

C. Environment



The Tulare County General Plan provides guidance for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the protection of the health and safety of County residents with an emphasis on enhancing scenic landscapes, reducing pollutants, minimizing the threats of man-made and natural hazards, and maintaining adequate water supplies.

Environmental Concepts

Concept 1: Scenic Landscapes

The scenic landscapes in Tulare County will continue to be one of the County's most visible assets. The Tulare County General Plan emphasizes the enhancement and preservation of these resources as critical to the future of the County. The County will continue to assess the recreational, tourism, quality of life, and economic benefits that scenic landscapes provide and implement programs that preserve and use this resource to the fullest extent.

Concept 2: Environmental Resources Management

As Tulare County develops its communities and hamlets, the County will ensure that development occurs in a manner that limits impacts to natural and cultural resources through proper site planning and design techniques. Development will be avoided in naturally and culturally sensitive areas wherever possible.

Concept 3: Air Quality

The air of Tulare County and its surrounding region will be incrementally cleaner as the implementation of improved transportation, agriculture, and industrial practices reduce pollutants.

Concept 4: Health and Safety

The provision of a responsive public health and safety system is critical to the County's future and the welfare of its residents. Development in unstable or hazard-prone areas (e.g., flood plains, slopes, etc.) will be limited to low-intensity uses. Police and fire services throughout the County will be expanded to serve growing communities, while noise sensitive land uses will be sited to avoid major noise generators, such as railroads, roadways, airports, and industrialized portions of the County.

Concept 5: Water

The long-term strategy for water in Tulare County centers on protecting and conserving existing water supplies and identifying new sources of water. As Tulare County continues to grow, new methods for conserving, treating, and supplying water will enable County residents and farmers to continue to have an adequate supply of quality water that limits long-term impacts on groundwater.



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Scenic Landscapes

Principle 1: Scenic Resources

Protect the beauty of the County [*New Principle*] [*Board of Supervisors, November 2005*]

Principle 2: Reinvestment

Promote reinvestment in existing communities in a way that enhances livability and image [*New Principle*]

Principle 3: Urban and Rural Interface

Encourage design and site planning of development adjacent to scenic landscapes that reflect the unique relationship between communities and rural lands [*New Principle*]

Principle 4: Rural Landscape Separators

Plan and design communities to maintain rural landscapes as visual and physical separators [*New Principle*]

Principle 5: New Town Impacts

Ensure that new towns or communities are planned and designed to limit their impact on scenic working and natural landscapes [*New Principle*]

Environmental Resources Management

Principle 1: Natural Resources

Provide for the appropriate utilization of natural resources in the County [*New Principle*] [*Board of Supervisors, November 2005*]

Principle 2: Reduce Impacts

Design and plan new development to reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources [*New Principle*]

Principle 3: Cultural Resources

Continue identifying significant cultural resources to ensure the preservation and maintenance of the heritage of Tulare County [*New Principle*]

Principle 4: Natural Lands

Support the continued preservation of natural lands [*New Principle*]

Air Quality

Principle 1: Air Quality

Pursue economic, land use, and transportation programs that improve air quality in the County [*New Principle*] [*Board of Supervisors, November 2005*]

Principle 2: Reduce Pollution

Encourage reduction in air polluting activities including industrial, agricultural, and transportation practices that contribute to poor air quality [*New Principle*]

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Principle 3: Alternative Transportation Modes

Promote land use patterns that support alternative modes of transportation to reduce vehicle emissions and maintain air quality [*New Principle*]

Health and Safety

Principle 1: Noise Protection

Locate noise-generating uses in areas with compatible surrounding uses [*New Principle*]

Principle 2: Critical Facilities

Locate critical facilities in areas with minimal hazards and design facilities to withstand potentially hazardous events [*New Principle*]

Principle 3: Public Safety

Maintain an adequate public safety and emergency response system throughout the County [*New Principle*]

Principle 4: Health, Safety, and Welfare

Protect the health, safety, and welfare of County residents [*New Principle*]

Water

Principle 1: Protection

Protect the supply and quality of urban, agricultural, and environmental water serving the County [*New Principle*] [*Board of Supervisors, November 2005*]

Principle 2: New Sources

Identify and encourage the development of new sources for water that do not deplete or negatively impact groundwater [*New Principle*]

Principle 3: Recharge

Identify and encourage the development of locations where water recharge systems can be developed to replenish water supplies [*New Principle*]

Principle 4: Adequate Supply

Plan delivery systems to ensure adequate water is available to meet demand [*New Principle*]

Principle 5: Conservation

Encourage efficient use, conservation, and reuse of water [*New Principle*]



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7. Scenic Landscapes

The Scenic Landscapes Element is organized into the following sections.

- Natural and Working Landscapes (Section 7.1)
- Scenic Corridors (Section 7.2)
- Community Design (Section 7.3)
- Design of Infrastructure (Section 7.4)
- Acronyms (Section 7.5)
- Implementation Measures (Section 7.6)

Existing Conditions

Tulare County has a complex structure of scenic natural landscapes, agricultural landscapes, and urban and rural communities. It possesses many of California's most unspoiled places and is experiencing rapid population growth and the need to diversify its economy. Tulare County's natural and working landscapes include growing communities and cities with expanding urban edges.

Key Terms

The following terms are used throughout this element to describe scenic landscapes issues:

Community Design. Community design considers the shape, patterns, and visual texture of development. It includes roads, blocks, buildings, land subdivision, and other types of historic and contemporary investment that contribute to the form and quality of communities and cities.

Compatible Development. This includes new public or private development, such as buildings and infrastructure, which is harmonious with natural features and historic structures.

Core Areas. These are traditional centers of communities that often include many cultural, governmental, economic, and residential activities that serve the surrounding area.

County Scenic Routes. These are highways and roads that have been identified by the County as important to tourism and the rural travel experience in valley, foothill, and mountain landscapes.

Cultural Landscapes. A cultural landscape is a geographic area that includes cultural and natural resources associated with an historic event, activity, person, or group of people. They provide scenic, economic, ecological, social, recreational, and educational opportunities.

Edge Conditions. This refers to the way urban uses interface with rural and agricultural landscapes.

Gateway Community. A community that is located along a major transportation route adjacent to a known destination (i.e., Three Rivers and Sequoia National Park). These communities must be passed through to access certain areas or destinations and act as gateways.

Historic Places. These are official national, State, and local historic preservation sites. These identify and acknowledge places of important historical, cultural, and/or architectural importance. A detailed description of these can be found in the Background Report.

Natural Landscapes. An expanse of naturally-formed scenery that contribute to the visual beauty of Tulare County.

Scenic Landscapes. Scenic landscapes include agricultural lands, woodlands, forestlands, watercourses, mountains, meadows, structures, communities, and other types of scenery that contribute to the visual beauty of Tulare County.

State Scenic Highways. Scenic highways exhibit unique natural beauty viewed by travelers. California Scenic Highways may be formally

designated based on criteria established in Section 260 et seq. of the Streets and Highway Code. Benefits of “scenic highway” status include protecting environmental assets that encourage tourism and inclusion on travel maps produced by the State Division of Tourism. State scenic highway nominations are evaluated by Caltrans using the following qualifications:

- The proposed scenic highway is principally within an unspoiled native habitat and showcases the unique aspects of the landscape, showcase agriculture, or man-made water features,
- Existing visual intrusions do not significantly impact the scenic corridor,
- Strong local support for the proposed scenic highway designation is demonstrated, and
- The length of the proposed scenic highway is not short or segmented.

If Caltrans determines that the highway qualifies for designation, the local government must prepare a scenic corridor protection plan including five minimum requirements, regulating elements such as land use, density, land and site planning, landscaping, and design.

Urban Separators. Urban separators maintain natural and working landscapes between urban areas. They are used to enhance definition of individual communities, hamlets and cities and maintain their identity.

Viewshed. An area of land, water, or other environmental features that is visible from a fixed vantage point. Viewsheds tend to be areas of particular scenic or historic value that are deemed worthy of preservation against development or other change. The preservation of viewsheds is typically the goal in the designation of open space areas, green belts, and urban separators.

Working Landscapes. These are landscapes shaped by human activities that produce economic commodities, such as agricultural lands, ranch lands, and timber lands. They may also include picturesque commercial districts in communities, crops, orchards, agricultural structures, stands of timber, and canals.

7.1 Natural and Working Landscapes

SL-1

To protect and feature the beauty of Tulare County’s views of working and natural landscapes. [*existing goal Modified*]

SL-1.1 Natural Landscapes

During review of discretionary permit applications, including parcel and subdivision maps, the County shall as appropriate, require new development to not significantly impact or block views of Tulare County’s natural landscapes. To this end, the County may require new development to:

- Be sited to minimize obstruction of views from public lands and rights-of-ways,
- Be designed to reduce visual prominence by keeping development below ridge lines, breaking up massing, using regionally familiar vernacular forms and materials and colors that blend structures into the landscape,
- Hide parking areas from view,
- Include landscaping that screens the development,
- Limit the impact of new roadways and grading on natural settings, and
- Include signage that is compatible and in character with the location and building design. [*New Policy*].

SL-1.2 Working Landscapes

The County shall require that new non-agricultural structures and infrastructure located in or adjacent to croplands, orchards, vineyards, and open rangelands be sited so as to not obstruct important viewsheds and to be designed to reflect unique relationships with the landscape by:

- Referencing traditional agricultural building forms and materials,
- Screening and breaking up parking and paving with landscaping, and
- Minimizing light pollution and bright signage. [*New Policy*].

SL-1.3 Watercourses

The County shall protect visual access to, and the character of, Tulare County’s scenic rivers, lakes, and irrigation canals by:

- Locating and designing new development to minimize visual impacts and obstruction of views of scenic watercourses from public lands and rights-of-ways, and
- Maintaining the rural and natural character of landscape viewed from trails and watercourses used for public recreation. [*New Policy*].

7.2 Scenic Corridors and Places

SL-2

To protect the scenic views for travelers along the County's roads and highways. [*New Goal*]

SL-2.1 Designated Scenic Routes and Highways

The County shall protect views of natural and working landscapes along the County's highways and roads by maintaining a designated system of County scenic routes and State scenic highways by:

- Requiring development within existing eligible State scenic highway corridors to adhere to land use and design standards and guidelines required by the State Scenic Highway Program,
- Supporting and encouraging citizen initiatives working for formal designation of eligible segments of State Highway 198 and State Highway 190 as State scenic highways,
- Formalizing a system of County scenic routes throughout the County (see Figure 7.2-1), and
- Requiring development located within County scenic route corridors to adhere to local design guidelines and standards. [*Existing Policy, Modified*].

SL-2.2 Gateways to the Sequoias

The County shall ensure that the "gateway highways" (State Highway 190 and State Highway 198) to the sequoias feature the County's unique history and scenery by:

- Maintaining the rural character of roadway rights-of-ways, highway signage, and related roadway and structure design,
- Protecting primary viewsheds from development,

- Prohibiting development of highway commercial projects that do not respond to their physical or cultural context, and
- Featuring the community centers/main streets of the gateway communities of Three Rivers and Springville. [*New Policy*].

SL-2.3 Historic and Cultural Landscapes

The County shall use the County's scenic routes and highways to connect cultural landscapes, historic landmarks and communities, and points of interest including:

- Historic travel routes and trails,
- Historic settlements,
- Historic places, events, sites, buildings and structures,
- Prehistoric and archeological features, and
- Majestic trees, streetscapes and parks [*New Policy*].

SL-2.4 New Billboards

Unless superceded by State law, the County shall prohibit billboards and other forms of off-site advertising along State scenic highways, County scenic routes, and within areas designated for agriculture and open space. [*Existing Policy, Modified*]

SL-2.5 Billboard Removal

The County shall seek to reduce the number of billboards along State scenic highways and County scenic routes. [*New Policy*]

SL-2.6 Billboard Placement

The County shall control the placement of billboards throughout the unincorporated County to preserve scenic qualities along major routes. [*New Policy*]

7.3 Community Design

SL-3

To provide distinctive communities, rural development patterns and character that is compatible with the best features of Tulare County's traditional community centers and agricultural landscapes. [*New Goal*]

SL-3.1 Community Centers and Neighborhoods

The County shall support investments in unincorporated communities and hamlets to improve the image, quality of urban infrastructure, amenities and visual character by:

- Encouraging restoration of existing historic buildings and developing new buildings that reflect the local culture and climate,
- Creating or enhancing overall community design frameworks with a hierarchy of connected block and street patterns, open spaces, town centers, neighborhoods, and civic facilities,
- Reducing the need for sound-walls and gated neighborhoods by having residential and non-residential uses interface along streets and open spaces (not adjoining property lines) and locating residential uses on local-serving streets,
- Planning residential development as interconnected neighborhoods with definable social and physical centers that incorporate parks, schools and commercial services,
- Enhancing the comfort and scenic experience of transit riders, cyclists, and pedestrians, and
- Developing open spaces, streets and pedestrian facilities that include landscaping and streetscaping that improve the image of the community and make it a more comfortable pedestrian environment. [*New Policy*].

SL-3.2 Urban Expansion—Edges

The County shall design and plan the edges and interface of communities with working and natural landscapes to protect their scenic qualities by:

- Maintaining urban separators between cities and communities,
- Encouraging cities to master plan mixed-density neighborhoods at their edges, locating compatible lower density uses adjacent to working and natural landscapes, and
- Protecting important natural, cultural and scenic resources located within areas that may be urbanized in the future. [*New Policy*].

SL-3.3 Highway Commercial

The County shall require highway commercial uses to be located and designed to reduce their visual impact on the travel experience along State scenic highways and County scenic routes by:

- Encouraging commercial development to locate in existing communities and hamlets,
- Designing highway commercial areas as an extension of community street patterns and vernacular design traditions, allowing the individual personalities of each community to extend to the highway edge, and
- Discouraging development of frontage roads consistent with commercial strips except when consistent with regional growth corridor and community plans. [*New Policy*].

SL-3.4 Planned Communities

If planned communities are allowed, the County shall require that they are designed to minimize visual impact on scenic working and natural landscapes by:

- Avoiding development along ridgelines and other highly visible locations,
- Siting development in a manner that reduces the visibility of new development,
- Mitigating light pollution on night sky conditions,
- Utilizing architectural and site planning concepts that appropriately reflect local climate and site conditions, and
- Integrating cultural, architectural and historic resources into their plans. [*New Policy*].

7.4 Design of Infrastructure

SL-4

To design infrastructure to visually enhance the built environment while minimizing visual impact on rural and natural places. [*New Goal*]

SL-4.1 Design of Highways

The County shall work with Caltrans and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) to ensure that the design of State Highway 99 and other State Highways protects scenic resources and provides access to vistas of working and natural landscapes by:

- Limiting the construction of sound walls that block views of the County’s landscapes (incorporate setbacks to sensitive land uses to avoid noise impacts whenever feasible),
- Using regionally-appropriate trees and landscaping and incorporating existing landmark trees,
- Preserving historic and cultural places and vistas, and
- Avoiding excessive cut and fill for roadways along State scenic highways and County scenic routes, and along areas exposed to a large viewing area. [*New Policy*].

SL-4.2 Design of County Roads

The County’s reinvestment in rural County roads outside urban areas should, in addition to meeting functional needs and safety needs, preserve the experience of traveling on the County’s “country roads” by:

- Maintaining narrow as possible rights-of-ways,
- Limiting the amount of curbs, paved shoulders, and other “urban” edge improvements, and
- Preserving historic bridges and signage. [*New Policy*].

SL-4.3 Railroads and Rail Transit

The County shall encourage rail infrastructure for freight and passenger service to be planned and designed to limit visual impacts on scenic landscapes by:

- Concentrating infrastructure in existing railroad rights-of-ways,
- Avoiding additional grade separated crossings in viewshed locations, and
- Using new transit stations supporting rail transit as design features in existing and future core community areas. [*New Policy*].

7.5 Acronyms

TCAG Tulare County Association of Governments



For information regarding communications systems, See Chapter 13, Public Facilities and Services, Section 13.6.

Tulare County General Plan

7.6 Implementation Measures

The following table documents the implementation measures included with the General Plan to implement the goals and policies included in this element.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
1. The County shall work with citizens groups to prepare nomination materials, inventories of visual and scenic resources, corridor protection plans and other documents required to support the adoption of State scenic highway designations for State Highways 190 and 198. <i>[New Implementation]</i>						
2. The County shall adopt procedures criteria, and formal nomination and designation procedures and requirements for County scenic routes.	SL-1.1 SL-2.1	RMA	■			
3. The County shall establish site plan review and/or design review processes for development located along designated State scenic highways and County scenic routes. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.1 SL-3.1	RMA	■			
4. The County shall prepare design guidelines for County scenic routes in the Valley areas (a scenic corridor overlay already exist for roads in the foothills). For communities, these guidelines will be used to maintain the scenic character of these corridors as they pass through the community. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.1 SL-3.1	RMA	■			
5. The County shall work with Caltrans on the preparation and maintenance of corridor protection plans that will be used to guide compatible development along designated State scenic highways. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.1 SL-2.4 SL-2.5 SL-3.3	RMA				■
6. The County shall work with local communities to prepare "Sequoia Gateway Guidelines" for Three Rivers and Springville. This shall be carried out in conjunction with community plan updates for these areas. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.2	RMA	■			
7. The County shall work with the Sequoia Regional Visitors Center, the Sequoia Natural History Association, the Economic Development Corporation and local interest groups in Three Rivers and Springville to prepare and distribute promotional materials detailing scenic routes, points of interest and activities that will entice visitors to stay longer in the County's gateway communities and surrounding areas. Distribution locations for these articles, maps and other materials might include visitor centers, the internet, safety rest stops, local cafes, and travel publications. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.2	RMA EDC				■

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	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
8.	The County shall work with the Tulare County Historical Society, State Parks, and the State Historic Preservation Officer to research historic sites along State scenic highways and County scenic routes and prepare a formal list of cultural and historic resources. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.3	RMA	■			
9.	The County shall evaluate existing amortization rules and explore means to abate and remove billboards, in coordination with Caltrans, as appropriate. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.4	RMA			■	
10.	The County shall create an inventory of existing billboards indicating any signs that are inconsistent with the County Zoning Ordinance. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-2.5	RMA			■	
11.	The County shall update its Land Development Regulations and Zoning Ordinance consistent with the policies described herein. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-3.1 SL-3.2 SL-3.3 SL-3.4 SL-4.1 SL-4.2	RMA	■			
12.	The County shall work with the Tulare County Redevelopment Agency, special districts, private developers, and local communities to add “design elements” to community plans and specific plans. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-3.1 SL-3.2 SL-3.3 SL-3.4 SL-4.1	RMA				■
13.	Whenever new or updated community, hamlet, sub-area or corridor plans are created, the need for urban separators will be considered as part of the process. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-3.2	RMA, Planning				■
14.	Development of design and improvement standards required in the Transportation Element (Implementation Measure 4) shall include consideration of the aesthetic principles set forth in Policy SL-4.2. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-4.2	RMA	■			
15.	The County shall work with railroads and transportation agencies to review rail planning for freight and passenger service in Tulare County for consistency with Scenic Landscapes Element. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	SL-4.3	RMA				■

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8. Environmental Resources Management

The Environmental Resources Management Element is divided into the following sections:

- Biological Resources (Section 8.1),
- Mineral Resources - Surface Mining (Section 8.2),
- Mineral Resources - Other (Section 8.3),
- Energy Resources (Section 8.4),
- Recreation and Open Space Resources (Section 8.5),
- Cultural Resources (Section 8.6),
- Soil Resources (Section 8.7),
- Acronyms (Section 8.8), and
- Implementation Measures (Section 8.9).



