approximately 88 percent) or Agriculture (approximately 9 percent) under the 2040 General Plan. The Open Space land use designation would allow low intensity development with a minimum parcel size of 10 acres and 1 dwelling unit per parcel. Other uses could include composting operations, greenhouses, correctional institutions, fire stations, and oil and gas wells. The Agriculture land use designation would allow for development of one dwelling unit per parcel and a minimum parcel size of 40 acres. Other uses could include greenhouses, principal and accessory structures related to agriculture, and composting operations. Proposed policies of the 2040 General Plan addressing flaring and trucking associated with new discretionary oil and gas wells could result in the construction and operation of new pipelines for the conveyance of oil, gas, or produced water.

As described above, future development under the 2040 General Plan could include new housing, commercial and industrial businesses, and other uses, which would require extension of utility facilities such as pipelines and powerlines to provide utility services. During construction, relocation of facilities and extension of existing supply lines could temporarily cause a disruption of service while connections are being completed. Unknown utility facilities could also be encountered during excavation and other earth-moving activities, which may affect provisions of water, wastewater, gas, electric, and telecommunication services. However, California Government Code Section 4216 requires contractors to contact DigAlert, which notifies utility companies of proposed excavation sites. Utility companies are required to mark where underground pipelines and transmission lines are located, to ensure they are not affected during construction.

Further, all utility connections would be constructed in accordance with all applicable building codes and applicable standards governing construction of utility infrastructure to ensure adequately sized and properly constructed systems. For instance, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is responsible for assuring California utility customers have safe, reliable utility services and regulates the planning and approval for the physical construction of electric generation, transmission, or distribution facilities; and the local pipelines of natural gas (CPUC Decision 95-08-038). In addition, design and construction standards for wastewater and water systems are provided in the Ventura County Sewerage Manual and the Waterworks Manual. Any necessary connections would be constructed before occupancy and in a manner that would minimize the potential for utility service disruption of existing uses. Thus, future development under the 2040 General Plan would not cause a substantial disruption or rerouting of utility facilities and this impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required for this impact.

Impact 4.17-2: Increase Demand on a Utility that Results in the Relocation or Construction of New, or Expansion of Existing Water, Wastewater, Electric Power, Natural Gas, or Telecommunications Infrastructure, Resulting in the Potential for Significant Environmental Impacts

Future development that could be accommodated under the 2040 General Plan is described in Impact 4.17-2. Policies included in the 2040 General Plan limit approval of discretionary development to locations where adequate public facilities, services, and infrastructure are available and functional, before occupancy (PFS-1.7). This includes coordination between the County and utility companies and service providers to ensure that gas, electric, and communication services (broadband, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines) are located appropriately to provide for adequate services (PFS-7.1 and PFS-7.5). Similarly, the 2040 General Plan requires adequate provision of water supply for discretionary development (WR-1.11) and connections to existing wastewater collection and treatment facilities, if available (PFS-4.1). To maintain adequate levels of services, the County would be required to prepare, adopt, and periodically update capital improvement programs for all County-owned and operated facilities (PFS Implementation Program A).

Moreover, the Ventura LAFCo's authority to regulate the jurisdictional boundaries of public agency service providers helps to ensure that adequate water and wastewater service capacity is available to serve future development. Finally, the 2040 General Plan is consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development, which require unincorporated urban development to be located within Existing Community area designation (boundary) and Urban area designation (boundary). Concentrating future development within these areas already served by existing utilities limits the need for expansions or extensions of urban services. Thus, through compliance with the policies and implementation programs of the 2040 General Plan, future development could result in new or expanded water supply, wastewater, electric power, natural gas, and telecommunication infrastructure. This could include extension or upgrades to water supply conveyance, distribution, treatment and surface water or groundwater storage infrastructure; electricity generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructures; natural gas lines, and telecommunication towers.

Utility suppliers periodically prepare master plans for water and wastewater and would anticipate the need for increased service levels as part of their regular planning process. Likewise, electricity and gas companies prepare load forecasts to ensure the reliability of service. As future development under the 2040 General Plan would occur over an approximately 20-year period, the improvements to public utility infrastructure would be constructed in a coordinated manner concurrent with increases in projected demand.

