

WASTEWATER POLICIES

The County will:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

11.1 Adequate Wastewater Management

Plan for the provision of adequate wastewater management facilities to serve development in order to protect public health, wildlife habitats, and water quality.

11.2 Coordinate Planning

Coordinate wastewater management planning with land use and water supply planning to assure that the capacity of sewerage facilities is commensurate with the level of development planned for an area.

11.3 Current Technology

Encourage the development of wastewater management systems that utilize current technology.

URBAN AREAS

11.4 Adequate Capacity for Unincorporated Areas

Plan for the availability of adequate sewerage collection and treatment capacity for unincorporated urban areas.

11.5 Wastewater Management in Urban Areas

- a. Consider sewerage systems as the appropriate method of wastewater management in urban areas.
- b. Encourage the extension of sewerage systems to serve unincorporated urban areas presently using individual sewage disposal systems where warranted by public health concerns, environmental pollution or the planned density of development.
- c. Continue the use of existing individual sewage disposal systems in urban areas where lot sizes, site conditions, and planned densities are appropriate for these systems and where individual sewage disposal systems have functioned satisfactorily in the past.

11.6 Financing Sewerage Facilities in Urban Areas

Develop equitable financing plans for sewerage improvements in urban areas that are consistent with local needs.

11.7 Phasing Sewerage Improvements

Phase the development of wastewater facility improvements in areas with substantial growth potential so that sufficient capacity becomes available when needed by new growth in accordance with adopted land use plans.

11.8 Infiltration of Storm Water Into Sewerage Systems

Encourage sewerage treatment and collection system operators to conduct studies on potential infiltration and inflow of storm waters into sewerage systems and to implement programs to correct such problems.

11.9 Sewerage Capacity for Priority Land Uses

- a. Provide for the reservation of sewerage capacity for priority land uses where required by State law or local policy.
- b. Encourage sewerage districts which are required to reserve capacity for priority land uses to establish an equitable method of payment for such capacity.

RURAL AREAS

11.10 Wastewater Management in Rural Areas

Consider the following as appropriate methods of wastewater management in rural areas: (1) Rural Service Centers--sewerage systems and individual sewage disposal systems; (2) Rural Subdivisions and Rural Areas--individual sewage disposal systems.

11.11 Financing Sewerage Facilities in Rural Areas

Develop equitable financing plans for sewerage facilities in rural areas that are consistent with local needs.

11.12 Adequate Lot Sizes for Septic Tanks

In areas where septic tanks are used for wastewater management, ensure parcel sizes are of sufficient size to accommodate septic tank systems and otherwise meet the requirements of the Office of Environmental Health.

11.13 Septic Tank Maintenance

Establish regulations requiring the inspection and, where appropriate, the repair of inadequate or failed individual sewage disposal systems.

11.14 Alternative Wastewater Systems

Allow the development of alternative wastewater systems acceptable to the Office of Environmental Health and monitor technological developments in this area. Permit the installation of systems that are acceptable to the Office of Environmental Health in rural service centers, rural subdivisions and rural areas.

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF THE COUNTY

11.15 Educational Program

Request the Office of Environmental Health to develop a public education program for County residents using septic systems. Inform users of the operational requirements and limitations of these systems.

11.16 Sewer Facilities for Unincorporated Areas

In unincorporated areas where the County provides sewerage collection services, support the development of adequate sewerage facilities to serve the planned development of these areas. Work with sewerage authorities and cities to reserve capacity commensurate with the level of development planned for these areas.

11.17 Review of Public Works Capital Improvement Program

Request the Public Works Department to submit its annual Capital Improvement Program as it relates to wastewater improvements to the Planning Commission for review and comment in accordance with Section 65401 of the California Government Code.