For water resource issues, see Chapter 11, Water Resources.

Key Terms

The following terms are used throughout this element to describe natural and cultural resource issues.

Active Recreation. This term is used to refer to sites that have been modified with structures or facilities designed for their enjoyment, such as a playground or recreation center.

Agricultural. Agricultural activities are defined to include the production of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and are lands available for use as cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and commercial timber.

Clustered Development. Development in which a number of dwelling units are placed in closer proximity than usual, or are attached, with the purpose of retaining an open-space area.

Commercial Recreation Facilities. Facilities serving recreational needs but operated for private profit

(e.g., private campgrounds, riding stables, tourist attractions, amusement parks).

Critical Habitat. Critical habitat is the natural environment designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as required for the conservation of a federally listed species. These habitats are specifically protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1532, 50 CFR 424.02). The designation of a critical habitat is a formal process that involves the posting of a draft proposal in the federal register of the critical habitat designation, a public comment period, and a final determination.

Cultural Resources. Cultural resources consist of tangible or observable evidence of past human activity, found in direct association with a geographic location, including tangible properties possessing intangible, traditional cultural values. Cultural resources may include buildings, structures, objects, sites, areas, places, records, or manuscripts which are historically or archaeologically significant.

Farmland Security Zone. An area created within an agricultural preserve by a board of supervisors (board) upon request by a landowner or group of landowners. An agricultural preserve defines the boundary of an area within which a city or County will enter into Williamson Act contracts with landowners. The boundary is designated by resolution of the board or city council having jurisdiction. Agricultural preserves are generally at least 100 acres in size.



For agricultural terms and policies, see Chapter 4, Agriculture.

Major Waterway. Any navigable body of water.

Mineral Resources. Mineral resources are defined as naturally occurring materials in the earth that can be utilized for commercial purposes.

MRZ-2. Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data indicate that significant mineral deposits are located or likely to be located. Defined by the State Geologist (also see SMARA).

Paleontological Resources. Paleontological resources are any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, with the exception of materials associated with an archaeological resource (as defined in Section 3(1) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb[1]), or any cultural item as defined in Section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

Passive Recreation. Areas used in their natural state with few structures or facilities other than parking and trails.

Recreation Area. Any public or private space set aside or primarily oriented to recreational use.

Ridgeline. A long, narrow chain of hills or mountains.

Riparian. The interface between land and a flowing surface water body. They are typically characterized by hydrophilic vegetation and are often subject to flooding. Riparian zones are significant in ecology, environmental management, and civil engineering due to their role in soil conservation, their biodiversity, and the influence they have on aquatic ecosystems. Riparian zones occur in many forms including grassland, woodland, wetland, or even non-vegetative.

Sensitive Habitat. A sensitive habitat is especially diverse, regionally uncommon, or of special concern to local, State, and federal agencies. Elimination or substantial degradation of such a community would constitute a significant impact under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) monitors the

condition of some sensitive natural communities in its Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB).

Sensitive Natural Community. A sensitive natural community is a biological community that is regionally rare, provides important habitat opportunities for wildlife, or is of special concern to local, State, or federal agencies. The CEQA identifies the elimination or substantial degradation of such communities as a significant impact (CERES 2004). Based on federal and State regulations, wetlands and critical habitat are examples of sensitive natural communities.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). The SMARA contains provisions for the inventory of mineral lands in the State of California. The State Geologist, in accordance with the State Board's Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands, must classify Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ).

Special-Status Species. Special-status species are those plants and animals that, because of their recognized rarity or vulnerability to habitat loss or population decline, are recognized by federal, State, or other agencies. Some of these species receive specific protection that is defined by federal or State endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as "sensitive" on the basis of adopted policies and expertise of State resource agencies or organizations with acknowledged expertise, or policies adopted by local governmental agencies such as counties, cities, and special districts to meet local conservation objectives. These species are referred to collectively as "special status species" in this report, following a convention that has developed in practice but has no official sanction. For the purposes of this assessment, the term "special-status" includes those species that are:

- Federally-listed or proposed under the federal Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 17.11-17.12),
- Candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (61 FR 7596-7613),
- State-listed or proposed under the California Endangered Species Act (14 CCR 670.5),
- Species listed by the USFWS or the CDFG as a species of concern or of special concern,

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- Fully protected animals, as defined by the State of California (California Fish and Game Code § 3511, 4700, and 5050),
- Species that meet the definition of threatened, endangered, or rare under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines § 15380),
- Plants listed as rare or endangered under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code § 1900 et seq.), and
- Plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare, threatened, or endangered (List 1A and List 2 status plants in Skinner and Pavlik 1994).

Vernal Pools. Seasonally flooded depression found on soils with an impermeable layer such as hardpan, claypan, or volcanic basalts. While the pools are shallow enough to dry up each session, the unique soil characteristics allow water to remain in pools longer than surrounding uplands. Plant and animal life within these pools is characterized by species specifically adapted to the cycles of wetting and drying.

Viewshed. A viewshed is the area that can be seen from a given vantage point and viewing direction. A viewshed is composed of foreground items (items close to the viewer) that are seen in detail, and background items (items at some distance from the viewer) that frame the view. If a person is moving, as when traveling along a roadway (a view corridor), the viewshed changes as the person moves, with the foreground items changing rapidly and the background items remaining fairly consistent for a long period of time.

Watercourse. Any river, creek, stream, brook, wash, arroyo or channel where water flows at least periodically.

Waters of the U.S. This is also a term defined in § 404 of the Clean Water Act, referring to those hydric features that are regulated by the Clean Water Act but are not defined as wetlands (33 CFR 328.4). Waters of the U.S. include lakes, rivers, and intermittent streams. To be considered under the jurisdiction of the ACOE, these features must exhibit

an identified bed and bank and an ordinary high-water mark. A permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is required under § 404 of the Clean Water Act for any action affecting other waters of the U.S. (33 USC 1344 and EPA 2004).

Waters of the State. This term is defined in the Porter-Cologne Act as "any surface or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State" (California Water Code § 13000 et seq.). Waters of the State includes all wetlands, including those not listed under the Clean Water Act, such as isolated wetlands. The Regional Water Quality Control Board enforces the Porter-Cologne Act and is charged with protecting waters of the State.

Wetlands. The federal government defines wetlands in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support (and do support, under normal circumstances) a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR 328.3[b] and 40 CFR 230.3). The definition of wetlands requires three wetland identification parameters are present: wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. The U.S. ACOE is the responsible agency for regulating wetlands under § 404 of the Clean Water Act, while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has overall responsibility for the Act (ACOE, 2002).

Williamson Act. The Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act, is a voluntary program that allows property owners to have their property assessed on the basis of agricultural production rather than current market value. The purpose of the Act is to encourage property owners to continue to use their property in agricultural activities to prevent their premature conversion to urban uses. Also see Farmland Security Zones.

Williamson Act Contract. A contract between a landowner and a city or County to restrict land to agricultural or open space uses in return for lower than normal property tax assessments. The minimum term for a Williamson Act contract is 10 years. Since the term automatically renews on each anniversary date of the contract, the actual term can be indefinite.

Existing Conditions Overview

Tulare County is located in a geographically diverse region with the majestic peaks of the Sierra Nevada framing its eastern region, while its western portion includes the San Joaquin valley floor, which is very fertile and extensively cultivated. Nestled among the scenic resources provided by its extensive topographic relief (elevations range from approximately 200 feet to the highest point in the lower 48 States at 14,505 feet above sea level), Tulare County enjoys a varied landscape exhibiting diverse ecosystems and habitats including the Pacific Flyway. A broad-scale method of classifying the landscape is by eco-region. This method is used by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and relates to the California Manual of Vegetation and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Major Land Resources Area system. The eco-region approach evaluates the land from a wide range of interrelated environmental variables including topography, soils, hydrology, flora, and fauna.

Tulare County falls into three eco-regions that trend generally north-south. These sections apportion the County in a north-south pattern. The majority of the western portion of the County comprises the Great Valley Section, the majority of the eastern portion of the County falls in the Sierra Nevada Section, and a band between these two sections comprises the Sierra Nevada Foothill Area (USFS 2004).

Mineral Resources. In addition to biological resources, Tulare County also has important mineral resources. Economically, the most important minerals that are extracted in Tulare County are sand, gravel, crushed rock, and natural gas. Other minerals that could be mined commercially include tungsten and relatively small amounts of chromite, copper, gold, lead, manganese, silver, zinc, barite, feldspar, limestone, and silica. Aggregate resources are the most valuable mineral resource in the County because it is a major component of the Portland cement concrete (PCC) and asphaltic concrete (AC). PCC and AC are essential to constructing roads, buildings, and providing for other infrastructure needs. There are three streams that have provided the main source of high quality sand and gravel in Tulare County to make PCC and AC. They include the Kaweah River, Lewis Creek,

and the Tule River. The highest quality deposits are located at the Kaweah and Tule Rivers. Other sources of construction material are also mined in the hard rock deposits of the foothills.

Recreation Resources. For recreation, there are 13 parks that are owned and operated by Tulare County. These parks are quite diverse, ranging from 3 acres to 160 acres in size. In addition to County parks, the County has extensive recreation and open space resources from Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument and the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The only State Park in Tulare County is Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, which contains a museum and visitor center. The Mountain Home State Forest consists of 4,807 acres of parkland containing a number of Giant Sequoias, and is located just east of Porterville. The Forest is a Demonstration Forest, which is considered timberland that is managed for forestry education, research, and recreation. Two federal recreational areas are also in Tulare County: Lake Keweah and Lake Success.

Cultural Resources. Tulare County lies within a culturally rich province of the San Joaquin Valley. Studies of the prehistory of the area show inhabitants of the San Joaquin Valley maintained fairly dense populations situated along the banks of major waterways, wetlands, and streams. Tulare County was inhabited by aboriginal California Indian groups consisting of the Southern Valley Yokuts, Foothill Yokuts, Monache, and Tubatulabal. Of the five main groups inhabiting the Tulare County area, the Southern Valley Yokuts occupied the largest territory.

California's coast was initially explored by Spanish (and a few Russian) military expeditions during the late 1500s. However, European settlement did not occur until the arrival into southern California of land-based expeditions originating from Spanish Mexico starting in the 1760s. Early settlement in the Tulare County area focused on ranching. In 1872, the Southern Pacific Railroad entered Tulare County, connecting the San Joaquin Valley with markets in the north and east. About the same time, valley settlers constructed a series of water conveyance systems (canals, dams, and ditches) across the valley. With ample water supplies and

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the assurance of rail transport for commodities such as grain, row crops, and fruit, a number of farming colonies soon appeared throughout the region.

The colonies grew to become cities such as Tulare, Visalia, Porterville, and Hanford. Visalia, the County seat, became the service, processing, and distribution center for the growing number of farms, dairies, and cattle ranches. By 1900, Tulare County boasted a population of about 18,000. New transportation links such as SR 99 (completed during the 1950s), affordable housing, light industry, and agricultural commerce brought steady growth to the valley. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated the 2003 Tulare County population to be 390,791.

8.1 Biological Resources

ERM-1

To preserve and protect sensitive significant habitats, enhance biodiversity, and promote healthy ecosystems throughout the County.
[New Goal]

ERM-1.1 Protection of Rare and Endangered Species

The County shall ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive wildlife and plant life, including those species designated as rare, threatened, and/or endangered by State and/or federal government, through compatible land use development. [New Policy based on ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Issue 12, and ERME; Pg 32]

ERM-1.2 Development in Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The County shall limit or modify proposed development within areas that contain sensitive habitat for special status species and direct development into less significant habitat areas. Development in natural habitats shall be controlled so as to minimize erosion and maximize beneficial vegetative growth. [New Policy based on EMRE; Water; Issue 3; Recommendation 3, ERME; Pg 28]

ERM-1.3 Encourage Cluster Development

When reviewing development proposals, the County shall encourage cluster development in

areas with moderate to high potential for sensitive habitat. [New Policy]

ERM-1.4 Protect Riparian Areas

The County shall protect riparian areas through habitat preservation, designation as open space or recreational land uses, bank stabilization, and development controls. [New Policy]

ERM-1.5 Riparian Management Plans and Mining Reclamation Plans

The County shall require mining reclamation plans and other management plans include measures to protect, maintain and restore riparian resources and habitats. [New Policy]

ERM-1.6 Management of Wetlands

The County shall support the preservation and management of wetland and riparian plant communities for passive recreation, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitats. [New Policy]

ERM-1.7 Planting of Native Vegetation

The County shall encourage the planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasslands in order to preserve the visual integrity of the landscape, provide habitat conditions suitable for native vegetation and wildlife, and ensure that a maximum number and variety of well-adapted plants are maintained. [New Policy]

ERM-1.8 Open Space Buffers

The County shall require buffer areas between development projects and significant watercourses, riparian vegetation, wetlands, and other sensitive habitats and natural communities. These buffers should be sufficient to assure the continued existence of the waterways and riparian habitat in their natural state. [New Policy based on EMRE policies]

ERM-1.9 Coordination of Management on Adjacent Lands

The County shall work with other government land management agencies (such as the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, National Park Service) to preserve and protect biological resources while maintaining the ability to utilize and enjoy the natural resources in the County. [New Policy]

ERM-1.10 Appropriate Access for Recreation

The County shall encourage appropriate access to resource-managed lands. [*New Policy*]

ERM-1.11 Hunting and Fishing

The County shall provide opportunities for hunting and fishing activities within the County pursuant to appropriate regulations of the California Fish & Game Code. [*New Policy*]

ERM-1.12 Management of Oak Woodland Communities

The County shall support the conservation and management of oak woodland communities and their habitats. [*New Policy*]

ERM-1.13 Pesticides

The Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer will cooperate with State and federal agencies in evaluating the side effects of new materials and techniques in pesticide controls to limit effects on natural resources. [*ERME IV-C; Pesticides; Recommendation 1*] [*ERME; Pg 131, Modified*]

ERM-1.14, Mitigation and Conservation Banking Program

The County shall support the establishment and administration of a mitigation banking program, including working cooperatively with TCAG, federal, State, not-for-profit and other agencies and groups to evaluate and identify appropriate lands for protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species impacted during the land development process. [*New Policy*]

8.2 Mineral Resources - Surface Mining

ERM-2

To conserve protect and encourage the development of areas containing mineral deposits while considering values relating to water resources, air quality, agriculture, traffic, biotic, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and other public interest values. [*New Goal based on MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.1 Conserve Mineral Deposits

Emphasize the conservation of identified and/or potential mineral deposits, recognizing the need for identifying, permitting, and maintaining a 50 year supply of locally available PCC grade aggregate. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.2 Recognize Mineral Deposits

Recognize as a part of the General Plan those areas which have identified and/or potential mineral deposits. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.3 Future Resource Development

Provide for the conservation of identified and/or potential mineral deposits within Tulare County as areas for future resource development. Recognize that mineral deposits are significantly limited within Tulare County and that they play an important role in support of the economy of the County. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.4 Identify New Resources

Encourage exploration, evaluation, identification, and development of previously unrecognized but potentially significant hard rock resources for production of crushed stone aggregate. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.5 Resources Development

The County will promote the responsible development of identified and/or potential mineral deposits. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.6 Streamline Process

Create a streamlined and timely permitting process for the mining industry, which will help encourage long-range planning and the reasonable amortization of investments. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

ERM-2.8 Minimize Adverse Impacts

Minimize the adverse effects on environmental features such as water quality and quantity, air quality, flood plains, geophysical characteristics, biotic, archaeological and aesthetic factors. [*MRPAC June 28, 2006*]

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ERM-2.9 Minimize Hazards and Nuisances

Minimize the hazards and nuisances to persons and properties in the area during extraction, processing and reclamation operations. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]

ERM-2.10 Compatibility

Develop mineral deposits in a manner compatible with surrounding land uses. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]

ERM-2.11 Incompatible Development

Proposed incompatible land uses shall not be on lands containing, or adjacent to identified mineral deposits, or along key access roads, unless adequate mitigation measures are adopted or a statement of overriding considerations stating public benefits and overriding reasons for permitting the proposed use are adopted. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]

ERM-2.12 Conditions of Approval

Procedures shall be established to ensure compliance with conditions of approval on all active and idle mines. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]

ERM-2.13 Approved Limits

Procedures shall be established to ensure that vested interest mining operations remain within their approved area and/or production limits. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]

ERM-2.14 SMARA Requirements

All surface mines, unless otherwise exempted, shall be subject to reclamation plans that meet SMARA requirements. Reclamation procedures shall restore the site for future beneficial use of the land. Mine reclamation costs shall be borne by the mine operator, and guaranteed by financial assurances set aside for restoration procedures. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]

8.3 Mineral Resources

ERM-3

To protect the current and future extraction of mineral resources that are important to the County's economy while minimizing impacts of this use on the public and the environment. [ERME IV-B; Land; Issue 8] [ERME; Pg 30, Modified]

ERM-3.1 Environmental Contamination

All mining operations shall be required to take precautions to avoid contamination from wastes or incidents related to the storage and disposal of hazardous materials, or general operating activity at the site. [New Policy]

ERM-3.2 Limited In-City Mining

Within UDBs, new commercial mining operations should be limited due to environmental and compatibility concerns. [New Policy]

ERM-3.3 Small-Scale Oil and Gas Extraction

The County shall permit by special use permit small-scale oil and gas extraction activities and facilities that can be demonstrated to not have a significant adverse effect on surrounding or adjacent land and are within an established oil and gas field outside of a UDB. [New Policy]

ERM-3.4 Oil and Gas Extraction

Facilities related to oil and gas extraction and processing may be allowed in identified oil and gas fields subject to a special use permit. The extraction shall demonstrate that it will be compatible with surrounding land uses and land use designations. [New Policy]

ERM-3.5 Reclamation of Oil and Gas Sites

The County shall require the timely reclamation of oil and gas development sites upon termination of such activities to facilitate the conversion of the land to its primary land use as designated by the General Plan. Reclamation costs shall be borne by the mine operator, and guaranteed by financial assurances set aside for restoration procedures. [New Policy, MRPAC Goals, Policies, Implementation Measures, and Development Standards, Goal F and associated policies]