The potential physical environmental impacts resulting from the construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure within the county are evaluated throughout this draft EIR within the programmatic scope of growth and future development accommodated by the 2040 General Plan. The physical environmental impacts that would result from development of new or expanded utility infrastructure are similar to the impacts of other types of future development that would be accommodated by the 2040 General Plan (e.g., air quality, noise, water quality). Each of these environmental impact areas have been evaluated throughout this draft EIR, and in some cases, these impacts would result in potentially significant impacts. Therefore, this impact would be **potentially significant**.

Mitigation Measures

The construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure could result in the types of potential adverse physical changes to the environment already evaluated and identified throughout this draft EIR. Where impacts are potentially significant, the draft EIR identifies potentially feasible mitigation measures to avoid or substantially lessen the impact. As a result, no additional mitigation measures are identified in this section to address the potentially significant impacts of constructing new or expanded utility infrastructure.

Significance after Mitigation

This draft EIR includes a programmatic evaluation of potential adverse physical changes to the environment as a result of forecasted growth and future development under the 2040 General Plan, which includes the construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure to serve this growth and development. These environmental impacts are analyzed in Sections 4.1 through 4.17 of this draft EIR. As discussed herein, future development would be subject to applicable laws and regulations, the policies and implementation programs in the 2040 General Plan, and mitigation measures identified throughout this draft EIR. The adverse physical impacts associated with construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure would be consistent with the impacts of the types of development evaluated in this draft EIR, and potentially significant impacts would be mitigated, to the extent feasible, as described in the relevant resource sections. In some cases, mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant; in other cases impacts would remain significant and unavoidable after mitigation. Because not all potentially significant impacts of the 2040 General Plan can be reduced to less than significant, and some significant and unavoidable impacts would result, the impact of constructing new or expanded utility infrastructure in response to increased demand under the 2040 General Plan would be **significant and unavoidable**.

Impact 4.17-3: Result in Inadequate Wastewater Treatment Capacity to Serve Future Demand, in Addition to the Provider's Existing Commitments

As discussed in the Background Report, the county is served by 16 wastewater collection, treatment, recycling, and disposal service providers, consisting of the County, county services areas, special districts, cities, and contract entities. The number of available connections and remaining capacity of the wastewater treatment systems varies among the service providers.

As indicated in Table 4.17-1, additional treatment capacity is generally available throughout the county with the exception of Camrosa Water District, which is nearing capacity.

As required by the Ventura County Sewer Policy, 2040 General Plan Policy PFS-4.1, and PFS Element Implementation Program H, development must be connected to an existing wastewater collection and treatment facility, unless the County determines that a connection is not feasible (i.e., too far from the nearest sewer main and service area). The Ventura County Building Code also contains sewer connection requirements. Because connection to wastewater collection and treatment facilities is generally required with new development in Ventura County, growth of residential and commercial areas allowed under the 2040 General Plan would increase wastewater connections. The location of new residential and commercial areas, the associated wastewater flows, and the applicable wastewater treatment collection and treatment facility that would accommodate new flows is unknown. It is not possible to determine how and where future development under the 2040 General Plan would change wastewater flows throughout the county without site-specific information, which is not available.

Various policies included in the 2040 General Plan would result in improved water management throughout the county (see Impact 4.17-4), which could limit the increase in new wastewater flows in the county related to future development. This would be primarily achieved through actions that would improve water use efficiency. For instance, WR-3.4, encourages the efficient use of potable water in County buildings and facilities. Policies also provide consideration of terms for approval of discretionary development that could also include water conservation components, including use of reclaimed water and low-flow plumbing fixtures (WR-3.2) and low-impact development (WR-3.3). In addition, 2040 General Plan Policy PFS-4.7 requires new wastewater lateral and trunk collection lines to be designed to allow the minimum feasible amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater collection system. These policies would provide for improved management of wastewater flows relative to the existing conditions.

Wastewater treatment facilities are subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, which protects the beneficial uses of surface water that could be used for drinking, fishing, swimming, agriculture, and other activities. The NPDES permitting, which also includes waste discharge requirements [WDRs] under State law, provides limitations on daily treatment and flows, as well as the allowable concentrations or total loads of various constituents of concern found in treated effluent to protect public health. Effluent treatment facilities must be constructed and operated to meet the WDRs. The agency responsible for effluent quality is charged with determining flows that can be accepted. Furthermore, Water Element Implementation Program F requires that all discretionary development proposals demonstrate adequate methods for sewage disposal. Thus, because implementation of the 2040 General Plan policies and implementation programs, and NPDES permitting requirements would require adequate wastewater services to be provided to new development, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation would be required.

