
SECTION 2 - WATER AND LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Due to the significant demands on present water supplies in Tulare County, and in light of future growth, this study was undertaken to determine the water supply and sewerage facilities necessary to (1) meet the requirements of expanding population and industry within the area, (2) protect the public health, and (3) prevent degradation of the underground water resources.

The objective of the study was the preparation of comprehensive countywide plans for water supply and wastewater management to meet both the short and long-range needs of communities in Tulare County including the identification and recommendation of system improvements and methods of financing.

GOAL 2.A. Adopt a county-wide sewer and water master plan consistent with FHA criteria.

GOAL 2.B. Adopt an area-wide Water and Sewer System plan consistent with criteria developed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Policies:

Water

- 2.B.1. The delineation of “Urban parameters” of Spheres of Influence as identified by the Tulare County Planning Department and adopted by the Local Agency Formation Commission around districts and communities should be adopted and used as suggested within the Urban Boundaries study. These boundaries provide a definitive and documentable planning area within which we may explore the need to differentiate the service needs of rural and urban areas.
- 2.B.2. Improved and additional groundwater recharge methods and facilities should be developed. Cessation of pumping made feasible by delivery of supplemental surface water should be instituted wherever possible. Rules and regulations should be developed by all public agencies concerned to encourage maximum conservation of water resources.
- 2.B.3. A community water system should be constructed for Three Rivers only after capital and operational costs are carefully evaluated in relation to community assets and benefits, both present and future.
- 2.B.4. Replace sub-standard two and three inch water mains with a minimum of four inch lines, as feasible.
- 2.B.5. Connect dead end lines with loops to provide for a complete grid system so that constant pressure and flow can be assured, as feasible.

- 2.B.6. Install larger mains or pumps in systems which were not designed for expansion or additional services.
- 2.B.7. Install water meters on services where such installation may serve to reduce waste and more efficiently use existing facilities, as feasible.
- 2.B.8. Require that all community water systems meet or exceed Tulare County minimum standards for provision of water for peak day demands and required fire flows, as feasible.
- 2.B.9. Require all systems to have standby or auxiliary power sources, as feasible.

Sewer

- 2.B.10. New or greatly improved sewer systems and facilities should be constructed for Richgrove, Traver, East Oroshi, Tract 92, Goshen, Poplar-Cotton Center, Lemon Cove, Terra Bella and Camp Nelson, as feasible, subject to allocation of County resources.
- 2.B.11. Discourage installation of septic tanks through density control measures such as zoning and subdivision regulations in urban areas and those areas where the soil and groundwater conditions are inappropriate.
- 2.B.12. In order that municipal treatment plants not receive constituents they are not able to properly treat, communities receiving industrial wastewaters should consider adoption of wastewater discharge ordinances prescribing pretreatment at the source and including limiting parameters for average daily flow, biochemical oxygen demand, suspended solids, acidity, grease content, toxic substances and other types of waste which are not economically treatable in municipal systems.

GOAL 2.C. Maintain a County-wide growth strategy and the rural element of the County's General Plan by forcing an examination of existing and future environmental and land use issues in both rural and peripheral/urban areas.

Policies:

- 2.C.1. Develop an urban growth strategy geared to the orderly and efficient provision of services. Magnitude, direction and quality of growth must be influenced and channeled through the extension or retardation of public facility systems to certain areas.
- 2.C.2. Encourage viable rural communities to structure their governments so they may acquire taxing authority in order to provide a full range of services.

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- 2.C.3. Provide urban services to rural communities that cannot provide such services, or assist in the formation of local service districts in order to provide county-wide service.
- 2.C.4. Help communities with uncertain economic futures, which may, with assistance, improve their growth and economic potential in achievement of such goals by the combined efforts of more broadly developed and financially sound communities, as well as county, state and federal agencies. The County of Tulare and the Association of Governments should act as the catalytic agent in securing such aid which should take the form of assistance in securing low and moderate income housing, attracting industrial and commercial development, programming for community facilities and provision of comprehensive planning.
- 2.C.5. Local and regional support shall be given to the East Side Division of the Central Valley Project and all possible efforts be expended to insure its earliest approval.
- 2.C.6. Growth of many of the mountain or foothill communities should be restricted to only that density which may be supported by existing water supplies, until adequate and safe surface water supplies are made available by direct delivery or through exchange.
- 2.C.7. Well logs, or other appropriate monitoring devices, of community water wells should be examined and where such logs indicate limited aquifers, the wells should be replaced or surface water supplies tapped which will correct the inadequacy.
- 2.C.8. Community water systems should be installed in the settlements of Delft Colony, Sultana, Tooleville and Tract 51 only if it is clear that there is no feasible alternative to the continued infusion of public resources into these communities, and if public health is in serious danger.
- 2.C.9. Central community water systems should be extended in a manner which will promote orderly development and should be mandatory in urban areas.
- 2.C.10. Extension or creation of central water systems and other public facilities likely to generate urban growth should be prohibited in areas where development should not occur, such as airport clear zones, primary flood plains, major aquifer recharge areas, potential public and private recreation areas, (as identified in the Environmental Resources Management Plan element of the Tulare County General Plan) predominantly agricultural areas and areas of regional, state-wide or national open space interest. Local Agency Formation Commission policy and land use tools such as Williamson Act should be used to reinforce this recommendation.
- 2.C.11. Central sewers should be installed in all areas where urban densities occur except those permanently committed to large parcel development (agriculture or space and recreational uses). All trunk and lateral systems should be installed during initial
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development of an area. Central sewers should be phased to promote orderly and economic development.