8.4 Energy Resources

ERM-4

To encourage energy conservation in new and existing developments throughout the County. [New Goal]

ERM-4.1 Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures

The County shall encourage the use of solar energy, solar hot water panels, and other energy conservation and efficiency features in new

construction and renovation of existing structures in accordance with State law. *[New Policy]*

ERM-4.2 Streetscape and Parking Area Improvements for Energy Conservation

The County shall promote the planting and maintenance of shade trees along streets and within parking areas of new urban development to reduce radiation heating. *[New Policy]*

ERM-4.3 Local and State Programs

The County shall participate, to the extent feasible, in local and State programs that strive to reduce the consumption of natural or man-made energy sources. *[New Policy]*

ERM-4.4 Promote Energy Conservation Awareness

The County should coordinate with local utility providers to provide public education on energy conservation programs. *[New Policy]*

ERM-4.5 Advance Planning

The County shall participate with energy providers in identifying long range energy strategies and facilities. *[New Policy]* *[Amended per Staff Comments July 27, 2006]*

ERM-4.6 Renewable Energy

The County shall support efforts, when appropriately sited, for the development and use of alternative energy resources, including renewable energy such as wind and solar, bio-fuels and co-generation. *[New Policy]*

8.5 Recreation and Open Space Resources

ERM-5

To provide a parks, recreation, and open space system that serves the recreational needs of County residents and visitors, with special emphasis on recreation related to Environmental Resources Management. *[ERMI IV-B; Recreation; Recommendation 1]* *[ERMI; Pg. 22, Modified]*

ERM-5.1 Parks as Community Focal Points

The County shall strengthen the role of County parks as community focal points by providing community center/recreation buildings to new and existing parks, where feasible. *[New Policy]*

ERM-5.2 Park Amenities

The County shall provide a broad range of active and passive recreational opportunities within community parks. When possible, this should include active sports fields and facilities, community center/recreation buildings, children's play areas, multi-use areas and trails, sitting areas, and other specialized uses as appropriate. *[New Policy]*

ERM-5.3 Park Dedication Requirements

The County shall require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with local authority and State law (e.g., Quimby Act), to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities. *[New Policy]*

ERM-5.4 Park-Related Organizations

The County shall consider the use of existing entities or the creation of assessment districts, landscape and lighting districts, County service areas, community facilities districts, homeowners associations or other types of districts to generate funds for the acquisition and development of parkland and/or historical properties as development occurs in the County. *[New Policy]*

ERM-5.5 Collocated Facilities

The County shall encourage the development of parks near public facilities such as schools, community halls, libraries, museums, prehistoric sites, and open space areas and shall encourage joint-use agreements whenever possible. *[New Policy]*

ERM-5.6 Location and Size Criteria for Parks

Park types used in Tulare County are defined as follows:

- **Neighborhood Play Lots (Pocket Parks).** The smallest park type, these are typically included as part of a new development to serve the neighborhood in which they are contained. Typical size is one acre or less. If a

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park of this type is not accessible to the general public, it can not be counted towards the park dedication requirements of the County. Can be found in communities, hamlets, and other unincorporated areas,

- **Neighborhood Parks.** Neighborhood parks typically contain a playground and tot lot for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds, one basketball court or two half-courts, baseball field(s), an open grassy area for informal sports activities (e.g., soccer), and meandering concrete paths that contain low-level lighting for walking or jogging. In addition, neighborhood parks typically have picnic tables and a small group picnic shelter. These park types are in the range of 10 to 15 acres and serve an area within a ½ mile radius. Neighborhood parks can be found in communities, hamlets, and other unincorporated areas,
- **Community Parks.** Community parks are designed to serve the needs of the community as a whole. These facilities can contain the same facilities as the neighborhood park. In addition, these parks can contain sports facilities with night lighting, community centers, swimming pools, and facilities of special interest to the community. These parks are typically 15 to 40 acres in size and serve an area within a 2 mile radius. Community parks can be found in communities and large hamlets, and
- **Regional Parks.** Regional parks are facilities designed to address the needs of the County as a whole. These facilities may have an active recreation component (play area, group picnic area, etc.), but the majority of their area is maintained for passive recreation (such as hiking or horseback riding) and natural resource enjoyment. Regional parks are typically over 200 acres in size, but smaller facilities may be appropriate for specific sites of regional interest.

The following guidelines should be observed in creating and locating County parks:

- The County shall strive to maintain an overall standard of five to nine acres of County-owned improved parkland per 1,000 population in the unincorporated portions of the County,
- Neighborhood play lots (pocket parks) are encouraged as part of new subdivision applications as a project amenity, but are not included in the calculation of dedication requirements for the project,
- Neighborhood parks at three acres per 1,000 population, if adjoining an elementary school and six acres per 1,000 population if separate. [ERME IV-C; Open Space; Policy 3; Pg. 101],
- Community parks at one-acre per 1,000 population if adjoining a high school and two acres per 1,000 population this if separate. [ERME IV-C; Open Space; Policy 4; Pg. 101],
- Regional parks at one-acre per 1,000 population,
- Only public park facilities shall be counted toward Countywide parkland standards, and
- A quarter mile walking radius is the goal for neighborhood parks. [ERME IV-C; Open Space; Policy 7; Pg. 101].



See Chapter 13, Public Facilities, § 13.1 for information on funding mechanisms for parks.

ERM-5.7 Public Water Access

The County shall give a high priority to the acquisition of public access rights to water courses. Acquisition of multi-purpose sites, such as the protection of drainage ways, wildlife habitats, and scenic assets, shall be encouraged. In the lakefront areas of Lake Success and Lake Kaweah, special consideration should be given to matching recreational needs of the community with lake access. [ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 8] [ERME; Pg 53]

ERM-5.8 Watercourse Development

The County, in approving recreational facilities along major watercourses, shall require a buffer of at

least 150 feet from the high-water line edge/bank and screening vegetation as necessary to address land use compatibility issues. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.9 Encourage Development of Private Recreation Facilities

The County should encourage private interests to establish new commercial recreation opportunities in the County. The intensity of such development should not exceed the ability of the natural environment of the site and its surroundings to accommodate the new development and should be compatible with surrounding land uses.

Such facilities may include, but are not limited to, campgrounds, destination resorts, hotels, ball courts, skeet clubs and facilities, hunting and fishing clubs, equestrian facilities, and recreational camps. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.10 Recreational Facilities for Special Use Groups

The County should encourage the provision of recreation facilities and activities for special use groups such as physically disabled, mentally handicapped, and senior citizens. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.11 Cooperation with Federal and State Agencies

The County shall work with federal and State agencies that manage land within the County, as appropriate. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.12 Meet Changing Recreational Needs

The County shall promote the continued and expanded use of national and State forests, parks, and other recreational areas to meet the recreational needs of County residents. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.13 Funding for Recreational Areas and Facilities

The County shall support the continued maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities and expansion of new recreational facilities opportunities for County, State, and federal lands. The County shall strive to obtain adequate funding to improve and maintain existing parks as well as construct new facilities. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.14 Park Design

The County shall make efforts to involve community members in the design and development of all park facilities. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.15 Open Space Preservation

The County shall preserve natural open space resources through the concentration of development in existing communities, use of cluster development techniques, maintaining large lot sizes in agricultural areas, avoiding conversion of lands currently used for agricultural production, limiting development in areas constrained by natural hazards, and encouraging agricultural and ranching interests to maintain natural habitat in open space areas where the terrain or soil is not conducive to agricultural production. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.16 Regional Recreation Planning

Tulare County shall, on a cooperative, regionally planned basis, provide for regional recreation needs in fair proportion to the demand from each County, specifically Fresno, King, and Kern Counties. [*ERME IV-C; Open Space; Recommendation 12; Pg. 110, Modified*] [*ERME IV-C; Open Space; Policy 13; Pg. 102*]

ERM-5.17 Activity Prioritization

Where necessary, one or more conflicting recreational uses shall be restricted, or prohibited, and a priority of uses established. This is particularly important in water-oriented sports, where such uses as power-boating, swimming, sailing, canoeing, water skiing, skin diving, and fishing all compete for the same water and cannot safely co-exist if concentrations become too great. [*ERME; Recreation; Issue 10; Recommendation 15*]{*EMRE; pg 32, Modified*}

Policy 5-18, Night Sky Protection

Upon demonstrated interest by a community or hamlet the County will determine the best means by which to protect the visibility of the night sky. [*New Policy*]

ERM-5.18 Interagency Cooperation

The County shall cooperate with federal land management agencies to develop and promote the establishment of Three Rivers and Springville as gateway communities. [*New Policy*]

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ERM-5.19 Allowable Uses on Timber Production Lands

The County shall allow uses (not related to forest production) on lands designated Resource Conservation in forestry production areas, provided it is demonstrated that:

- They are compatible with forestry uses,
- Will not interfere with forest practices,
- Consider forest site productivity and minimize the loss of productive forest lands,
- Will meet standards relating to the availability of fire protection, water supply, and waste disposal, and
- Will not degrade the watershed and/or water quality due to increased erosion. [*New Policy*].

8.6 Cultural Resources

ERM-6

To manage and protect sites of cultural and archaeological importance for the benefit of present and future generations. [*New Goal*]

ERM-6.1 Evaluation of Cultural and Archaeological Resources

The County shall participate in and support efforts to identify its significant cultural and archaeological resources using appropriate State and federal standards. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.2 Protection of Resources with Potential State or Federal Designations

The County should encourage the protection of cultural and archaeological sites with potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and/or inclusion in the California State Office of Historic Preservation's California Points of Interest and California Inventory of Historic Resources. Such sites may be of statewide or local significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, or other values. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.3 Alteration of Sites with Identified Cultural Resources

When planning any development or alteration of a site with identified cultural or archaeological resources, consideration should be given to ways of

protecting the resources. Development should be permitted in these areas only after a site specific investigation has been conducted pursuant to CEQA to define the extent and value of resource, and mitigation measures proposed for any impacts the development may have on the resource. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.4 Mitigation

If preservation of cultural resources is not feasible, every effort shall be made to mitigate impacts, including relocation of structures, adaptive reuse, preservation of facades, and thorough documentation and archival of records. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.5 Cultural Resources Education Programs

The County should support local, State, and national education programs on cultural and archaeological resources. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.6 Historic Structures and Sites

The County shall support public and private efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, and continue the use of historic structures. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.7 Cooperation of Property Owners

The County should encourage the cooperation of property owners to treat cultural resources as assets rather than liabilities, and encourage public support for the preservation of these resources. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.8 Solicit Input from Local Native Americans

The County shall continue to solicit input from the local Native American communities in cases where development may result in disturbance to sites containing evidence of Native American activity and/or to sites of cultural importance. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.9 Confidentiality of Archaeological Sites

The County shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archaeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts. [*New Policy*]

ERM-6.10 Grading Cultural Resources Sites

The County shall ensure all grading activities conform to the County's Grading Ordinance and California Code of Regulations, Title 20, § 2501 et seq. *[New Policy]*

8.7 Soil Resources

ERM-7

To preserve and protect soil resources in the County for agricultural and timber productivity and protect public health and safety. *[New Goal]*

ERM-7.1 Soil Conservation

The County of Tulare shall establish the proper controls and ordinances for soil conservation. *[ERME IV-C; Soils; Recommendation 9] [ERME; Pg 59, Modified]*

ERM-7.2 Soil Productivity

The County shall encourage landowners to participate in programs that reduce soil erosion and increase soil productivity. To this end, the County shall promote coordination between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation Districts, UC Cooperative Extension, and other similar agencies and organizations. *[New Policy]*

ERM-7.3 Protection of Soils on Slopes

Building and road construction on slopes of more than 30 percent shall be prohibited, and development proposals on slopes of 15 percent or more shall be accompanied by plans for control or prevention of erosion, alteration of surface water runoff, soil slippage, and wildfire occurrence, unless otherwise provided for in this General Plan. *[ERME IV-C; Soils; Recommendation 5] [ERME; Pg 59, Modified]*



For other policies relating to slopes can be found in Chapter 5, Land Use, Policy LU-1.7, Development on Slopes; and Policy FGMP-9.11, Development on Slopes.

8.8 Acronyms

ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
AC	Asphaltic Concrete
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CLG	Certified Local Government
CSD	Community Service Districts
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MOUs	Memorandum of Understanding
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zones
NDDB	National Diversity Database
PCC	Portland Cement Concrete
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

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8.9 Implementation Measures

The following table documents the implementation measures included with the General Plan to implement the goals and policies included in this element.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
1. The County shall encourage and support public education that will alert citizens of the County to the types of plant and animal life which need protection and preservation. Methods of public education could include printed material, speakers, and displays, made available through the news media, local educators, County facilities (such as libraries), or the internet. <i>[ERME IV-C; Implementation; Issue 16; Recommendation 1] [ERME; Pg 34, Modified]</i>	ERM-1.1	RMA	■			■
2. The County shall review development proposals against the California Natural Diversity Data Base, and other available studies provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, and consult, as appropriate, with the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife to assist in identifying potential conflicts with sensitive natural communities or special status species. <i>[New Implementation] [Amended per Staff Comments July 27, 2006]</i>	ERM-1.1 ERM-1.2	RMA, Planning				■
3. On project sites that have the potential to contain species of local or regional concern, sensitive natural communities or special-status species, the County shall require the project applicant to have the site surveyed and mapped by a qualified biologist. A report on the finding of this survey shall be submitted to the County as part of the application and environmental review process. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	ERM-1.1 ERM-1.2	RMA, Planning				■
4. Where sensitive habitat for special status species is found to exist on a site, and biological survey validates that such habitat does exist and there is the potential for occurrences of special status species to be found, the County shall require a plan to protect these areas, with assurances to protect these areas to be submitted prior to the time of construction. Such plan shall first recommend avoidance where at all feasible. When avoidance is infeasible, the County shall consider a variety of optional measures to limit the loss of habitat, including modification of the proposal or other such acceptable practice as identified in a biological study conducted by an environmental professional. <i>[ERME IV-C; Vegetation; Recommendation 6] [ERME; Pg 87, Modified] [Amended per Staff Comments July 27, 2006]</i>	ERM-1.1 ERM-1.2	RMA, Planning				■
5. The County shall work cooperatively with the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a joint study which will identify in Tulare County the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Significant habitat to be preserved in a natural state for the survival of rare and endangered species, 	ERM-1.1 ERM-1.2 ERM-1.4 ERM-1.6 ERM-1.7 ERM-1.8 ERM-1.9	RMA, Planning	■			

Tulare County General Plan

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish and game habitat desirable for meeting the quantity of demand for fishing and hunting, and ▪ Wildlife habitat needed for meeting the quantity of demand for recreational, educational and scientific observation, scenic enjoyment and appreciation of open space. [ERME IV-B; Fish and Wildlife; Recommendation 1] [ERME; Pg 21, Modified] 	ERM-1.12					
6. On project sites with the potential to contain wetland resources, a wetland delineation study shall be prepared using the protocol defined by the Corps of Engineers. A report on the findings of this survey shall be submitted to the County as part of the application process and environmental review process. [New Implementation]	ERM-1.1 ERM-1.2 ERM-1.6	RMA, Planning				■
7. The County shall utilize existing provisions within the Zoning Ordinance to designate Resource Conservation Areas designed to protect natural habitats as those areas are identified over time. [ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Issue 12; Recommendation 3] [ERME; Pg 33, Modified]	ERM-1.1 ERM-1.4 ERM-1.5 ERM-1.6	RMA, Planning		■		
8. If feasible and needed the County shall develop and administer a mitigation banking program in conjunction with TCAG and other stake holders.	ERM-1.14	RMA, Planning		■		
9. The County shall incorporate into the Zoning Ordinance requirements for the dedication of buffers as public open space for riparian and wetland areas for development or other discretionary permits where the development or activity will impact a riparian area. Special attention should be given to preservation of trout habitat. Buffer requirements should be measured from the edge of the riparian area and set at distances recommended by biological studies of the site. [ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Recommendation 9; Pg. 126, Modified]	ERM-1.4 ERM-1.8	RMA, Planning	■			
10. The County shall actively pursue a program of acquisition or preservation of vernal pools. This can be done through a variety of mechanisms, including establishing a mitigation banking program, conservation easements and trusts. [ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Issue 12; Recommendation 6] [ERME; Pg 33, Modified]	ERM-1.6	RMA, Planning		■		■
11. The County shall continue efforts to maintain and enlarge wetland preserves, which provide waterfowl habitat necessary to the maintenance of the flyway route through the valley. Such wetlands should also be protected through stormwater management programs, erosion control, and public education. [ERME; Water; Issue 3; Recommendation 4] [ERME; Pg 28, Modified]	ERM-1.6	RMA, Planning	■			
12. The County shall develop a list of native vegetation to be used as a landscape pallet for use by citizens and developers. [New Implementation]	ERM-1.7	RMA, Planning	■			
13. The County shall classify and preserve private lands	ERM-1.10	RMA, Planning		■		■

8. Environmental Resources Management

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
which are prime timber lands and reserve them for that use, while at the same time, encouraging compatible recreation and open space uses. [ERME IV-C; Vegetation; Recommendation 1] [ERME; Pg 86, Modified]						
14. The County shall ensure that the provisions of Public Resources Code § 21083.4 are followed when evaluating projects in areas containing oak woodlands.	ERM-1.12	RMA, Planning				■
15. The County shall work with stakeholders to determine the feasibility of adopting an oak woodlands management plan pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001. The purpose will be to qualify for grant funding to support and encourage voluntary long term private stewardship and conservation of California's oak woodlands.	ERM-1.12	RMA, Planning		■		
16. The County shall establish a program to require the replacement planting of native oaks where oak woodlands are proposed for alteration by development projects.	ERM-1.12	RMA, Planning	■			
17. The County shall continue its enforcement program that provides consequences for the destruction of wildlife, natural biological control organisms, and other damages beyond the boundaries of the control area resulting from the inappropriate application of pesticides or herbicides. This should include damages caused by wind drift, also those caused by irrigation waters impregnated with pesticides or herbicides, which are ejected into waterways and public bodies. [ERME IV-C; Pesticides; Recommendation 2] [ERME; Pg 131, Modified]	ERM-1.13	Env. Health; Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer	■			
18. The County shall promote a public relations program which will explain typical agricultural operations and the County's Right to Farm stance for new home buyers. [ERME IV-C; Pesticides; Recommendation 3] [ERME; Pg 131, Modified]	ERM-1.13	RMA, Planning	■			
19. Tulare County shall establish procedures to allow for the timely recognition of identified and/or potential mineral deposits to be recognized by the Board of Supervisors, so that said deposits may be protected from future incompatible land uses. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.1 ERM-2.2 ERM-2.3	RMA, Planning		■		
20. RMA staff shall report annually to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors with updated information from the California Geological Survey on the following: 1) update annual production/consumption figures for construction grade rock, sand & gravel usage in Tulare County; 2) projected 50 year requirements for construction grade rock, sand & gravel in Tulare County; 3) update actual permitted reserves in Tulare County and the status of any pending applications for new mining permits or modification of existing permits; and 4) summary of projected remaining life of permitted reserves in Tulare County. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.1 ERM-2.2 ERM-2.3 ERM-2.4	RMA, Planning		■		