Impact 4.17-4: Result in Development That Would Adversely Affect Water Supply Quantities during Normal, Single-Dry, and Multiple-Dry Years

Adequate water supply is a current and ongoing concern in Ventura County, due to several related factors that include climate change and drought, the related declines in river flows and reservoir levels, historic overdraft of several local groundwater basins, curtailment of groundwater supplies in southern Ventura County, new groundwater well prohibitions, and reduced deliveries of imported water. As described in the Background Report, water supplies can be generally categorized into four watersheds: Ventura River Watershed, Cuyama Watershed, Santa Clara River Watershed, and Calleguas Creek Watershed. (The small portion of the Malibu Creek Watershed that falls in Ventura County is included with information on the Calleguas Creek Watershed for the purposes of this document.) These watersheds are described in more detail below.

Ventura River Watershed

Within the Ventura River Watershed, there are five major water suppliers and 11 mutual water companies. The major urban suppliers provide water to the cities of Ojai and Ventura and portions of the unincorporated county. The 11 mutual water companies provide water almost exclusively to residents and business in the unincorporated county. The major surface water features in the Ventura River Watershed are the Matilija Reservoir, Lake Casitas, and Ventura River. There are four major groundwater basins within the Ventura River Watershed: the Upper Ojai, Ojai Valley, Upper Ventura River, and Lower Ventura River. Total surface and groundwater supplies (37,700 – 44,400 acre-feet) generally exceed demand by a minimum of 5,00 acre-feet annually (see Table 4.17-2).

Cuyama Watershed

Water supplies within the Cuyama Watershed are limited to groundwater, which is primarily used for irrigation. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has categorized the groundwater basin that underlies the Cuyama Watershed, the Cuyama Groundwater Basin, as being in “critical overdraft” and a groundwater sustainability agency is being formed (Appendix B). The designation of critical overdraft indicates that water supplies are limited.

Santa Clara Watershed

Water is distributed throughout the Santa Clara Watershed among six municipal water districts and 74 smaller water systems and irrigation companies. The Santa Clara River Watershed contains two major surface water features: Lake Piru Reservoir and Santa Clara River, and is underlain by the Santa Clara River Valley groundwater basin. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District contracts with DWR for a State Water Project (SWP) allocation of 20,000 AF. The amount of SWP water allocated in each year depends on availability, and delivery is only allowed from November 1 through the end of February. The SWP contract expires in 2035, but negotiations are underway to extend the contract. To supplement water supplies, UWCD has periodically entered into annual agreements with Casitas Municipal Water District and the City of Ventura to purchase a portion of their unused SWP allocation; and the City of Oxnard purchases imported water from Calleguas Municipal Water District. In addition, recycled water is produced and delivered by the Cities of Fillmore, Oxnard, and Ventura. Depending on water available during a given year, water demands may exceed supplies within the Santa Clara River Watershed (Table 4.17-2).

Calleguas Creek Watershed

There are nine major water suppliers (entities serving more than 1,000 persons) in the Calleguas Creek Watershed as well as 52 smaller water systems and irrigation companies.

Within the Calleguas Creek Watershed, the major surface water features in the watershed are Lake Bard, the Arroyo Simi/Arroyo Las Posas/Calleguas Creek system, Conejo Creek system, and Honda Barranca/Beardsley Wash/Revolon Slough system. There are multiple groundwater basins within the Calleguas Creek Watershed, including: Pleasant Valley Basin, Arroyo Santa Rosa, Las Posas Valley, Simi Valley, Tapo/Gillibrand, and Tierra Rejada. Several smaller basins also exist in the watershed but provide only a minor amount of supply due to low production or poor water quality (less than 500 AFY each basin).

As indicated below in Table 4.17-2, existing water supplies in Ventura County are limited and demand may exceed supplies in some areas of the county.