2.C.12. Developers should be required to install dry line sewers in those areas where individual sewage disposal systems are intended as an interim solution.

2.C.13. In urban areas not yet served by community systems acceptable community sewer systems serviced by packaged treatment plants should be permitted. However, initial developers and subsequent owners must be required to guarantee continuous and perpetual maintenance of these isolated systems. Central cities should also be provided first right of maintenance of those systems within their sphere of influence. The design concept should render the system capable of connection to the central community system when feasible.

2.C.14. In urban areas where central systems are not available, sewer “stub-outs” should be required in order to facilitate connection to future community system.

GOAL 2.D. Maintain a consistent administrative and political policy framework within which the validity of various public and private development proposals may be judged.

Policies:

2.D.1. Develop a system of priorities which would concentrate water and sewer system projects primarily within communities where systems already exist and where system improvement is feasible and likely to be a positive force for continued economic development

2.D.2. Provide county services and resources only in areas where there are substantial community assets and prognosis for growth is favorable, so that cost of sewer and water systems and facilities will not threaten the financial stability of the community.

2.D.3. Public commitments to communities with little or no authentic future should be carefully examined before final action is initiated. These non-viable communities would, as a consequence of withholding major public facilities such as sewer and water systems, enter a process of long term, natural decline as residents depart for improved opportunities in nearby communities.

2.D.4. Both growth and decline in community populations must be monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis in order to provide a predictable planning base for community sewer and water system and other community facilities.

2.D.5. Communities should assure themselves of adequate operation and maintenance of community-wide water and sewer facilities and systems, either by the employment of well-trained and qualified personnel, or by contractual service agreements with

larger local government agencies. (The county could maintain a qualified staff for the purpose of providing operational service supported completely through a contractual service agreement. An alternative to the county involvement is the formation of area-wide, county-wide, or service area coterminous with planning areas delineated in this report or the sphere of influence as identified by the Local Agency Formation Commission.)

- 2.D.6. A county-wide program of public education utilizing news media, mail campaigns, presentations to civic and fraternal organizations, as well as public and private agencies, should be pursued in order to ensure broad understanding of critical water-related issues.
- 2.D.7. Local communities as well as the county, should utilize such tools as utility extension policies, protective open space zoning and ordinances requiring that all new urban development be connected to community water and sewer systems to channel new growth into more desirable patterns of development.
- 2.D.8. Treatment works should be located so that they are functionally and aesthetically compatible with the adjacent environment and with proposed development. They should not be located in flood prone areas or, if this is not feasible, terminal facilities should be flood proofed.
- 2.D.9. A community sewer system should be constructed for Three Rivers only after capital and maintenance costs are carefully evaluated in relation to community assets and benefits, both present and future.

Implementation Programs:

- 2.IP.1. It is particularly important that both growth and decline in community populations be monitored so that annual changes may be aggregated and compared with population projections for ten-year intervals. Each year (preferably as of July 1), the number of new housing units constructed during the previous year should be developed from city and county building permit records; allowance for housing demolitions should be made; and, current population estimates should be prepared based on family size characteristics for the census enumeration districts involved. By monitoring population growth (or decline), it will be possible to determine the rate of change and to assess the probable impact of such change on water and sewer system plans and priorities.
- 2.IP.2. If considerable public investment is to be made in new water and sewer facilities, if the investment in existing facilities is to be protected, and if water quality is to be preserved and enhanced, it is essential that the County develop and implement a policy which will require the connection of urban development to available water and sewer systems. Such a policy will require both the adoption of an ordinance which will require the connection of existing developed areas to existing systems

and the adoption of planning policies and regulations which will assure that new development will be located where connection to systems is feasible.

- 2.IP.3. A mandatory sewer connection ordinance which requires connection of existing development is a must. Such an ordinance, patterned, for example, after the successful program established by Fresno County, would provide for connection within a reasonable period of time. Such a time period may be three to five years, depending on the distance of existing development from available sewer systems and the financial capacity of property owners to meet this responsibility. In cases where existing development is grossly sub-standard, it may be more appropriate to first institute programs for relocating families in sound housing at locations where connection would be less costly.
- 2.IP.4. For cities and special district which provide sewer services, it is particularly important that trunk sewer lines be extended in reasonable anticipation of new development so that connection will be possible when required. Conversely, sewer extensions to undeveloped outlying areas should be avoided in communities where adequate building sites are available close-in as part of the extending community development pattern. In either case, it is vital that the provision of sewer service be viewed as an important tool in achieving the most desirable community development patterns and the most convenient and efficient provision of public and private services required by people in an urban environment. Economics alone dictate that appropriate policies be developed for each community in relation to these objectives. In many communities, however, the major question is whether people will have the opportunity to improve the overall quality of life afforded within the community.
- 2.IP.5. Intergovernmental contracts should be developed to share the costs of operation and maintenance, including manpower, equipment, and material, to assure high quality service at least cost to all communities participating. This may be accomplished by agreement among the participating parties, or by contracting with county government for operation and maintenance services.