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	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
21.	The location of potential alluvial and hard rock mineral deposits shall be incorporated as part of the ERM Element of the Tulare County General Plan by amendment to the Open Space Plan Map with property specific overlays. [MRPAC June 28, 2006, Modified]	ERM-2.1 ERM-2.2 ERM-2.3 ERM-2.4 ERM-2.10	RMA, Planning		■		
22.	The County shall coordinate with the Office of Mine Reclamation, California Department of Conservation, and the State Geological Survey on projects which may threaten the potential to extract mineral resources. The County shall not approve an incompatible use unless the County finds that the benefits of the proposed project outweigh the costs. [MRPAC June 28, 2006, Modified]	ERM-2.1 ERM-2.2 ERM-2.3 ERM-2.4 ERM-2.10	RMA, Planning				■
23.	The County shall examine the feasibility of preparing a mining master plan for identified resource areas. [New Implementation Measure]	ERM-2.6	RMA, Planning		■	■	
24.	Tulare County shall establish procedures to provide for a thorough and comprehensive pre-application process that will allow for a more predictable surface mine and reclamation permitting process. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.6	RMA, Planning		■		
25.	Tulare County shall establish procedures to provide for minor modifications to surface mining permits and reclamation plans, provided the modifications do not materially affect the determination of the decision-making administrative approvals. Such modifications shall be noted on the approved plans and shall be initialed by the Resource Management Agency Director or designee. Any proposed modifications that change conditions of approval will require public notice.	ERM-2.6	RMA, Planning		■		
26.	Tulare County shall establish procedures to bring a surface mining operation into compliance in the event it fails to comply with any conditions of approval. Procedures shall be established to promptly abate illegal mining operations conducted without permits. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.6	RMA, Planning				■
27.	Tulare County shall establish procedures to allow the Zoning Administrator to approve certain types of mining permits and reclamation plans. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.6	RMA, Planning		■		
28.	Tulare County shall devise procedures as part of the Zoning Ordinance update to mitigate significant conflicts arising from incompatible land uses. [MRPAC June 28, 2006, Modified]	ERM-2.8 ERM-2.9 ERM-2.10 ERM-2.11	RMA, Planning		■		
29.	Conditions to minimize or eliminate the potential adverse impact of the operation on surrounding properties, covering such issues as access, noise, air quality, water quality and quantity, public health and safety, aesthetics, natural resources, and the socioeconomic setting, pursuant to CEQA and SMARA, should be imposed as a part of the permit process. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.9 ERM-2.10 ERM-2.11 ERM-2.12	RMA, Planning				■

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Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
30. Areas containing mineral springs and seeps, where such seeps and springs appear to be vital to the continuation of wildlife in the area, shall be protected. Protection techniques may include avoidance and or setback requirements. [ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Recommendation 7; Pg. 126], [ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Issue 12; Recommendation 4] [ERME; Pg 33, Modified]	ERM-2.9 ERM-3.1	RMA, Planning	■			
31. Reclamation plans shall provide for an appropriate and beneficial use of the land, consistent with the Tulare County General Plan, subsequent to the completion of surface mining activities. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.10	RMA, Planning				■
32. When considering developments proposed for areas adjacent to the Kaweah and Tule Rivers, Lewis Creek, and other waterways with aggregate potential, such development shall be planned to not hinder future extraction of these commercially important minerals. [ERME IV-B; Land; Issue 8; Recommendation 5] [ERME; Pg 30, Modified]	ERM-2.10 ERM-2.11	RMA, Planning				■
33. Conditions to minimize or eliminate the potential adverse impact of development on identified and/or potential mineral deposits, covering such issues as access, traffic, noise, water quality and quantity, air quality, public health and safety, aesthetics, natural resources, and the socioeconomic setting, pursuant to CEQA and SMARA, shall be imposed as a part of the permit process. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.10 ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning				■
34. Tulare County shall establish criteria for all new surface mining permits so as to guide mineral deposit development toward areas containing compatible land uses. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.11	RMA, Planning		■		
35. The Planning staff shall periodically review the standard conditions of approval for surface mine and reclamation plans. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.12	RMA, Planning				■
36. Conditions should be imposed as a part of the permit application process which consider the potentially adverse environmental effects of surface mining operations, pursuant to CEQA. (1) When the initial study and/or scoping process indicates the possibility of adverse impacts to water resources, including surface and underground water, no surface mining permit or reclamation plan shall be approved until the applicant has provided: a. A hydro-geological report prepared by a qualified and impartial consultant retained by the County, and paid for by the applicant which identifies all the hydrologic and geologic features pertinent to water resources and the potential adverse quality, quantity, and flood-related risks. The County shall provide for professional independent peer review of such reports. b. The hydrogeological report shall identify mitigation measures necessary to achieve	ERM-2.12	RMA, Planning				■

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Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
<p>quality and quantity characteristics of water resources at levels deemed acceptable by State and federal water regulatory agencies, and in line with local historical data and in conformance with water rights law.</p> <p>c. If at any time it is reasonably demonstrated that there is a significant negative impact to an offsite water supply, the mine operator shall be required to cease and desist all mining activity. Mining shall not be permitted to resume until the negative impact in question has been fully mitigated <i>or resolved</i>. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>						
<p>37. The County shall ensure that the air pollution variance system is actively enforced in order to uphold established rules and regulations. Air pollution inspectors shall have cease and desist powers in order to stop offenders promptly upon discovery. [<i>Air Quality Policy #AQ-4.8, from Tulare County General Plan Update Admin. Draft May 21, 2006 (new policy) p.9-6</i>]</p>	ERM-2.12	RMA, Planning				■
<p>38. Financial assurances shall be required as a part of the reclamation plan approval process. Said assurances shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the lead agency, and adjusted as necessary, to assure that sufficient funds are maintained to carry out the reclamation plan, as provided for in Measure 42. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>	ERM-2.12	RMA, Planning				■
<p>39. All surface mines, unless otherwise exempted, shall obtain a surface mining permit and an approved reclamation plan, in accordance with the SMARA requirements. (See Mineral Resources Appendix at the end of this element for detailed standards). [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>	ERM-2.12 ERM-2.3	RMA, Planning				■
<p>40. Tulare County may enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), or develop other protocols for coordination with agencies of jurisdiction for the purposes of coordinating and simplifying the administration and processing of both SMARA and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>	ERM-2.12 ERM-2.13	RMA, Planning				■
<p>41. An initial review of compliance shall be conducted by the Tulare County Resource Management Agency Director or designee six months after the granting of the permit. Annual reviews shall be conducted throughout the life of the permit thereafter. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>	ERM-2.13	RMA, Planning				■
<p>42. Tulare County shall include a statement of purpose in the Tulare County SMARA Ordinance describing the role of surface mining in the local economy, as well as the benefits of appropriate reclamation, as defined by SMARA regulations and guidelines. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>	ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning	■			
<p>43. Tulare County shall establish procedures to assure compliance with State <i>SMARA</i> review requirements. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]</p>	ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning				■

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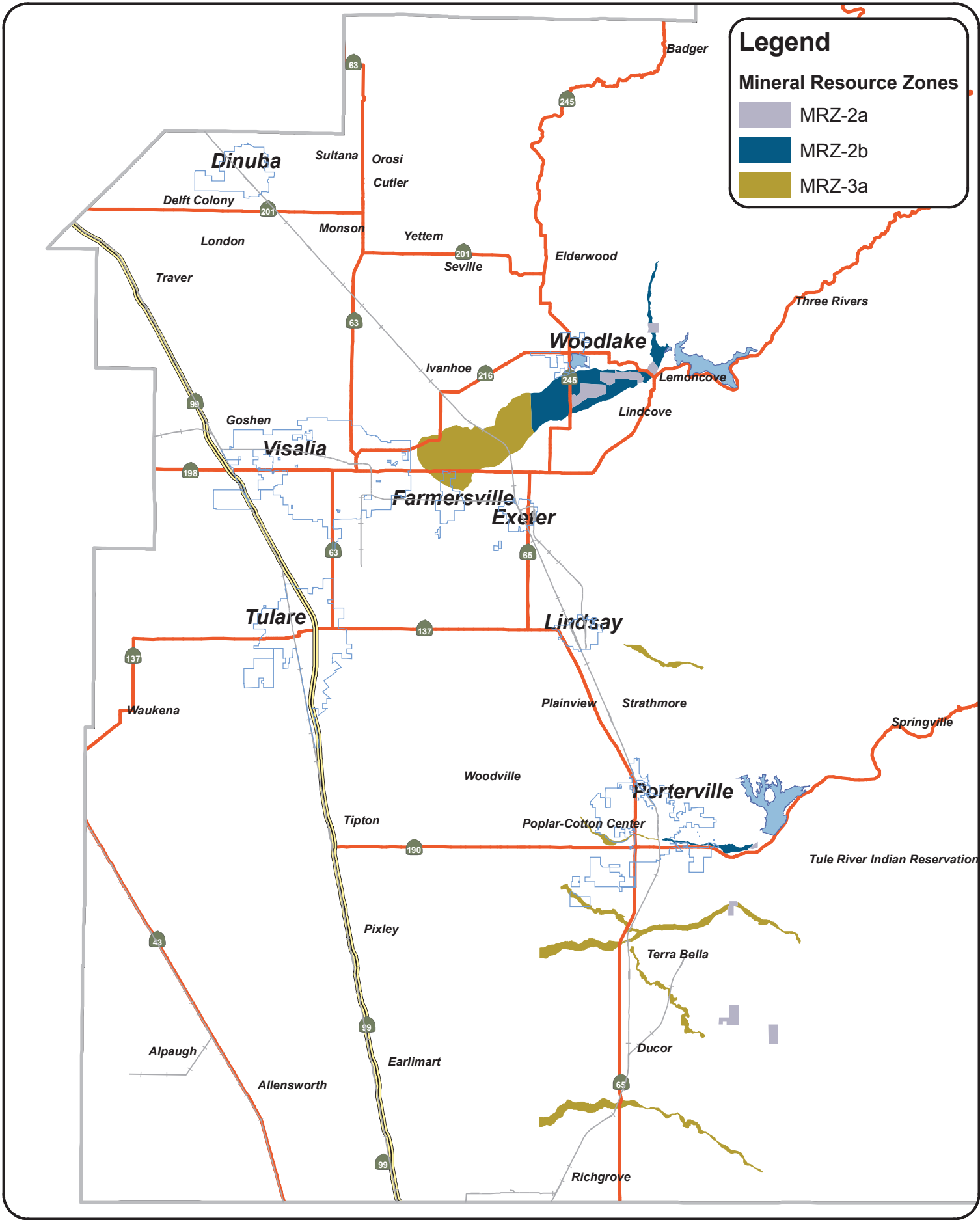
	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
44.	The owner/operator shall obtain all necessary permits and comply with all local, State, and federal agency codes, policies, and regulations. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning				■
45.	Consistent with SMARA requirements, Tulare County shall conduct an annual inspection of all extraction sites. (1) All general conditions and all special conditions of approval of the surface mining permit and approved reclamation plan must be complied with at all times in order to continue the uses allowed. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning				■
46.	For all new mining operations or expansions requiring new or amended permits from the County, the County will require submittal and approval of a reclamation plan, in accordance with SMARA requirements. Reclamation should be done on a phased basis as extraction from phases are completed (as opposed to reclamation at the end closure of the mine). [New Implementation]	ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning				■
47.	For all new mining operations or expansions requiring new or amended permits from the County, the reclamation plan shall be accompanied by a financing plan and securities for reclamation, as agreed by the County, and in accordance with SMARA requirements. [New Implementation]	ERM-2.14	RMA, Planning				■
48.	Tulare County shall process all new surface mining permits and/or reclamation plans in a manner consistent with CEQA, focusing on water resources, air quality, agriculture, traffic, biotic, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and other public interest values. [MRPAC June 28, 2006]	ERM-3.1	RMA, Planning				■
49.	The County shall encourage and assist community service districts (CSD), or similar local entities to assume parkland acquisition, development, operations, and maintenance functions in established areas. [New Implementation]	ERM-5.1 thru ERM-5.17	RMA, Planning				■
50.	When appropriate, based on the size of the development or if new park facilities are installed as part of an approved residential project, the County shall require the creation of a service district or landscaping and lighting district to maintain the park and its facilities. [New Implementation]	ERM-5.1 thru ERM-5.17	RMA, Planning				■
51.	The County Board of Supervisors shall establish and adjust, as appropriate, a park development impact fee based on a level of service to provide for funding that meets the actual cost, park acquisition, and development. [New Implementation]	ERM-5.3 ERM-5.6	RMA, Planning	■			■
52.	Access to suitable recreation land shall be obtained through various types of acquisition and public private joint agreement arrangements, as applicable. Maximum efforts should be concentrated upon acquisition of recreation sites within one hour's travel time from urban concentrations throughout the County and sites that can be developed for	ERM-5.6 ERM-5.10	RMA, Planning				■

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	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
	intensive use. [ERME; Recreation; Issue 10; Recommendation 8] [ERME; Pg 31, Modified]						
53.	The County shall develop a shoreline development standards regulating uses along water courses and waterways, such as well drilling, location of septic tanks, building setbacks, lot sizes, public access, and encouragement of protection of scenic and recreational assets in conformance with Government Code § 66478(a). [ERME; Water; Issue 1; Recommendation 1] [ERME; Water; Issue 2; Recommendation 5] [ERME; Pg 27, Modified]	ERM-5.7	RMA, Planning	■			
54.	Developers of new subdivisions who propose to build public recreation facilities shall be required to post adequate bonds or cash deposits to assure completion of the entire facility to ensure long term maintenance. [ERME; Recreation; Issue 10; Recommendation 14] [ERME; Pg 32, Modified]	ERM-5.10	RMA, Planning				■
55.	Tulare County should initiate the development of a park master plan to cover facilities needed to serve the unincorporated communities and hamlets and regional park needs in the County. Emphasis should be given to classifying and quantifying the present and future needs of all socio-economic groups and visitors, with special emphasis on deficiencies in recreation for low-income residents. An inventory of potential park and recreation areas should be made and a program of priorities established with proposed methods of financing. [ERMI IV-B; Recreation; Recommendation 1] [ERMI; Pg. 22, Modified] [ERME IV-C; Open Space; Recommendation 4; Pg. 109, Modified]	ERM-5.10	RMA, Planning Parks	■			
56.	Scenic and open space easements shall be acquired through subdivision and development approvals including, but not limited to, wooded areas, flood plains, scenic and historic sites, shorelines, and other recreation areas. [ERME; Recreation; Issue 10; Recommendation 13] [ERME; Pg 32, Modified] [ERME IV-C; Open Space; Recommendation 6; Pg. 109, [ERME IV-C; Open Space; Policy 12; Pg. 102, Modified]	ERM-5.14	RMA, Planning				■
57.	The County's existing opens space land protection program, which is centered on implementation of the Williamson Act, shall be continued with attention to other tools, such as transfer of development rights, as needed.	ERM-5.15	RMA, Planning				■
58.	The County shall incorporate provisions into development regulations that in the event archaeological resources are discovered during site excavation, grading, or construction, work on the site will be suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist. If significant resources are determined to exist, the archaeologist shall make recommendations for protection or recovery of the resource. [New Implementation]	ERM-6.1 ERM-6.2 ERM-6.3 ERM-6.4 ERM-6.9	RMA, Planning	■			
59.	The County should establish and maintain a Historic Site Preservation Committee. This committee should include representatives from each community	ERM-6.2 ERM-6.6	RMA, Planning				■

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Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
<p>that have an interest in and knowledge of historic preservation. Activities of the committee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inventory historical sites and buildings worthy of preservation. ▪ Advisory group to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. ▪ Review and comment on development proposals that threaten to encroach on historical assets. ▪ Determine appropriate locations for potential status as a Certified Local Government (CLG). [ERME; Recreation; Issue 10; Recommendation 5.] [ERME; Pg 31, Modified] 	ERM-6.8					
<p>60. The County shall maintain Countywide coverage of soil resources in order to assure detailed and up-to-date mapping. Mapping should identify areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Soil and rock units that will support large structures without costly and special engineering design, b. Soils that present foundation problems because of excess plasticity, high shrink-swell properties, saturation with large volumes of water, or subsidence danger resulting from either too much or too little water, c. Highly corrosive soil and rock units, d. Highly acid or alkaline soils, and e. Location of oil and mining resources [ERME IV-C; Soils; Recommendation 8], [ERME; Pg 59] [ERME IV-C; Soils; Recommendation 3] [ERME; Pg 59, Modified] 	ERM-7.1 ERM-7.2	RMA, Planning		■		
<p>61. The County shall adopt standards applicable to all types of man-made disruption, including drainage alternations of soils and subsurface geological features in order to minimize erosion and sedimentation problems. [ERME IV-C; Soils; Recommendation 4] [ERME; Pg 59]</p>	ERM-7.1 ERM-7.2	RMA, Planning		■		
<p>62. Groundwater and soil conditions shall be identified prior to subdividing and road and building construction and such development properly engineered to control potential landslides in areas of unstable soils as well as substantial amounts of soil erosion. [ERME IV-B; Land; Issue 7; Recommendation 4] [ERME; Pg 30]</p>	ERM-7.1 ERM-7.2	RMA, Planning				■
<p>xx. The County shall work with funding sources and special interest groups such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, land trusts, and private foundations to provide resources to implement the plans and programs of the Environmental Resources Management Element. [New Implementation]</p>	ERM	County				■
<p>xx. The County shall reference proposed conditions of approval recommended by the Mineral Resources Policy Advisory Committee (MRPAC) in June 2006, during permit review. [New Implementation]</p>	ERM					■





9. Air Quality

The Air Quality Element is divided into the following sections:

- Regional Perspective (Section 9.1)
- Transportation Design (Section 9.2)
- Land Use/Design (Section 9.3)
- Air Pollution Control (Section 9.4)
- Acronyms (Section 9.5)
- Implementation Measures (Section 9.6)

Key Terms

The following terms are used throughout this element to describe air quality issues:

Ambient Air Quality Standards. These standards measure outdoor air quality. They identify the maximum acceptable average concentrations of air pollutants during a specified period of time. These standards have been adopted at a State and federal level.

Best Attainment Control Measures (BACMs). A set of programs that identify and implement potentially best available control measures affecting local air quality issues.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). A chemical compound composed of one carbon and two oxygen atoms. It is present in the earth's atmosphere at a low concentration and acts as a greenhouse gas. Researchers estimate that 97% of atmospheric CO₂ created each year is from natural sources and approximately 3% is from human activities.