Table 4.17-2 Existing Water Supplies and Demands

Watershed	Municipal Water Suppliers	Other Water Suppliers	Water Supplies	Annual Water Demand
Ventura River	Casitas Municipal Water District Ventura Water Golden State Water Company Ventura River Water District Meiners Oaks Water District	11 mutual water companies	23,051 AF Surface Water 14,600 to 21,300 AF Groundwater (37,700 – 44,400 AF total)	32,700 AF
Cuyama	None	None	22,000 AF	10,000 AF agriculture/8 AF domestic
Santa Clara River	Castaic Lake Water Agency City of Fillmore City of Oxnard City of Santa Paula United Water Conservation District Ventura Water	74 smaller water systems and irrigation companies	12,000 AF Imported Water 10,200 to 19,700 AF Recycled Water 136,400 to 171,000 AF Groundwater (158,400 – 202,700 AF Total)	182,600 AF
Calleguas Creek	Calleguas Municipal Water District City of Simi Valley/Ventura Co. Waterworks City of Oxnard City of Thousand Oaks City of Camarillo Port Hueneme Water Agency Camrosa Water District Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19 Triunfo Water and Sanitation District California American Water Company – Ventura District California Water Service Company – Westlake District Golden State Water Company – Simi Valley Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company Crestview Mutual Water Company Zone Mutual Water Company	52 small water systems and irrigation companies	11,324 AF Surface Water 119,417 AF Imported Water 13,931 Recycled Water 51,300 to 82,300 AF Groundwater (196,000 – 227,000 AF total)	224,660 AF ¹

Note: AF=acre-feet.

1: Calleguas Municipal Water District imports water into the watershed through the State Water Project to meet basin demand in most years.

Source: Appendix B

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would increase water demand. The 2040 General Plan is anticipated to accommodate a population increase of 4,099 people and increase in employment of 2,986 jobs from 2015 through 2040.

For the plan area, water demand related to population growth would be approximately 491,900 gallons per day (approximately 550 acre feet per year), assuming a use rate of 120 gallons per day per capita. Industrial and commercial development would also increase water demand in the county. While the exact location of new development is unknown, based on the planned land use diagram it is reasonable to assume that it would primarily occur within the southern portion of the county overlying the Ventura River, Santa Clara River, and Calleguas Creek Watersheds near to existing urban development (e.g., incorporated cities). As discussed above and indicated in Table 4.17-2, water supplies are limited throughout these watersheds. Depending on the location of future development, adequate water supplies may not be available to meet future water demands under normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry year scenarios. New or expanded existing water supply infrastructure could be required to serve forecasted growth and future development with adequate water supplies. Examples include new or expanded conveyance pipelines to import water, including from State water sources, surface or groundwater storage, treatment facilities, facilities for the treatment, distribution, and storage of reclaimed water, and desalination facilities. Water conservation and efficiency measures, such as low-flow fixtures, drip irrigation, and native landscaping, could also be employed to serve future development and forecasted growth with adequate water supplies. Refer to Impact 4.17-2 for discussion of physical environmental impacts associated with constructing new or expanded utility infrastructure, including water supply conveyance, treatment, distribution, and storage infrastructure to serve future development and forecasted growth with adequate water supplies.

The Ventura County Waterworks Manual (VCWWM) includes standards to address water availability for land development projects. Per VCWWM Section 1.3.6, water purveyors that serve or plan to serve any land development project which is subject to any approval by the County or a County-dependent special district must prepare a letter, known as a water availability letter (WAL), declaring that the purveyor's water system has the necessary water capacity available to supply the domestic and firefighting requirements for the project or service area (PWA 2014). Receipt and acceptance of a WAL by the County is a prerequisite to a water purveyor issuing additional "will serve" letters (WSLs). A WSL is an agreement between a county resident and a water purveyor to provide water service. A WSL approved by the County Public Works Agency (PWA) is required for a property owner to obtain a building permit from the County. The WAL must be signed by a member of the purveyor's Board of Directors or General Manager and contain, among other things: maximum day average water demand, required domestic water storage volume, and number of water service connections. In the case of water purveyors classified as Urban Water Suppliers under the Urban Water Management Planning Act, the adoption of a current UWMP that has been accepted by the State Department of Water Resources satisfies the requirement for submission to and acceptance by the County of a WAL. The WAL requirement was implemented by the County to avoid incremental issuance of WSLs for additional services that would add connections to existing water systems without taking into account the cumulative effect of all previous additions (PWA 2019). Review of WSLs includes a verification of available connections and the water purveyor's ability to provide service. (Note that part of the project planning process includes a determination of fire flow requirements. The water district cannot issue a WSL without demonstration of sufficient fire flow.)

If either of the two above requirements are met, then a WSL may be submitted to the County PWA for review.