Carbon Monoxide (CO). A colorless odorless poisonous gas formed when carbon in fuels is not burned completely. It is a byproduct of motor vehicle exhaust that can result in high concentrations of CO, particularly in local areas with heavy traffic congestion. Other sources of CO emissions include industrial processes and fuel combustion in sources such as boilers and incinerators. The Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) health based national air quality standard for CO is 9 parts per million (ppm) [measured over 8 hours].

Class 1 Designation. As defined in the Clean Air Act, "Class 1" areas are international parks, national wilderness areas (greater than 5,000 acres), national memorial parks (greater than 5,000 acres), and national parks (greater than 6,000 acres) that existed on August 7, 1977.

Climate Change (also referred to as 'Global Climate Change'). This term is sometimes used to refer to all forms of climatic inconsistency, but because the earth's climate is never static, the term is more properly used to imply a significant change from one climatic condition to another. In some cases, 'climate change' has been used synonymously with the term, 'global warming'. Scientists however, tend to use the term in the wider sense to address uneven pattern of predicted global warming and cooling and also include natural changes in climate.

Global Warming. An increase in the near surface temperature of the earth. Global warming has occurred in the distant past as the result of natural influences, but the term is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists generally agree that the earth's surface has warmed by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the past 140 years, but warming is not predicted evenly around the globe. Due to predicted changes in the ocean currents, some places that are currently moderated by warm ocean currents are predicted to fall into deep freeze as the pattern changes.

Greenhouse Effect. The warming of the earth's atmosphere attributed to a buildup of CO₂ or other gases; some scientists think that this build-up allows the sun's rays to heat the earth, while making the infra-red radiation atmosphere opaque to infrared

radiation, thereby preventing a counterbalancing loss of heat.

Greenhouse Gas. Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), halogenated fluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O₃), perfluorinated carbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Sulfur Dioxide (H₂S). Sulfur dioxide belongs to the family of sulfur oxide gases (SO_x). These gases are formed when fuel containing sulfur (mainly coal and oil) is burned and during metal smelting and other industrial processes. Hydrogen sulfide is a highly toxic flammable gas. Because it is heavier than air, it tends to accumulate at the bottom of poorly ventilated spaces.

Lead (Pb). Smelters and battery plants are the major sources of the pollutant "lead" in the air. The highest concentrations of lead are found in the vicinity of nonferrous smelters and other stationary sources of lead emissions. The EPA's health-based national air quality standard for lead is 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) [measured as a quarterly average].



For a definition and information on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND), See Chapter 5, Land Use, Key Terms.

Mobile Source. A mobile emission source is a moving object, such as on-road and off-road vehicles, boats, airplanes, lawn equipment, and small utility engines.

Nitrogen Oxides (Oxides of Nitrogen, NO_x). NO_x are compounds of nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). NO_x are primarily created from the combustion process and are a major contributor to smog and acid rain formation.

O₃. O₃ is a pungent, colorless, toxic gas created in the atmosphere rather than emitted directly into the air. O₃ is produced in complex atmospheric reactions involving oxides of nitrogen, reactive organic gases (ROG), and ultraviolet energy from

the sun in a photochemical reaction. Motor vehicles are the major sources of O₃ precursors.

O₃ Precursors. There are several chemical steps in creating O₃. O₃ precursors are chemicals that lead to the eventual creation of O₃. O₃ precursors occur either naturally or as a result of human activities, such as the use of combustion engines in cars.

Photochemical. Some air pollutants are direct emissions, such as the CO produced by an automobile's engine. Other pollutants, primarily O₃, are formed when two or more chemicals react (using energy from the sun) in the atmosphere to form a new chemical. This is a photochemical reaction.

Particulate Matter 2.5 Micrometer (PM_{2.5}). The federal government has recently added standards for smaller dust particles. PM_{2.5} refers to dust/particulates that are 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller.

Particulate Matter 10 Micrometers (PM₁₀). Dust and other particulates exhibit a range of particle sizes. Federal and State air quality regulations reflect the fact that smaller particles are easier to inhale and can be more damaging to health. PM₁₀ refers to dust/particulates that are 10 microns in diameter or smaller.

ROG. ROG are photochemically reactive and are composed of non-methane hydrocarbons. These gases contribute to the formation of smog.

Reasonable Attainment Control Measures (RACMs). The EPA requirement for air quality attainment plans to: a) implement all reasonably available control measures (RACM); and b) do it as expeditiously as practicable.

San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). An air basin is a geographic area that exhibits similar meteorological and geographic conditions. California is divided into 15 air basins to assist with the statewide regional management of air quality issues. The SJVAB extends in the Central Valley from San Joaquin County in the north to Kern County in the south.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The SJVAPCD is the regulatory agency

responsible for developing air quality plans, monitoring air quality, and reporting air quality data for the SJVAB.

Sensitive Receptors. Sensitive receptors are defined as land uses that typically accommodate sensitive population groups such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, residences, schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds.

Sensitive Groups. Sensitive groups are a subset of the general population that are at greater risk than the general population to the effects of air pollution. These groups include the elderly, infants and children, and individuals with respiratory problems, such as asthma.

SO₂. Sulfur dioxide belongs to the family of SO_x. These gases are formed when fuel containing sulfur (mainly coal and oil) is burned, and during metal smelting and other industrial processes.

Stationary Source. A stationary emission source is a non-mobile source, such as a power plant, refinery, or manufacturing facility.

Sulfates. Sulfates occur as microscopic particles (aerosols) resulting from fossil fuel and biomass combustion. They increase the acidity of the atmosphere and form acid rain.

Transportation Management Agencies.

Transportation Management Agencies are private, non-profit, member-controlled organizations that provide transportation services in a particular area, such as a commercial district, mall, medical center, or industrial park. Transportation Management Agencies are appropriate for any geographic area where there are multiple employers or businesses clustered together that can benefit from cooperative transportation management or parking brokerage services. Regional and local governments, business associations, and individual businesses can all help establish Transportation Management Agencies.

Transportation Management Associations (TMAs).

Groups of employers uniting together to work collectively to manage transportation demand in a particular area.

Wood-burning Devices. Wood-burning devices are designed to burn “solid fuels” such as cordwood, pellet fuel, manufactured logs, or any other non-gaseous or non-liquid fuels.

Existing Conditions Overview

Unlike other air basins in California, the pollution in the SJVAB is not produced by large urban areas. Instead, emissions are generated by many moderate sized communities and rural uses. Emission levels in the Central Valley have been decreasing overall since 1990. This can be primarily attributed to motor vehicle emission controls that reduce the amount of vehicle emissions. In spite of these improvements, the San Joaquin Valley is still identified as having some of the worst air quality in the nation.

The main source of CO and NO_x emissions occurs from motor vehicles. The major contributors to ROG emissions focuses on the oil and gas production area located in the lower part of the SJVAB, which includes Tulare County. ROG emissions have been decreasing since 1985 due to stricter standards, even though the vehicle miles have been increasing.

The O₃ in the SJVAB has been ranked the 2nd worst in the United States for O₃ levels, even though data shows that overall O₃ has decreased between 1982 and 2001. Direct PM₁₀ emissions have decreased between the years 1975 and 1995 and have remained relatively constant since 2000.

The main sources of PM₁₀ in the SJVAB are from vehicles traveling on unpaved roads and agricultural activities.

In summary, the attainment status of Tulare County is as follows:

- **O₃.** Recently reclassified from severe non-attainment (area has a design value of 0.280 ppm and above) to extreme non-attainment (area has a design value of 0.190 up to 0.280 ppm and has 15-17 years to attain) by the EPA. Classified as severe non-attainment by the State,
- **PM₁₀.** Classified as severe non-attainment at the federal level. Classified as non-attainment by the State,

- **PM2.5.** Tulare County is in non-attainment with federal standards,
- **CO.** Tulare County is in attainment with State standards,
- **NO₂.** Unclassified/Attainment at the federal level. Classified attainment at the State level,
- **SO₂.** Unclassified at the federal level. Classified attainment at the State level,
- **Sulfates (no federal standard).** Classified attainment at the State level,
- **Lead (no federal designation).** Classified attainment at the State level,
- **H₂S (no federal standard).** Unclassified by the State, and
- **Visibility (no federal standard).** Unclassified by the State.

In addition, at the time of preparation of this General Plan update, there is growing concern regarding indications of global climate changes due to greenhouse gasses (such as CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, hydro fluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride) emissions. The State of California adopted the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (commonly referred to as Assembly Bill (AB) 32), Health and Safety Code Sections 38501 et seq., directing the California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) to develop and adopt statewide greenhouse gas emission limits designed to achieve statewide emission levels equivalent to those in 1990 by 2020, along with regulations to require reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and to monitor and enforce compliance with this program. Additionally, on June 1, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-3-05 recognizing global warming and its impacts, establishing targets for greenhouse gas emissions, requiring a biennial assessment of climate change impacts and the development of impact mitigation/adaptation plans, and requiring the formation or an interagency team to implement the Order.

It is the County's intention to comply with State law requirements and to pursue goals and policies that enhance the quality of life and public welfare of County residents. To this end, a number of the goals and policies in this element, as well as other elements including Chapter 2, Planning Framework, Chapter 3, Economic Development, Chapter 5, Land

Use, Chapter 8, Environmental Resources Management, Chapter 11, Transportation and Circulation and Chapter 13, Public Facilities and Services, seek to reduce the impacts of air pollution, air pollution sources and greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the featured policies and implementation measures direct growth into compact areas such as urban development boundaries or corridors, incorporate smart growth and health community principles, encourage energy efficiency, development of renewable energy sources and use of energy conservation measures and green building practices in design, construction and renovation, and promote efficiency in transportation and circulation design to reduce or minimize vehicle trips.

9.1 Regional Perspective

AQ-1

To improve air quality through a regional approach and interagency cooperation. [*New Goal*]

AQ-1.1 Cooperation with Other Agencies

The County shall cooperate with other local, regional, federal, and State agencies in developing and implementing air quality plans to achieve State and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards. The County shall partner with the SJVAPCD, Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), and the State Air Pollution Control Board to achieve better air quality conditions locally and regionally. [*ERME IV-C; Open Space for the Preservation of Air Quality; Recommendation 3*] [*ERME; Pg 135, Modified*]

AQ-1.2 Cooperation with Local Jurisdictions

The County shall participate with cities, surrounding counties, and regional agencies to address cross-jurisdictional transportation and air quality issues. [*New Policy*]

AQ-1.3 Cumulative Air Quality Impacts

The County shall require developments to be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that would minimize cumulative air quality impacts. Developers shall be required to present alternatives that reduce air emissions and enhance, rather than harm, the environment. [*ERME IV-B; Air Resources; Recommendation 5*] [*ERME; Pg 25*] [*ERME IV-B; Air Resources; Recommendation 6*] [*ERME; Pg 25*]

AQ-1.4 Air Quality Land Use Compatibility

The County shall consider industrial or other developments which are likely to cause undesirable air pollution with regard to wind direction and circulation in an effort to alleviate effects upon sensitive receptors. [ERME IV-C; Open Space for the Preservation of Air Quality; Recommendation 2] [ERME; Pg 13, Modified]

AQ-1.5 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

The County shall ensure that air quality impacts identified during the CEQA review process are fairly and consistently mitigated. [New Policy]

AQ-1.6 Purchase of Low Emission/Alternative Fuel Vehicles

The County shall encourage departments to replace existing vehicles with low emission/alternative fuel vehicles as appropriate. [New Policy]

AQ-1.7 Support Statewide Global Warming Solutions

The County shall monitor and support the efforts of the CARB, under AB 32, to formulate mitigation strategies, if any, that may be implemented by local government, and further require the County to ultimately “consider” any such strategies once they become available. [New Policy]

9.2 Transportation Design

AQ-2	To improve air quality by reducing air emissions related to transportation. [New Goal]
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AQ-2.1 Transportation Demand Management Programs

The County shall coordinate and provide support for County Transportation Demand Management programs with other public and private agencies, including programs developed by the TCAG and the SJVAPCD. [New Policy]

AQ-2.2 Indirect Source Review

The County shall require major development projects, as defined by the SJVAPCD, to mitigate air quality impacts associated with the project. As feasible the County shall work with SJVAPCD to

determine mitigations that may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Providing bicycle access and parking facilities,
- Increasing density,
- Encouraging mixed use developments,
- Providing walkable and pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods,
- Providing increased access to public transportation,
- Providing preferential parking for high-occupancy vehicles, car pools, or alternative fuels vehicles, and
- Establishing telecommuting programs or satellite work centers. [New Policy].

AQ-2.3 Transportation and Air Quality

When developing the regional transportation system, the County shall work with TCAG to comprehensively study methods of transportation which may contribute to a reduction in air pollution in Tulare County. Some possible alternatives that should be studied are:

- Commuter trains (Light Rail, Amtrak, or High Speed Rail) connecting with Sacramento and San Francisco, with attractive services scheduled up and down the valley,
- Public transportation such as buses and light rail, to serve between communities of the valley, publicly subsidized if feasible,
- Intermodal public transit such as buses provided with bicycle racks, bicycle parking at bus stations, and park and ride facilities, and
- Community bus or other public transportation systems, such as cycling or walking trails, with particular attention to high-density areas. [ERME IV-C; Open Space for the Preservation of Air Quality; Recommendation 4] [ERME; Pg 139, Modified].

AQ-2.4 Transportation Management Associations

The County shall encourage commercial, retail, and residential developments to participate in or create TMAs that can assist in the reduction of pollutants through provisions to support carpooling, alternative transportation, etc. [New Policy]

AQ-2.5 Ridesharing

The County shall continue to encourage ridesharing programs such as employer-based rideshare programs. *[New Policy]*

9.3 Land Use/Design

AQ-3

To improve air quality and minimize impacts to human health and the economy of the County through smart land use planning and design. *[New Goal]*

AQ-3.1 Location of Support Services

The County shall encourage the location of ancillary employee services (including, but not limited to, child care, restaurants, banking facilities, convenience markets) near major employment centers for the purpose of reducing midday vehicle trips. *[New Policy]*

AQ-3.2 Infill Near Employment

The County shall identify opportunities for infill development projects near employment areas within all unincorporated communities to reduce vehicle trips. *[New Policy]*

AQ-3.3 Street Design

The County shall promote street design that provides an environment which encourages transit use, biking, and pedestrian movements. *[New Policy]*

AQ-3.4 Landscape

The County shall encourage the use of ecologically based landscape design principles that can improve local air quality by absorbing CO₂, producing oxygen, and filtering particulates. These principles include, but are not limited to, the incorporation of parks, landscaped medians, and landscaping within development. *[New Policy]*

AQ-3.5 Alternative Energy Design

The County shall encourage all new development, including rehabilitation, renovation, and redevelopment, to incorporate energy conservation and green building practices to maximum extent feasible. Such practices include, but are not limited to: building orientation and shading, landscaping, and the use of active and passive solar heating and water systems. *[New Policy]*

AQ-3.6 Mixed Land Uses

The County shall encourage the mixing of land uses that generate high trip volumes, especially when such uses can be mixed with support services and where they can be served by public transportation. *[New Policy]*

9.4 Air Pollution Control

AQ-4

To implement the best available controls and monitoring necessary to regulate air emissions. *[New Goal]*

AQ-4.1 Air Pollution Control Technology

The County shall utilize the Best Available Control Measures (BACM) and RACM as adopted by the County to maintain healthful air quality and high visibility standards. These measures shall be applied to new development approvals and permit modifications as appropriate. *[New Policy]*

AQ-4.2 Dust Suppression Measures

The County shall require developers to implement dust suppression measures during excavation, grading, and site preparation activities. Techniques may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Site watering or application of dust suppressants,
- Phasing or extension of grading operations,
- Covering of stockpiles,
- Suspension of grading activities during high wind periods (typically winds greater than 25 miles per hour), and
- Revegetation of graded areas. *[New Policy]*.

AQ-4.3 Paving or Treatment of Roadways for Reduced Air Emissions

The County shall require that all new roads be paved or treated to reduce dust generation where feasible. For new projects with unpaved roads, funding for roadway maintenance shall be adequately addressed and secured. *[New Policy]*

AQ-4.4 Wood Burning Devices

The County shall require the use of natural gas or the installation of low-emission, EPA-certified fireplace inserts in all open hearth fireplaces in new homes as required under the SJVAPCD Rule 4901. The County shall promote the use of natural gas

over wood products in space heating devices and fireplaces in all existing and new homes. *[New Policy]*

SO _x	Sulfur Oxide Gases
TMA's	Transportation Management Associations
TCAG	Tulare County Association of Governments

AQ-4.5 Public Awareness

The County shall promote public awareness of the seriousness and extent of the existing pollution problem. *[ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Issue 14; Recommendation 5] [ERME; Pg 34, Modified]*

9.5 Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
BACM's	Best Attainment Control Measures
BACM	Best Available Control Measures
CARB	California Air Resources Control Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO	Carbon Monoxide
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HCFC's	Halogenated Fluorocarbons
HFC's	Hydrofluorocarbons
H ₂ S	Hydrogen Sulfide
Pb	Lead
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LEED-ND	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development
CH ₄	Methane
aeg/m ³	Micrograms Per Cubic Meter
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides (Oxides of Nitrogen)
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
O ₃	Ozone
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter 10 Micrometers
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter 10 Micrometers
ppm	Parts Per Million
PFC's	Perfluorinated Carbons
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RACM's	Reasonable Attainment Control Measures
RACM	Reasonably Available Control Measures
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide

Tulare County General Plan

9.6 Implementation Measures

The following table documents the implementation measures included with the General Plan to implement the goals and policies included in this element.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
1. The County shall work with TCAG to develop an enhanced public information program aimed at reducing trips and improving air quality awareness. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0067; TU 17.2]</i>	AQ-1.1	RMA	■			
2. The County shall communicate and cooperate with surrounding cities and counties by becoming an active member of the SJVAB Coordinating Council in order to promote regional air quality planning management. <i>[ERME IV-B; Air Resources; Recommendation 1]</i> <i>[ERME; Pg 25, Modified]</i>	AQ-1.1 AQ-1.2	RMA				■
3. The County shall investigate the feasibility of providing financial or other incentives to cities and communities in the County that practice air quality sensitive development. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0067; TU 7.14]</i>	AQ-1.1 AQ-1.2 AQ-1.3	RMA		■		
4. The County shall review all discretionary permit applications to consider cumulative air impacts through the CEQA process, and require the preparation of an EIR with alternatives if a fair argument can be made that there will be impacts on air quality. <i>[New Program]</i>	AQ-1.3	RMA, Planning				■
5. The County, in coordination with the SJVAPCD, shall develop standard methods for determining and mitigating project air quality impacts and related thresholds of significance for use in environmental documents. <i>[New Program]</i>	AQ-1.3 AG-1.4 AQ-1.5	RMA, Planning	■			
6. The County shall continue to provide services for the removal of debris/materials after wind and/or rain runoff when blocking traffic routes on County roads. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0812; Measure Title 6]</i>	AQ-1.3 AQ-4.2	RMA				■
7. The County shall continue to provide water trucks at its refuse sites to stabilize unpaved access points onto paved roads and conduct a periodic review of the effectiveness of this measure to reduce dust and other air pollution impacts. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0812; Measure Title 2, Commitment B]</i>	AQ-1.3 AQ-4.2 AQ-4.3	RMA				■

9. Air Quality

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
8. The County shall conduct a periodic review of the performance and maintenance records of its existing hybrid and alternative fuels vehicles fleet to the Board of Supervisors. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0067; TU 19]</i>	AQ-1.6	RMA				■
9. The County shall continue to increase expansion and enhancement of existing public transit services. <i>[RACM, Resolution 2005-0067; TU 1.5]</i>	AQ-2.2 AQ-2.3	RMA, Transit				■
10. The County shall develop and implement an outreach program to inform major employers (200 or more employees) of the Commuter Choice Program, a federal law that compliments parking cash-outs. It provides for benefits that employers can offer to employees to commute to work by methods. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0067; TU 3.1]</i>	AQ-2.2 AQ-2.3 AQ-2.4 AQ-2.5	RMA				■
11. The County shall continue to evaluate and implement flexline programs (non-traditional work hour programs) for County employees to limit County staff commuting during peak hours. <i>[New Program]</i> <i>[RACM, Resolution 2004-0067; TU 13.1]</i>	AQ-2.4 AQ-2.2 AQ-2.5	RMA				■
12. The County shall identify opportunities for infill sites in all new community updates, hamlet plans, and redevelopment project area plans as they are prepared over time. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	AQ-3.2	RMA				■
13. The County shall encourage LEED and LEED-ND certification for new development. <i>[New Implementation]</i>	AQ-3.5	RMA				■
14. The County will work with TCAG in refining and maintaining a current set of RACM and BACM that can be used in reviewing and conditioning projects with air emissions. <i>[New Program]</i>	AQ-4.1	RMA, Planning				■
15. In order to reduce the dust impacts of new development on adjoining residences, the County shall require paving or treatment of roads as a condition of approval. <i>[New Program]</i>	AQ-4.4 AQ-4.3	RMA, Dev. Services				■

Please See Next Page



10. Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Element is divided into the following sections:

- General (Section 10.1)
- Geologic and Seismic Hazards (Section 10.2)
- Airport Hazards (Section 10.3)
- Hazardous Materials (Section 10.4)
- Flood Hazards (Section 10.5)
- Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards (Section 10.6)
- Emergency Response (Section 10.7)
- Noise (Section 10.8)
- Acronyms (Section 10.9)
- Implementation Measures (Section 10.10)

Key Terms

The following terms are used throughout this element to describe health and safety issues:

Critical Facilities. Facilities housing or serving many people, that are necessary in the event of an earthquake or flood, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility “lifeline” facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities.

Decibel (dBA). A unit of measurement describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ration of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure (which is 20 micronewtons per square meter).

Fault. A fault is a fracture in the earth’s crust that is accompanied by displacement between the two sides of the fault. An active fault is defined as a fracture that has shifted in the last 10,000 to 12,000 years (Holocene Period). A potentially active fault is one that has been active in the past 1.6 million years (Quaternary Period). A sufficiently active fault is one that shows evidence of Holocene displacement

on one of more of its segments or branches (Hart, 1997).

Floodplain. Land adjacent to a stream, slough, or river that is subject to flooding or inundation from a storm event. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) defines the floodplain to be the area inundated by a 100-year flood.

Floodway. The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

Hazardous Materials. A hazardous material is defined by the California Code of Regulations (CCR) as a substance that, because of physical or chemical properties, quantity, concentration, or other characteristics, may either (1) cause an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 10, Article 2, § 66260.10).

Noise Sensitive Land Use. Noise sensitive receptors that include residential areas, hospitals, convalescent homes and facilities, schools, and other similar land uses.

Existing Conditions

Tulare County has many safety concerns, from airport hazards, hazardous materials, and noise to flooding, and fires.

Tulare County is divided into two major physiographic and geologic provinces: the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Central Valley. There are no known active faults in Tulare County. Tulare County rarely feels the effects of even the largest

earthquakes from the nearest major fault line, the San Andreas Fault.

Tulare County also has human-made hazards such as airports, hazardous materials, and noise. Tulare County manages its seven operational airports to minimize danger to the public while still providing aviation services. Hazardous wastes are handled according to State and federal law and the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Tulare County's noise producers include highways and roads, railroads, manufacturing plants, airports, and agricultural operations.

Tulare County has a long history of flooding along its major-rivers the Kings, Kaweah, and Tule Rivers. As recently as 1997 flooding occurred in Three Rivers, Springville, Lindsay, and Earlimart. In 2006, flooding occurred in Cutler-Orosi.

Tulare County has both urban and wildland fire hazards, creating the potential for injury, loss of life, and property damage.

Tulare County is served by several public safety and emergency response agencies. The County works closely with these agencies to ensure emergency preparedness.

10.1 General

HS-1

To protect County residents and visitors from injury and damage resulting from natural catastrophes, man-made events, and hazardous conditions. [New Goal based on [Safety Element; Goal 1] [Safety Element Pg. 11], [Safety Element; Goal 2] [Safety Element Pg. 11], [Safety Element; Goal 3] [Safety Element Pg. 11], [Safety Element; Goal 6] [Safety Element Pg. 11], [Safety Element; Goal 9] [Safety Element Pg. 11], Tulare. [Safety Element; Goal 12] [Safety Element Pg. 11] [Safety Element; Goal 13] [Safety Element Pg. 11].

HS-1.1 Maintain Emergency Public Services

The County shall ensure that during natural catastrophes and emergency situations, the County can continue to provide essential emergency

services. [New Policy based on Five County Seismic Safety Element; Emergency Services; Implementation 1] [Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 26]

HS-1.2 Development Constraints

The County shall permit development only in areas where the potential danger to the health and safety of people and property can be mitigated to an acceptable level. [New Policy]

HS-1.3 Hazardous Lands

The County shall designate areas with a potential for significant hazardous conditions for open space, agriculture, and other appropriate low intensity uses. [ERME IV-C; Public Safety; Recommendation 1; Pg. 116]

HS-1.4 Building and Codes

Except as otherwise allowed by State law, the County shall ensure that all new buildings intended for human habitation are designed in compliance with the latest edition of the California Building Code, California Fire Code, and other adopted standards based on risk (e.g., seismic hazards, flooding), type of occupancy, and location (e.g., floodplain, fault). [New Policy] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]

HS-1.5 Hazard Awareness and Public Education

The County shall continue to promote awareness and education among residents regarding possible natural hazards, including soil conditions, earthquakes, flooding, fire hazards, and emergency procedures. [New Policy]

HS-1.6 Public Safety Programs

The County shall promote public safety programs, including neighborhood watch programs, child identification and fingerprinting, public awareness and prevention of fire hazards, and other public education efforts. [New Policy]

HS-1.7 Safe Housing and Structures

The County shall continue to seek grant funding for the rehabilitation of deteriorated and dilapidated structures and provide available information regarding housing programs and other public services. [New Policy]

HS-1.8 Response Times Planning in GIS


The County shall utilize its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to track fire and law enforcement responses times and provide technical assistance to fire and law enforcement agencies. [New Policy]

HS-1.9 Emergency Access

The County shall require, where feasible, road networks (public and private) to provide for safe and ready access for emergency equipment and provide alternate routes for evacuation. [New Policy]

HS-1.10 Emergency Services Near Assisted Living Housing

In approving new facilities, such as nursing homes, housing for the elderly and other housing for the mentally and physically infirm, to the extent possible the County shall ensure that such facilities are located within reasonable distance of fire and law enforcement stations. [Safety Element; Economic Well Being and Prevention of Structural Damage; Policy 8][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 6]

 See also Chapter 13, Public Facilities and Services, Policy PFS-7.5, Fire Staffing and Response Time Standards, and Policy PFS -7.10, Sheriff Response Time.

HS-1.11 Site Investigations

The County shall conduct site investigations in areas planned for new development to determine susceptibility to landslides, subsidence/settlement, contamination, and/or flooding. [Five County Seismic Safety Element; Policy 22][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 24(Modified)]

HS-1.12 Addressing

The County shall seek to expand the Street Names and House Numbering Ordinance to all areas of the County, including private roads, for emergency 911 purposes. [New Policy]

10.2 Geologic and Seismic Hazards

HS-2 To reduce the risk to life and property and increased governmental costs from seismic and geologic hazards. [New Goal] [Five County Seismic Safety Element; Goal 1][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 7 [Five County

Seismic Safety Element; Goal 2][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 8,] Five County Seismic Safety Element; Goal 1][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 7], [Five County Seismic Safety Element; Goal 2][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 8], [Five County Seismic Safety Element; Goal 3][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 8], [Five County Seismic Safety Element; Goal 4][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 8]

HS-2.1 Continued Evaluation of Earthquake Risks

The County shall continue to evaluate areas to determine levels of earthquake risk. [New Policy]

HS-2.2 Landslide Areas

The County shall not allow development on existing unconsolidated landslide debris. [New Policy]

HS-2.3 Hillside Development

The County shall discourage construction and grading on slopes in excess of 30 percent. [New Policy]

HS-2.4 Structure Siting

The County shall permit development on soils sensitive to seismic activity permitted only after adequate site analysis, including appropriate siting, design of structure, and foundation integrity. [New Policy]

HS-2.5 Financial Assistance for Seismic Upgrades

The County shall request federal and State financial assistance to implement corrective seismic safety measures required for existing County buildings and structures. [New Policy based on Five County Seismic Safety Element; Policy 19][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 23]

HS-2.6 Seismic Standards for Dams

The County shall continue to address seismic standards of dam safety as promulgated by the State Division of Safety of Dams as applicable to all new and existing structures. [New Policy based on Five County Seismic Safety Element; Policy 10][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 23]

HS-2.7 Subsidence

The County shall confirm that development is not located in any known areas of active subsidence. If urban development may be located in such an area, a special safety study will be prepared and needed safety measures implemented. *[New Policy]*

10.3 Airport Hazards

HS-3

To minimize the possibility of the loss of life, injury, or damage to property as a result of airport hazards. *[New Goal]*

HS-3.1 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan

The County shall require that development around airports is consistent with the safety policies and land use compatibility guidelines contained in the adopted Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan (CALUP). *[New Policy]*



Complete rules and regulations for ensuring airport land use compatibility are found in the Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan.

HS-3.2 Compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations

The County shall ensure that development within the airport approach and departure zones is in compliance with Part 77 of the FAA Regulations (FAA regulations that address objects affecting navigable airspace). *[New Policy]*

10.4 Hazardous Materials

HS-4

To protect residents, visitors, and property from hazardous materials through their safe use, storage, transport, and disposal. *[New Goal]*

HS-4.1 Hazardous Materials

The County shall strive to ensure hazardous materials are used, stored, transported, and disposed of in a safe manner, in compliance with local, State, and federal safety standards, including the Hazardous Waste Management Plan. *[New Policy]*

HS-4.2 Establishment of Procedures to Transport Hazardous Wastes

The County shall continue to cooperate with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to establish procedures for the movement of hazardous wastes and explosives within the County. *[New Policy]* *[Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]*

HS-4.3 Incompatible Land Uses

The County shall prevent incompatible land uses near properties that produce or store hazardous waste. *[New Policy]*

HS-4.4 Contamination Prevention

The County shall review new development proposals to protect soils, air quality, surface water and groundwater from hazardous materials contamination. *[New Policy]*

HS-4.5 Increase Public Awareness

The County shall work to educate the public about household hazardous waste and the proper method of disposal. *[New Policy]*

HS-4.6 Pesticide Control

The County shall monitor studies of pesticide use and the effects if pesticide on residents and wildlife and require mitigation of the effects wherever feasible and appropriate. *[New Policy based on ERME IV-C; Biological Resources; Issue 13; Recommendation 1 and 2]* *[ERME; Pg 33]*

HS-4.7 Coordination of Materials on Public Lands

The County shall work jointly with State and federal land managers to coordinate the handling and disposal of hazardous materials on public lands. *[New Policy]*

10.5 Flood Hazards

HS-5

To minimize the possibility for loss of life, injury, or damage to property as a result of flood hazards. *[New Goal]*

HS-5.1 Development Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Regulations

The County shall ensure that all development within the designated floodway or floodplain zones conforms with FEMA regulations and the Tulare

County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. [*New Policy*]

HS-5.2 Development in Floodplain Zones

The County shall regulate development in the 100-year floodplain zones, except sheet flow zones, as designated on maps prepared by FEMA in accordance with the following:

- Critical facilities (those facilities which should be open and accessible during emergencies) shall not be permitted,
- Passive recreational activities (those requiring non-intensive development, such as hiking, horseback riding, picnicking) are permissible, and
- New development and divisions of land, especially residential subdivisions, shall be developed to minimize flood risk to structures, infrastructure, and ensure safe access and evacuation during flood conditions. [*ERME IV-C; Urban Expansion; Recommendation 2; Pg. 11*].



See also the Tulare County Flood Control Master Plan.

HS-5.3 Participation in Federal Flood Insurance Program

The County shall continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). [*New Policy*]

HS-5.4 Multi-Purpose Flood Control Measures

The County shall encourage multipurpose flood control projects that incorporate recreation, resource conservation, preservation of natural riparian habitat, and scenic values of the County's streams, creeks, and lakes. [*New policy based on ERME IV-C; Public Safety; Recommendation 4; Pg. 116*]

HS-5.5 Development in Dam and Seiche Inundation Zones

The County shall review projects for their exposure to inundation due to dam failure. If a project presents a direct threat to human life, appropriate mitigation measures shall be taken, including restriction of development in the subject area. [*New Policy*]

HS-5.6 Impacts to Downstream Properties

The County shall ensure that new County flood control projects will not adversely impact downstream properties or contribute to flooding hazards. [*New Policy*]

HS-5.7 Mapping of Flood Hazard Areas

The County shall require tentative and final subdivision maps and approved site plans to delineate areas subject to flooding during a 100-year flood event. [*New Policy*]

HS-5.8 Road Location

The County shall plan and site new roads to minimize disturbances to banks and existing channels and avoid excessive cuts and accumulations of waste soil and vegetative debris near natural drainage ways. [*ERME; Water; Issue 4; Recommendation 1, Modified*] [*ERME; Pg 28*]

HS-5.9 Floodplain Development Restrictions

The County shall ensure that riparian areas and drainage areas within 100-year floodplains are free from development that may adversely impact floodway capacity or characteristics of natural/riparian areas or natural groundwater recharge areas. [*New Policy*]

HS-5.10 Flood Control Design

The County shall avoid flood control projects involving further channeling, straightening, or lining of waterways until alternative multipurpose modes of treatment, such as wider berms and landscaped levees, in combination with recreation amenities, are studied. [*New Policy*]

HS-5.11 Natural Design

The County shall encourage flood control designs that respect natural curves and vegetation of natural waterways while retaining dynamic flow and functional integrity. [*ERME; Water; Issue 4; Recommendation 2*] [*ERME; Pg 28*]

10.6 Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards

HS-6

To minimize the exposure of County residents and visitors and public and private property to the effects of urban and wildland fires. [*New Policy based on Safety Element; Goal 11*] [*Safety Element Pg. 11*]

HS-6.1 New Building Fire Hazards

The County shall ensure that all building permits for development in urban areas as well as areas with potential for wildland fires are reviewed by the County Fire Chief. *[New Policy] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]*

HS-6.2 Development in Fire Hazard Zones

The County shall ensure that development in extreme or high fire hazard areas is designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes the risk from fire hazards and meets all applicable State and County fire standards. This shall include promoting the use of fire resistant materials designed to reduce fire vulnerability within high or extreme fire hazard areas through use of Article 86-A of the 2001 California Fire Code and other nationally recognized standards, as may be updated periodically. Special consideration shall be given to the use of fire-resistant materials and fire-resistant construction in the underside of eaves, balconies, unenclosed roofs and floors, and other similar horizontal surfaces in areas with steep slopes. *[Safety Element; Public Safety and Standards; Policy 6][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 8, Modified] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]*

HS-6.3 Consultation with Fire Service Districts

The County shall consult the appropriate fire service district in areas identified as subject to high and extreme fire hazard, for particular regulations or design requirements prior to issuance of a building permit or approval of subdivisions. *[New Policy]*

HS-6.4 Encourage Cluster Development

The County shall encourage cluster developments in areas identified as subject to high or extreme fire hazard, to provide for more localized and effective fire protection measures such as consolidations of fuel build-up abatement, firebreak maintenance, fire fighting equipment access, and water service provision. *[New Policy]*

HS-6.5 Fire Risk Recommendations

The County shall encourage the County Fire Chief to make recommendations to property owners regarding hazards associated with the use of materials, types of structures, location of structures and subdivisions, road widths, location of fire hydrants, water supply and other important

considerations regarding fire hazard that may be technically feasible but not included in present ordinances or policies. *[Safety Element; Management and Funding; Policy 3][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 8] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]*

HS-6.6 Wildland Fire Management Plans

The County shall require the development of wildland fire management plans for projects adjoining significant areas of open space that may have high fuel loads. *[New Policy]*

HS-6.7 Water Supply System

The County shall require that water supply systems be adequate to serve the size and configuration of land developments. Standards as set forth in the subdivision ordinance shall be maintained and improved as necessary. *[Safety Element; Public Safety and Standards; Policy 8][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 9]*

HS-6.8 Private Water Supply

The County shall require separately developed dwellings with individual private water supply to provide an acceptable guaranteed minimum supply of water for fire safety, in addition to the amount required for domestic needs. *[New Policy]*

HS-6.9 Fuel Modification Programs

The County shall actively support fuel modification and reduction programs on public and private lands throughout the County. *[New Policy]*

HS-6.10 Fuel Breaks

In the Foothill and Mountain Plan Areas, the County shall require fuel breaks of at least 100 feet around structures that are in a wildland fire area to limit the risk of fires and property loss. Secondary fuel breaks up to 200 feet in width shall be required when the County Fire Chief finds that additional precautions are necessary. *[New Policy] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]*

HS-6.11 Fire Buffers

The County shall strive to maintain fire buffers along heavily traveled roads within high and extreme hazard zones by thinning, disking, or controlled burning. Parks, golf courses, utility corridors, roads, and open space areas shall be encouraged to locate so they serve a secondary function as a fuel break. *[New Policy]*

HS-6.12 Weed Abatement

The County shall continue to encourage weed abatement programs throughout the County in order to promote fire safety. [Safety Element; Environment; Policy 4][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 7]

HS-6.13 Restoration of Disturbed Land

The County shall support the restoration of disturbed lands resulting from wildfires. [New Policy]

HS-6.14 Coordination with Cities

The County shall coordinate with cities to develop cohesive fire safety plans with overlapping coverage. [New Policy]