In addition to the existing VCWWM requirements to address water availability through WALs and WSLs for land development projects, the 2040 General Plan includes policies to address potential water supply shortfalls, that would strengthen water management in the county through improved water efficiency, planning efforts, and guidance for consideration of discretionary projects. Policies included in the 2040 General Plan that would guide improved water efficiency include encouraging the use of reclaimed water (PFS-4.6), encouraging on-site water reuse for landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge (PFS-4.5), encouraging use of groundwater basins for water storage where feasible (WR-1.9), using non-potable water for industrial, agricultural, environmental, and landscaping water needs (WR-3.1), striving for efficient use of potable water in County buildings and facilities (WR-3.4), supporting implementation of groundwater recharge projects (WR 4.3 and 4.4), and protection of groundwater recharge areas (WR 4-2). These actions would essentially increase available water supply, which could offset some demand throughout the county, depending on where conservation activities occur, the location of future demand, and how it would affect a particular water supplier.

Policies included in the 2040 General Plan also encourage coordinated planning efforts related to ensuring availability of adequate water supplies in the county, including: sustainable water supply plans for water suppliers and groundwater agencies (WR-1.1); development of a diverse water supply portfolio (WR-1.3); participation in regional planning committees to coordinate planning efforts for water and land use (WR-1.5); and continued support and participation with the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County in implementing and updating the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (WR-1.10). In addition, policies encourage coordination with water suppliers, water users, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (WR-4.1) (see Section 4.10, "Hydrology and Water Quality," for more information related to groundwater). The 2040 General Plan encourages the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County. This cooperation is aimed to ensure: immediate and long-term water needs are met efficiently (WR-1.6), development of emergency inter-tie projects among water suppliers (WR-1.7), and encouragement of consolidation of water suppliers (WR-1.8). Regional and countywide planning would help to promote management efficiencies and the sharing of local resources, which are intended improve water demand management and water supply availability in the county.

Furthermore, various policies the water supply impacts of discretionary development projects, such as whether a project is located within a watershed where a water source could be adversely affected (WR-1.2), including State water sources (WR-1.4) and if adequate long-term water supply can be demonstrated (WR-1.11). Policy WR.4.5 requires that discretionary development shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins. The 2040 General Plan also requires conditions of approval on water use at new golf courses (WR-1.14). Terms for approval of discretionary development could also include water conservation components, including use of reclaimed water, low-flow plumbing fixtures (WR-3.2), and low-impact development (WR-3.3). These policies support Water Element Implementation Program F, which requires that all discretionary development demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water prior to project approval.

As indicated above, future development under the 2040 General Plan would increase water demand related to population growth by approximately 491,900 gallons per day, assuming a use rate of 120 gallons per day per capita plus additional increases to due to industrial and commercial uses.

For additional discussion of the reasonably foreseeable impacts of supplying water refer to Section 4.10, "Hydrology and Water Quality." Potential impacts from using groundwater for water supply are addressed in Impacts 4.10-1, 4.10-2, 4.10-3, and 4.10-4, which address the potential for groundwater extraction that results in an overdrafted basin, net decrease in the amount of groundwater within an overdrafted basin, and net annual increases in groundwater extraction that exceed 1.0 acre-foot. Impact 4.10-7 addresses increases in surface water consumptive use (demand) within a fully appreciated stream reach. Impact 4.10-8 addresses increases in surface water consumptive use (demand) including but not limited to diversion or dewatering of downstream reaches that adversely affect one or more beneficial uses of the surface water source.

Overall, the 2040 General Plan policies contain various methods of water conservation and water planning, which would improve water management in the county. Discretionary development would be required to demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water prior to project approval. Although the 2040 General Plan would include policies to conserve water and result in adequate long-term water supplies for future development, existing County standards in the VCWWM do not guarantee that water supplies be available to serve all future development during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. Thus, based on available information about water supplies and demand at this program level of analysis, future development accommodated by the 2040 General Plan could adversely affect available water supplies during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry year scenarios from public water suppliers, with adverse effects being more likely during single- and multiple-dry year scenarios. This impact would be **potentially significant**.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure UTL-1: New Implementation Program WR-X: Demonstrate Adequate Water Supply during Normal, Single-Dry, and Multiple-Dry Years

The County shall include the following new implementation program in the 2040 General Plan.