HS-6.15 Coordination of Fuel Hazards on Public Lands

The County shall work with local and federal agencies to support efforts to reduce fuel related hazards on public lands. [New Policy]

10.7 Emergency Response

HS-7	To provide effective emergency response to natural or human-made hazards and disasters. [New Goal based on , [Safety Element; Goal 8][Safety Element Pg. 11], [Safety Element; Goal 10][Safety Element Pg. 11]
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HS-7.1 Coordinate Emergency Response Services with Government Agencies

The County shall coordinate emergency response with local, State, and federal governmental agencies charged with disaster and emergency preparedness responsibilities. [New Policy]

HS-7.2 Mutual Aid Agreement

The County shall maintain current and effective mutual aid or Joint Power Agreements (JPA) for fire, police, medical response, hazardous materials, mass care, heavy rescue or other functions as appropriate. [New Policy]

HS-7.3 Maintain Emergency Evacuation Plans

The County shall continue to maintain emergency evacuation plans for areas identified as subject to potential flooding downstream from dams. [New Policy]

HS-7.4 Upgrading for Streets and Highways

The County shall evaluate and upgrade vital streets and highways to an acceptable level for emergency services. [New Policy based on Five County Seismic Safety Element; Conservation; Implementation 6][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 26]

HS-7.5 Emergency Centers

The County shall require emergency backup systems to enable uninterrupted continuous operations as required by the California Essential Facilities Act. [New Policy] [Per Fire Manager Comments, October 10, 2006]

HS-7.6 Search and Rescue

The County should continue to provide search and rescue operation capabilities for the Tulare County Sheriff's Department in mountainous areas, including those areas on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada that are not served by all weather roads. [Safety Element; Plan Update; Policy 6][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 9]

HS-7.7 Joint Exercises

The County shall encourage fire and law enforcement departments to periodically conduct joint training exercises with the goal of developing the best possible coordinated action in the event of a natural or human-made hazard. [Safety Element; Education and Disaster Preparedness; Policy 1][Safety Element (1975); Pg. 6]

10.8 Noise

HS-8	To protect County residents and visitors from the harmful effects of excessive noise while promoting the County economic base. [Noise Element Policy Document; Goal 1-1][Noise Element Pg. 17]
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HS-8.1 Economic Base Protection

The County shall protect its economic base by preventing the encroachment of incompatible land uses on known noise-producing industries, railroads, airports, and other sources. [New Policy based on Noise Element Policy Document; 1-2][Noise Element Pg. 17]

HS-8.2 Noise Impacted Areas

The County shall designate areas as noise-impacted if exposed to existing or projected noise levels that exceed 60 dB Ldn (or Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)) at the exterior of buildings. [Noise Policy; 3.3.1][Noise Element Pg. 18]

HS-8.3 Noise Sensitive Land Uses

The County shall not approve new noise sensitive uses unless effective mitigation measures are incorporated into the design of such projects to reduce noise levels to 60 dB Ldn (or CNEL) or less within outdoor activity areas and 45 dB Ldn (or CNEL) or less within interior living spaces. [Noise Policy; 3.3.2][Noise Element Pg. 18]

HS-8.4 Airport Noise Contours

The County shall ensure new noise sensitive land uses are located outside the 60 CNEL contour of all public use airports. [Noise Policy; 3.3.2][Noise Element Pg. 18]

HS-8.5 State Noise Standards

The County shall enforce the State Noise Insulation Standards (California Administrative Code, Title 24) and Chapter 35 of the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Title 24 requires that interior noise levels not exceed 45 dB Ldn (or CNEL) with the windows and doors closed within new developments of multi-family dwellings, condominiums, hotels, or motels. Where it is not possible to reduce exterior noise levels within an acceptable range the County shall require the application of noise reduction technology to reduce interior noise levels to an acceptable level. [Noise Policy; 3.3.2][Noise Element Pg. 18] [Noise Policy; 3.3.6][Noise Element Pg. 20]

HS-8.6 Noise Level Criteria

The County shall ensure noise level criteria applied to land uses other than residential or other noise-sensitive uses are consistent with the recommendations of the California Office of Noise Control (CONC). [Noise Policy; 3.3.5][Noise Element Pg. 20]

HS-8.7 Inside Noise

The County shall ensure that in instances where the windows and doors must remain closed to achieve the required inside acoustical isolation, mechanical

ventilation or air conditioning is provided. [Noise Policy; 3.3.2][Noise Element Pg. 18]

HS-8.8 Adjacent Uses

The County shall not permit development of new industrial, commercial, or other noise-generating land uses if resulting noise levels will exceed 60 dB Ldn (or CNEL) at the boundary of areas designated and zoned for residential or other noise-sensitive uses, unless it is determined to be necessary to promote the public health, safety and welfare of the County. [Noise Policy; 3.3.3][Noise Element Pg. 20]

HS-8.9 County Equipment

The County shall strive to purchase equipment that complies with noise level performance standards set forth in the Health and Safety Element. [Noise Policy; 3.3.7][Noise Element Pg. 21]

HS-8.10 Automobile Noise Enforcement

The County shall encourage the CHP, Sheriff's office, and local police departments to actively enforce existing sections of the California Vehicle Code relating to adequate vehicle mufflers, modified exhaust systems, and other amplified noise. [Noise Implementation; 4-4][Noise Element Pg. 27]

HS-8.11 Peak Noise Generators

The County shall limit noise generating activities, such as construction, to hours of normal business operation. No peak noise generating activities shall be allowed to occur outside of normal business hours without County approval. [New Policy]

10.9 Acronyms

Ldn	Day/Night Average Noise Level
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDF	California Department of Forestry
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CONC	California Office of Noise Control
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CALUP	Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan
dBA	Decibel
ERME	Environmental Resource Management Element
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration
GIS	Geographic Information Systems

JPA	Joint Power Agreements
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
UBC	Uniform Building Code

Please See Next Page

Tulare County General Plan

10.10 Implementation Measures

The following table documents the implementation measures included with the General Plan to implement the goals and policies included in this element.

	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
1.	The County shall maintain a program for training County staff in disaster preparedness and response. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-1.1	RMA				■
2.	The County shall review and update the Emergency Response Plan at least every 5 years. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-1.1	RMA				■
3.	The County shall establish an Emergency Services Program. Objectives of the program shall reflect the County "Management Philosophy." Included in the program should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To coordinate a structural hazard inspection program and establish for each counties' Board of Supervisors the necessary criteria for mitigation of hazards, ▪ To provide a basis for control and direction of emergency operations, ▪ To release disaster information in concurrence with County Board of Supervisors during or immediately after a disaster, ▪ To provide for the continuity of government in the event of a geologic disaster, ▪ To coordinate, repair, and restore essential systems and services as required in an emergency, ▪ To provide for the protection, use, and distribution of remaining resources as well as surplus property available from the federal Government for local government use, and ▪ To coordinate operations with the Civil Defense Emergency Operations of other jurisdictions as necessary. <i>[Five County Seismic Safety Element; Policy 5][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 22] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]</i> 	HS-1.1 HS-1.3 HS-1.5 HS-1.6	CAO County Fire Department				■
4.	The County shall create a program that trains volunteers to assist police, fire, and civil defense personnel how to perform effectively after a natural or human-made disaster. <i>[Five County Seismic Safety Element; Policy 6][Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 23] [Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]</i>	HS-1.1 HS-1.5 HS-1.6	RMA; County Fire Department				■
5.	The County shall create a Safety Committee, composed of members of various County departments and agencies with responsibility and authority in such matters. The Committee shall perform various functions including, but not restricted to: Coordination of such agencies for efficiency in protection of public safety; uniform administration of safety requirements throughout the County; designation of sheet flow hazard and flood prevention areas of the County where storm drainage improvements are necessary and adopting provisions which attempt to prevent safety requirements from becoming excessive economic burdens for the County. Suggested representation on	HS-1.1 HS-1.6 HS-7.7	RMA; Office of Emergency Services				■

10. Health & Safety

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
<p>this Committee includes: California Division of Forestry; Engineering; CHP; County Executive; Emergency Services Officer; Planning Department; Agricultural Commissioner; National Forest Service; National Parks Service; Bureau of Land Management; County Sheriff; and cities. [<i>Safety Element; Environment; Policy 9</i>][<i>Safety Element (1975); Pg. 7</i>]</p>						■
6. The County shall monitor and continue to seek funding to rehabilitate unsafe and dilapidated structures. [<i>New Implementation Strategy</i>]	HS-1.3 HS-1.7	RMA; County Fire Department; HHS				■
7. The County shall develop standards for numbering buildings on private driveways to assist emergency service personnel in locating structures. [<i>Safety Element; Economic Well Being and Prevention of Structural Damage; Policy 9</i>][<i>Safety Element (1975); Pg. 6</i>]	HS-1.4	RMA		■		
8. The County shall develop a public education program to foster public awareness about fire hazards to reduce injury and loss of life and damage to property and degradation of the natural environment, particularly in conjunction with the public school system and "critical facility" personnel. [<i>Safety Element; Education and Disaster Preparedness; Policy 6</i>][<i>Safety Element (1975); Pg. 6</i>] [<i>Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006</i>]	HS-1.5 HS-1.6	RMA; County Fire Department	■			
9. The County shall establish and publicize evacuation routes for all residents. [<i>Five County Seismic Safety Element; Policy 9</i>][<i>Five County Seismic Safety Element (1974) Pg. 23</i>]	HS-1.5 HS-1.6 HS-1.9	RMA; OES; Fire Department; Sheriff				■
10. The County shall work with other local agencies, including cities within the County, to develop coordinated GIS planning that identifies and maps the location of all public facilities and emergency response agencies. Contingency plans for emergency response and recovery should be incorporated into this mapping system. [<i>New Implementation Strategy</i>]	HS-1.8	RMA		■		
11. The County shall maintain a fire hazard severity map based on inputs from the California Department of Forestry (CDF) and local fire districts within the County. The County shall use this map to determine if additional fire safety conditions should be applied as conditions of approval. If inside a fire hazard area, the County will consult with County Fire Department personnel, CDF, and the U.S. Forest Service to determine appropriate protections. The County's fire hazard map will combine the following information:	HS-1.8 HS-6.6	RMA; County Fire Department				■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of fires by activity and area, ▪ Number of users in the area, ▪ Number of fires by ignition index in State responsibility areas, and ▪ Any other methods determined by Safety Committee as necessary. [<i>New Implementation Strategy</i>] <p>[<i>Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006</i>]</p>						

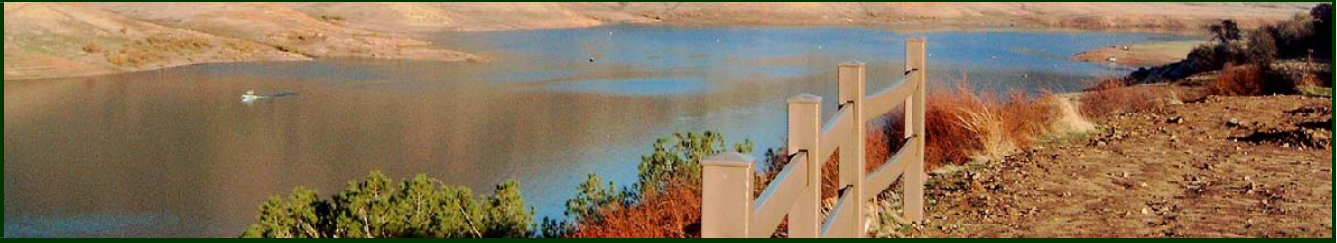
Tulare County General Plan

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
12. The County shall maintain its Hazardous Waste Management Plan and develop regulations for the placement of hazardous waste sites and develop standards for types of uses which would be compatible. Existing hazardous waste development requirements shall be enforced. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-4.1 HS-4.2 HS-4.3	RMA; Env. Health			■	
13. The County shall develop standards for the type, location, and intensity of development adjacent to sites and facilities for the production, use, storage, and disposal of toxic and hazardous materials. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i> <i>[Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]</i>	HS-4.3	RMA; County Fire Department			■	
14. The County shall maintain and annually update a Countywide database of FEMA flood plain maps to evaluate projects and provide to County residents, businesses, and developers. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-5.1 HS-5.2	RMA				■
15. The County shall adopt the following standards for use and development in areas of varying fire hazards and using the Fire Hazard Severity Scale as indicated below to review developments or uses within wildlands. The following minimum requirements should be met in relation to the three classes of Fire Hazard Severity as discussed within the context of the Health and Safety Element: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extreme Hazard – extreme caution should be used in allowing development, particularly critical facilities, ▪ Moderate Hazard – strict compliance with existing State statutes and local ordinances should provide adequate fire protection, and ▪ Minimum Hazard – development should be allowed, with recommendations for mitigation of hazard by Fire Warden. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i> <i>[Per Fire Manager Comments August 21, 2006]</i> 	HS-6.1 HS-6.2	RMA; County Fire Department	■			
16. The County shall work with the Fire Chief to develop a natural hazard disclosure statement for wildland fires to be recorded along with all discretionary land use approvals in all moderate and extreme hazard areas. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-6.1	RMA; County Fire Chief			■	
17. The County shall continue to conduct periodic emergency response exercises to ensure that all County departments respond efficiently and that emergency communications and other systems are properly maintained. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-7.1	RMA				■
18. The County shall prepare and periodically update a set of measures and actions to comply with national and State Homeland Security standards for facility security. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-7.1	RMA				■
19. The County shall periodically update the Emergency Operations Plan to meet current federal and State emergency requirements. <i>[New Implementation Strategy]</i>	HS-7.3	RMA				■
20. The County shall develop and implement procedures for acoustical analysis of development proposals. <i>[Noise]</i>	HS-8.5	RMA				■

10. Health & Safety

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
<i>Implementation; 4-3][Noise Element Pg. 27]</i>						
21. The County shall amend and enforce the Tulare County Noise Ordinance to incorporate standards set forth in the Health and Safety Element. <i>[Noise Implementation; 4-5][Noise Element Pg. 27]</i>	HS-8.3	RMA				■
22. The County should develop and adopt a peak noise standards ordinance to regulate the operation and use of peak noise generating uses throughout the County and ensure residents and visitors are not subject to excessive peak noise nuisances.	8.11	RMA	■			

Please see the next page.



11. Water Resources

The Water Resources Element is divided into the following sections:

- General (Section 11.1)
- Water Quality (Section 11.2)
- Water Supply (Section 11.3)
- Acronyms (Section 11-4)
- Implementation Measures (Section 11.5)

Policies in this element discussing the management of water resources are relative to the areas of water usage that the County has regulatory control, such as the approval of new land use development. The policies in this element should not be construed to insert the County into the allocation or management of water resources. This is a complicated system over which the County does not have direct regulatory control.

Key Terms

The following terms are used throughout this element to describe water resource issues.

Acre-foot. The amount of water needed to cover one acre with one foot of water, or approximately 325,851 gallons. In the course of a year the average three-person household uses 0.538 acre-feet of water based on the national average daily per capita water usage of 160 gallons.

Appropriated Right. The right to put to reasonable beneficial use, a quantity of water subordinate to the use thereof by prior appropriators and defined riparian diverters.

Aquifer. A geologic formation that stores water underground and yields significant quantities of water to wells or springs.

Central Valley Project (CVP). Authorized in 1933, the CVP, operated by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, is the largest water storage and delivery system in California, comprising 29 of the

state's 58 counties. The project's features include 18 federal reservoirs and 4 additional reservoirs jointly owned with the State Water Project.

Class 1 Water. That supply of water stored in or flowing through Millerton Lake which, subject to defined contingencies, is available for delivery from Millerton Lake and the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals as a dependable water supply during each year.

Class 2 Water. That supply of water which can be made available, subject to defined contingencies, for delivery from Millerton Lake and Friant-Kern and Madera Canals in addition to the supply of Class 1 Water. Because of its uncertainty as to availability and time of occurrence, such water is undependable in character and is furnished only if, as, and when it can be made available as determined by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Confined Aquifer. A water-bearing subsurface stratum that is bounded above and below by formations of impermeable, or relatively impermeable, soil or rock.

Groundwater Basin. A groundwater reservoir, defined by an overlying land surface and the underlying aquifers that contain water stored in the reservoir. In some cases, the boundaries of successively deeper aquifers may differ and make it difficult to define the limits of the basin.

Groundwater Export. An export of groundwater is defined as the extraction and transfer of groundwater, through natural waterways or man-made conveyance, of one (1) or more acre-feet per year of water to a use outside of Tulare County.

Groundwater Overdraft. The condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn (by pumping) exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin.

Groundwater Recharge. The natural or intentional infiltration of surface water into the zone of saturation (i.e., into groundwater).

Non-Transient System. A water system serving customers who will be exposed to the water supply for an extended period of time.

Reasonable Beneficial Use. This is the measure and limit of an appropriative right.

Safe Yield. The maximum dependable draft that can be made continuously on a source of groundwater supply during a period of years during which the probable driest period or period of greatest deficiency in water supply is likely to occur.

Transient System. A water system serving customers who will be exposed to the water supply for only a short period of time.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in coordination with the states, is the chief federal legislation regulating drinking water quality.

State Water Project (SWP). Authorized in 1960, the SWP facilities include 20 dams, 662 miles of aqueduct, and 26 power and pumping plants. Major facilities include the multi-purpose Oroville Dam and Reservoir on the Feather River, the California Aqueduct, South Bay Aqueduct, North Bay Aqueduct, and a share of the State-Federal San Luis Reservoir.

Tulare Lake Basin. The State Department of Water Resources (DWR) subdivides the State into ten hydrologic regions for planning purposes, corresponding to the state's major drainage basins. Tulare County is located entirely within the Tulare Lake Basin. This basin is closed in that it does not discharge into the ocean.

Unconfined Aquifer. An aquifer without an upper confining layer of impermeable soil or rock material. The water table is exposed to the atmosphere through a series of interconnected openings in the overlying permeable soil and/or rock layers and is in equilibrium with atmospheric pressure. Therefore,

the groundwater is not under pressure, and the water level in a well is the same as the water table outside the well.

Existing Conditions Overview

Demands for water resources within Tulare County are met from four major sources: groundwater, local streams and rivers, imported surface water, and imported surface water by exchange.

Tulare County is located entirely within the Tulare Lake Basin, the closed drainage basin at the south end of the San Joaquin Valley, south of the San Joaquin River watershed, encompassing basins draining to Kern, Tulare, and Buena Vista Lakes.

Groundwater in the Valley portions of Tulare County occurs in an unconfined state throughout, and in a confined state beneath its western portion. Extensive alluvial fans associated with the Kings, Kaweah, and Tule Rivers provide highly permeable areas in which groundwater in the unconfined aquifer system is readily replenished. Interfan areas between the streams contain less permeable surface soils and subsurface deposits, impeding groundwater recharge and causing well yields to be relatively low. The mineral quality of groundwater in Tulare County is generally satisfactory for all uses.

The DWR has estimated the groundwater overdraft by hydrologic region. For the Tulare Lake Basin, the total overdraft is estimated at 820,000 acre-feet per year, the greatest overdraft projected in the state, and 56 percent of the statewide total overdraft. This overdraft is due to reductions of surface supplies in recent years by Delta export restrictions, Endangered Species Act requirements, and other factors.

The groundwater overdraft is most pronounced along the western boundary of the County, as manifested by a lowering of pressure levels in the confined aquifers. There is also a progressive lowering of ground water levels along the easterly margins of the Valley basin, particularly in the southerly part of the Kern-Tulare Water District. There are 19 entities in Tulare County with active programs of groundwater management.

Surface water supplies for the Tulare Lake Basin include developed supplies from the CVP, the SWP, rivers, and local projects. In addition to water from the San Joaquin River delivered by the Friant-Kern Canal, other significant rivers and streams serving Tulare County are the Kings, Kaweah, Tule, Kern (mountain areas only), and White Rivers and Deer Creek.

The predominant water supply system providing service to the foothill and mountain regions of the County are individual systems. Principal among these systems are those which utilize groundwater which is, in most cases, untreated. There exist, however, some limited treatment systems, which are typically maintained by a commercial service contract.

The mineral quality of groundwater extracted for use in Tulare County is generally satisfactory for crop irrigation. The salinity of groundwater typically increases in a westward direction across the San Joaquin Valley. For the Kings River watershed, groundwater along the foothill fringe tends to be high in nitrates, reducing in intensity as the flow extends into the valley floor. The Kaweah River watershed tends to be high in chloride and nitrate concentrations, which also dilute as the groundwater flows into the valley area. The east side of the valley floor in the Tule River watershed contains the highest population of individuals impacted by lower quality groundwater of any area in the County. In the Deer Creek/White River watershed, water quality along the foothills is characterized by diminished quality from nitrates, phenols, and salts. Like other areas, this impact decreases moving west from the foothills.

11.1 General

WR-1

To provide for the current and long-range water needs of the County and for the protection of the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources. [New Goal]

WR-1.1 Groundwater Withdrawal

The County shall cooperate with water agencies and management agencies during land development processes to manage the groundwater resources

within the County through ordinances, project approvals, and agreements, to ensure an adequate, safe, and economically viable groundwater supply for existing and future development within the County. [New Policy based on ERME IV-C; Groundwater; Recommendation 1] [ERME; Pg 38]

WR-1.2 Groundwater Monitoring

The County shall support the collection of monitoring data for facilities or uses that are potential sources of groundwater pollution as part of project approvals, including residential and industrial development. [New Policy]

WR-1.3 Water Export Outside County

The County shall regulate the export of groundwater and surface water resources currently allocated to users within the County to cities and service providers outside the County to the extent necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The County shall strive for a “no net loss” where there may be water exchanges serving a public purpose allowed, but these agreements shall not result in the net loss of water from the County. [New Policy]

WR-1.4 Conversion of Agricultural Water Resources

For new urban development, the County shall discourage the transfer of water used for agricultural purposes (within the prior ten years) for domestic consumption unless all of the following are met:

- The water remaining for the agricultural operation is sufficient to maintain the land as an economically viable agricultural use,
- The reduction in infiltration from agricultural activities as a source of groundwater recharge will not significantly impact the groundwater basin, and
- The water transferred to the domestic use is equivalent to an amount saved by the agricultural use through implementation of a conservation program (such as installing drip irrigation) or conversion to less water intensive crops. [New Policy]

WR-1.5 Expand Use of Reclaimed Wastewater

To augment groundwater supplies and to conserve potable water for domestic purposes, the County shall seek opportunities to expand groundwater recharge efforts. [*Revised Existing Water Resources Policy 2.2*]

WR-1.6 Expand Use of Reclaimed Water

The County shall encourage the use of tertiary treated wastewater and household gray water for irrigation of agricultural lands, recreation and open space areas, and large landscaped areas as a means of reducing demand for groundwater resources. [*Revised Existing Water Resources Policy 2.2*]

WR-1.7 Collection of Additional Groundwater Information

The County shall support additional studies focused on furthering the understanding of individual groundwater source areas and basins. [*New Policy*]

WR-1.8 Groundwater Basin Management

The County shall take an active role in cooperating in the management of the County's groundwater resources. [*New Policy*]

WR-1.9 Collection of Additional Surface Water Information

The County shall support the additional collection of water quality and flow information for the County's major drainages as part of project approvals. [*New Policy based on ERME IV-B; Land Resources; Recommendation 8*] [ERME; Pg 23(Modified)]

WR-1.10 Channel Modification

Channel modification shall be discouraged in streams and rivers where it increases the rate of flow, rate of sediment transport, erosive capacity, have adverse effect on aquatic life or modify necessary groundwater recharge. [ERME IV-C; Soils; Recommendation 7] [ERME; Pg 59]

11.2 Water Quality

WR-2

To provide for the current and long-range water needs of the County and for the protection of the quality of surface water and groundwater resources. [*New Goal*]

WR-2.1 Protect Water Quality

All major land use and development plans shall be evaluated as to their potential to create surface and groundwater contamination hazards from point and non-point sources. The County shall confer with other appropriate agencies, as necessary, to assure adequate water quality review to prevent soil erosion; direct discharge of potentially harmful substances; ground leaching from storage of raw materials, petroleum products, or wastes; floating debris; and runoff from the site. [*New Policy based on ERME; Water; Issue 1*] [ERME; Pg 27]

WR-2.2 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement

The County shall continue to monitor and enforce provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. EPA NPDES program as implemented by the Water Quality Control Board. [*New Policy*]

WR-2.3 Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The County shall continue to require the use of feasible and BMPs and other mitigation measures designed to protect surface water and groundwater from the adverse effects of construction activities and urban runoff in coordination with the Water Quality Control Board. [*New Policy*]

WR-2.4 Construction Site Sediment Control

The County shall continue to enforce provisions to control erosion and sediment from construction sites. [*New Policy*]

WR-2.5 Major Drainage Management

The County shall continue to promote protection of each individual drainage basin within the County based in the basins unique hydrologic and use characteristics. [*New Policy based on ERME IV-B; Land Resources; Recommendation 9*] [ERME; Pg 24], [ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 20] [ERME; Pg 53]

WR-2.6 Degraded Water Resources

The County shall encourage and support the identification of degraded surface water and groundwater resources and promote restoration where appropriate. [*New Policy*]

WR-2.7 Industrial and Agricultural Sources

The County shall work with agricultural and industrial concerns to ensure that water contaminants and waste products are handled in a manner that protects the long-term viability of water resources in the County. *[New Policy]*

WR-2.8 Point Source Control

The County shall work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that all point source pollutants are adequately mitigated (as part of the California Environmental Quality Act review and project approval process) and monitored to ensure long-term compliance. *[New Policy]*

WR-2.9 Private Wells

The County shall ensure that private wells are adequately constructed to provide protection from bacteriological and chemical contamination and do not provide a hazard as to contaminate the aquifer. *[New Policy]*

11.3 Water Supply

WR-3

To provide a sustainable, long-term supply of water resources to meet domestic, agricultural, industrial, and recreational needs and to assure that new development is consistent with available water resources. *[New Goal]*

WR-3.1 Develop Additional Water Sources

The County shall encourage the identification and development of additional water sources through the expansion of water storage reservoirs, development of groundwater banking, and promotion of water conservation programs. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.2 Develop an Integrated Regional Water Master Plan

The County will take the lead with other agencies and organizations that share water management responsibilities in the County to enhance modeling efforts and ensure that an integrated regional water master plan and implementation program for the

entire County area is developed and maintained. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.3 Adequate Water Availability

The County shall review new development proposals to ensure the intensity and timing of growth will be consistent with the availability of adequate water supplies. Projects must provide evidence of adequate and sustainable water availability or a will serve letter prior to approval of the tentative map or other entitlement. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.4 Water Resource Planning

The County shall continue participation in all state, regional and local water resource planning efforts affecting water resource supply and quality. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.5 Use of Native and Drought Tolerant Landscaping

The County shall encourage the use of low water consuming, drought-tolerant and native landscaping and emphasize the importance of utilizing water conserving techniques, such as night watering, mulching, and drip irrigation. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.6 Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency

The County shall support educational programs targeted at reducing water consumption on agricultural lands and enhancing groundwater recharge. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.7 Emergency Water Conservation Plan

The County shall develop an emergency water conservation plan for County operated water systems to identify appropriate conservation policies that can be implemented during times of water shortages caused by drought, loss of one or more major sources of supply, contamination of one or more sources of supply, or other natural or man-made events. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.8 Educational Programs

The County shall encourage the development of educational programs, both by water purveyors and public agencies, in order to increase public awareness of water conservation opportunities and the potential benefits of implementing conservation measures and programs. *[New Policy]*

WR-3.9 Establish Critical Water Supply Areas

The County shall designate Critical Water Supply Areas to include the specific areas used by a municipality or community for its water supply system, areas critical to groundwater recharge, and other areas possessing a vital role in the management of the water resources in the County. [New Policy]

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WR-3.10 Diversion of Surface Water

Diversions of surface water or runoff from precipitation shall be prevented where such diversions may cause a reduction in surface water available for needed groundwater recharge. [New Program based on ERME IV-C; Groundwater; Recommendation 3] [ERME; Pg 38]

WR-3.11 Policy Impacts to Water Resources

The County shall monitor actions taken at the federal and State level which impact water resources in order to evaluate the effects of these actions on the County's resources. [New Policy]

WR-3.12 Joint Water Projects with Neighboring Counties

Tulare County will work with neighboring counties to promote development of joint water projects, such as a cross-valley canal, and other efforts to expand water supply. [ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 18] [ERME; Pg 53]

WR-3.13 Coordination of Watershed Management on Public Land

The County shall work cooperatively with State and federal land managers to coordinate watershed management on public land. [New Policy]

11.4 Acronyms

DBCP	Chemical Decachlorobiphenyl
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CVP	Central Valley Project
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SWP	State Water Project

11.5 Implementation Measures

The following table documents the implementation measures included with the General Plan to implement the goals and policies included in this element.

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
<p>1. County staff shall develop an ordinance that will regulate the extraction and exportation of groundwater from Tulare County. The ordinance will set up a permit process for groundwater export. Conditions considered for this permit will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find and determine that the extraction will not substantially increase the overdraft of the groundwater underlying the County ▪ Will not adversely affect the long-term ability for storage or transmission of groundwater within the aquifer; ▪ Will not (together with other extractions) exceed the safe yield of the groundwater underlying the County unless the safe yield is exceeded only by extractions in connection with a conjunctive use program approved by the County; ▪ Will not otherwise operate to the injury of the reasonable and beneficial uses of overlying groundwater users; ▪ Will not result in an injury to a water replenishment, storage, or restoration project operating in accordance with statutory authorization; and ▪ Find that the applicant has provided for mitigation which will offset any adverse effect that is determined to exist. <i>[New Program]</i> 	<p>WR-1.1 WR-1.2</p>	<p>RMA, Planning; Water Commission</p>	<p>■</p>			
<p>2. Solid waste disposal areas shall not be located where there is possibility of ground or surface water contamination. Solid waste facilities shall be sited in accordance with the Tulare County Siting Element and California Code of Regulations Titles 14 & 27, Division 2. <i>[ERME; Water; Issue 1; Recommendation 1] [ERME; Pg 27], [ERME IV-C; Groundwater; Recommendation 5] [ERME; Pg 38] [Modified]</i></p>	<p>WR-1.1 WR-1.2 WR-1.8</p>	<p>RMA, Planning</p>				<p>■</p>
<p>3. The County shall assure that all watershed planning is done on a complete regional and watershed basis, and that such planning considers a balance between urban and agricultural demands. <i>[Revised ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 20] [ERME; Pg 53]</i></p>	<p>WR-1.1 WR-1.7 WR-2.5 WR-3.2 WR-3.4 WR-3.7</p>	<p>RMA, Planning</p>				<p>■</p>
<p>4. Where feasible, the County shall participate in coordinated local, regional, and statewide groundwater monitoring and planning programs. <i>[New Program]</i></p>	<p>WR-1.2</p>	<p>Tulare County</p>				<p>■</p>
<p>5. The County shall encourage active participation by local stakeholders and develop groundwater-monitoring partnerships with local groundwater users and developers. <i>[New Program]</i></p>	<p>WR-1.2</p>	<p>RMA; Env. Health</p>				<p>■</p>

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	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
6.	The County shall avoid destruction of established recharge sites through such means as clustering development to leave such areas in open space, avoidance of lining channels and streams, alteration of existing agricultural practices, or substitution made of drainage methods that will transport polluted waters away from such sites. [ERME; Water; Issue 2; Recommendation 9] [ERME; Pg 28]	WR-1.2 WR-1.5 WR-1.10 WR-3.2	RMA, Planning				■
7.	The County shall work with federal, State, and regional agencies to improve local groundwater pollution detection and monitoring. [New Program]	WR-1.2 WR-1.7	RMA; Env. Health				■
8.	The County shall encourage responsible agencies and organizations to install and monitor additional groundwater monitoring wells in areas where data gaps exist. [New Program]	WR-1.2 WR-1.7	RMA	■			
9.	The County shall seek cooperation from realtors to require all sales of homes to have water testing for nitrates and bacteria in addition to valley sites testing for DBCP and mountain sites for radiological contamination. [New Program]	WR-1.2 WR-1.7	RMA; Env. Health	■			
10.	The County shall incorporate provisions for the use of reclaimed wastewater, water conserving appliances, drought tolerant landscaping, and other water conservation techniques into the County's building, zoning, and subdivision ordinances. [ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 19] [ERME; Pg 53]	WR-1.5 WR-3.5 WR-3.6 WR-3.8	RMA, Planning; UC Cooperative Extension				■
11.	The County shall identify and evaluate conditions within established watersheds which are causing deterioration of the water quality, water supply, or declining water yields. The County shall institute the necessary revisions to regulatory documents (Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, etc.) to mitigate these issues. [ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 11] [ERME; Pg 53]	WR-1.7 WR-1.8	RMA, Planning	■			
12.	Development projects involving drainage alterations shall be constructed to minimize soil erosion and silt transport. [ERME IV-C; Groundwater; Recommendation 7] [ERME; Pg 38]	WR-1.10 WR-2.1 WR-2.2 WR-2.3 WR-2.4	RMA, Planning				■
13.	During preliminary and final road location surveys, roads (excluding bridges and culverts) shall be planned away from natural drainage channels. Stream crossing points should involve a minimum disturbance to banks and existing channels and excessive cuts and accumulations of waste soil near natural drainages avoided. [ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 13] [ERME; Pg 53]	WR-1.10 WR-2.6	RMA, Planning				■
14.	Groundwater and soil conditions shall be identified prior to subdividing or road and building construction and such development properly engineered to control or avoid potential land slides in areas of unstable soil, as well as to prevent unnecessary substantial amounts of soil erosion. [ERME IV-C; Groundwater; Recommendation 6] [ERME; Pg 38]	WR-2.1 WR-2.2 WR-2.3 WR-2.4	RMA, Planning				■

11. Water Resources

Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007- 2010	2010- 2015	2015- 2030	On- Going
15. Designs, which respect natural topography and vegetation, can usually achieve effective flood control while retaining the dynamic flow and functional integrity of a natural waterway. Further channeling, straightening and lining waterways should be prohibited until alternative multipurpose modes of treatment such as wider berms and landscaped levees in combination with recreation amenities are provided. <i>[ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 10]</i> <i>[ERME; Pg 53]</i>	WR-2.2	RMA, Planning				■
16. The County shall consider expanding the role of the Water Commission to examine contaminant management in cooperation with the agricultural community and industrial interests. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-2.7	Env. Health				■
17. The County shall amend the well ordinance to require deeper seals in areas of known contaminants. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-2.9 WR-3.3	RMA, Planning; Env. Health	■			
18. The County will take steps to prepare and maintain an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.2	RMA; Env. Health Water Commission	■			
19. The County shall adopt an ordinance to require new development proposals to provide suitable evidence of long-term water availability or will serve letter prior to approval of the tentative map or other entitlement. For subdivisions proposing to use well water, the new ordinance shall eliminate current waiver provisions and require well pump tests to demonstrate water supply capabilities. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.3	RMA, Planning	■			
20. The County shall consider expanding the duties of the Tulare County Water Commission to include all or some of the implementation measures included in this element. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.4	Board of Supervisors	■			
21. The County shall maintain and implement its water efficient landscape ordinance consistent with the Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.5	RMA, Planning	■			
22. As part of the County's Emergency Water Conservation Plan, a priority of consumptive uses for various water sources shall be developed to ensure availability of adequate supplies to meet public health and safety needs, and for resource protection. Suggested priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potable water supply, fire protection, domestic uses, ■ Resource protection and preservation, ■ Industrial, irrigation, and commercial uses, ■ Water oriented or water enhanced recreation, and ■ Air conditioning. <i>[ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 3]</i> <i>[ERME; Pg 52 (Modified)]</i> 	WR-3.7	RMA, Environmental Health				■

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	Implementation	Implements What Policy	Who is Responsible	2007-2010	2010-2015	2015-2030	On-Going
23.	The County shall develop an education program to inform residents of water conservation techniques and the importance of water quality and adequate water supplies. Programs may include informational flyers, community workshops, technology transfer fairs, and other various means of education and information dissemination. <i>[New Program [Based on ERME IV-C; Surface Water; Recommendation 6] [ERME; Pg 52]</i>	WR-3.8	RMA, Planning; UC Cooperative Extension	■			
24.	The County shall protect groundwater recharge areas in the County by carefully regulating the type of development within these areas. Regulations may include, but are not limited to, the limitation of structural coverage and impervious surfaces and prohibition of uses with the potential to discharge harmful pollutants, increase erosion, or create other impacts degrading water quality or affecting groundwater supply. <i>[Revised New Program based on ERME IV-C; Groundwater; Recommendation 2] [ERME; Pg 38]</i>	WR-3.9	RMA, Planning				■
25.	The County shall amend County ordinances to include development standards which protect groundwater basins and surface water drainage areas and provide incentives for use of conservation techniques. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.9	RMA, Planning	■			
26.	The County shall establish development or design standards for the protection of groundwater recharge areas, such as placing limitation on the amount of impervious surfaces, or other planning and zoning techniques. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.9	RMA, Planning	■			
27.	The County shall identify a system of critical water supply, water transfer and groundwater recharge areas on a map, incorporating existing canals, creeks and rivers, groundwater recharge basins; proposed sites for regional recharge basins; and needed water transfer facilities. The County shall, in conjunction with stakeholders, draft an ordinance relating to the care and maintenance of this system, such as: discouragement of piping or alteration; encouraging of multi-use as trails and recreational facilities, etc., wherever feasible. <i>[New Program]</i>	WR-3.9	RMA; Env. Health; Water Commission		■		