Implementation Program WR-X: Demonstrate Adequate Water Supply during Normal, Single-Dry, and Multiple-Dry Years

Water-demand projects (as defined in Section 15155 of the State CEQA Guidelines) that require service from a public water system shall prepare a water supply assessment prior to project approval. If the projected water demand associated with the project was not accounted for in the most recently adopted urban water management plan, or the public water system has no urban water management plan, the water supply assessment must address the public water system's total projected water supplies available during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years for a 20-year projection. The assessment shall describe if the new water service will be sufficiently met under this 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 County. If, as a result of its assessment, the public water system concludes that its water supplies are, or will be, insufficient, the public water system shall provide to the County its plans for acquiring additional water supplies. A water-demand project that includes a new water service from a public water system shall not be approved unless adequate water supplies are demonstrated.

Significance after Mitigation

Water is a critical resource in the county and throughout California. Regulations related to water supply assessment and verification requirements for certain types of projects have been adopted by the California Legislature. (See Water Code Section 10910 et seq. [water supply assessments] and Government Code Section 66473.7 [water supply verifications].) As provided in Section 15155(f) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the degree of certainty required for analysis of a general plan is less than that appropriate for a specific development project and information contained in a water supply assessment or UWMP may be incorporated into the decision-making process. Mitigation Measure UTL-1 incorporates industry-standard adequacy principles to ensure that the County consistently develops the information needed to evaluate the impacts at the project-level associated with providing water supply to future water demand projects.

This mitigation measure, together with the County's existing WAL and WSL requirements and 2040 General Plan policies and programs, including the requirement for discretionary development to demonstrate an adequate long term supply of water prior to project approval, would reduce the potential for future development to adversely affect water supplies during normal, single dry, and multiple dry years. However, at this program level of analysis it is not possible to conclude that adequate water supplies would be available during normal, single-, and multiple dry years to meet future demand in all locations of the county for all potential project types through 2040. Therefore, this impact would be **significant and unavoidable**.

Impact 4.17-5: Result in a Direct or Indirect Adverse Effect on a Landfill's Disposal Capacity, Such That It Reduces Its Useful Life to Less Than 15 Years

As discussed in the Background Report, there are two active solid waste disposal/landfill sites in the county: Toland Road Landfill and Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center; and, two landfills located outside of the county that accept waste from Ventura County: Calabasas Landfill and Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Currently Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center has the longest estimated useful life through 2052, followed by Chiquita Canyon Landfill (estimated to cease operations in 2047), Calabasas Landfill (estimated to cease operations in 2029), and Toland Road Landfill (estimated to cease operations in 2027) (CalRecycle 2019a). Table 4.17-3 provides an overview of landfills that accept waste from the county, including daily throughput, remaining capacity, and maximum permitted capacity.

Table 4.17-3 Existing Landfill Capacity

Facility	Daily Throughput (tons/day)	Remaining Capacity (cubic yards)	Maximum Permitted Capacity (cubic yards)
Calabasas Landfill	3,500	14,500,000	69,300,000
Chiquita Canyon Landfill	12,000	60,408,000	110,366,000
Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center	9,250	88,300,000	119,600,000
Toland Road Landfill	1,500	10,571,820	30,000,000
Total	26,250	173,779,820	329,266,000

Source: CalRecycle 2019b

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would contribute to an increase in solid waste generation because of increased population levels and new businesses. Based on CalRecycle's generation rates, county solid waste quantities would increase by approximately 24 tons per day (10.53 lbs/employee/day for 2,986 employees and 12.23 lbs/household/day for 1,281 housing units).

This is a relatively small portion of the total throughput available at landfills that accept solid waste from Ventura County (26,250 tons/day). In addition, the 2040 General Plan policies promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting efforts, including redistribution of edible food that would otherwise be disposed of in landfills (PFS-5.4). Policies also direct the County to support beneficial reuse of agricultural waste for activities such as composting and energy generation (PFS-5.5), and value-added alternatives to waste disposal, such as compost, energy, biochar, and wood products (PFS-5.6). In addition, the County would encourage applicants for discretionary development to employ practices that reduce the quantities of waste generated and engage in recycling activities to further reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills (PFS-5.9). These policies would reduce disposal quantities to landfills, which could in turn promote an extension of the facilities' useful life. As provide in the Background Report, State statues and requirements include diversion requirements related to organic waste and recyclable materials. The 2040 General Plan would support these regulations and would not conflict with waste reduction and diversion goals. Because there is substantial capacity available at the landfills that serve the county (as shown in Table 4.17-3), and because implementation of 2040 General Plan policies would aid in the long-term reduction of solid-waste generation in the county and State-mandated diversion requirements related to organic waste and recyclable materials would be supported, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required for this impact.