

4.13 UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This section describes the existing water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste infrastructure and services in the Specific Plan Area and the potential environmental impacts from the implementation of the Specific Plan on these services. Storm drainage systems and groundwater are addressed below as well as in Section 4.7, Hydrology and Water Quality.

A. *Water*

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to water services in Specific Plan Area.

1. **Regulatory Framework**

This section summarizes existing federal and local laws, policies and regulations that apply to water services being analyzed in this section.

a. Federal and State Regulatory Agencies

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal agency assigned to maintain safe air and water throughout the country. Santa Rosa is in EPA Region 9, which includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands and over 140 Tribal Nations. The State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) works with the EPA to control and reduce pollutants from entering drinking water sources.

b. Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review

In accordance to the Cortese-Know-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) are required by Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) on cities and service districts in conjunction with review and update of city and district spheres of influence (SOIs) every five years, according to Government Code Section 56425. Section 56430 requires MSRs to be conducted prior to or in conjunction with the sphere updates. MSRs must address at least the following nine factors: infrastructure needs or deficiencies; growth and population projections for the affected area; financing constraints and opportunities; cost avoidance oppor-

tunities; opportunities for rate restructuring; opportunities for shared facilities; government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages or consolidation or reorganization of service providers; evaluation of management efficiencies; and local accountability and governance.¹

c. City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan

The goals and policies in the City of Santa Rosa General Plan address utility services provided by the City of Santa Rosa to residents and businesses. The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan in regards to water services.

i. *Public Services and Facilities Element*

Goal PSF-F: Ensure that adequate supply of water is available to serve existing and future needs of the City.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-F-1:** Utilize high quality water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) aqueduct system as the primary water supply.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-F-2:** Ensure that water supply capacity and infrastructure are in place prior to occupancy of new development.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-F-3:** Develop available groundwater resources for the purpose of providing a supplemental source of water in the event of an emergency.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-F-4:** Maintain existing levels of water service by preserving and improving infrastructure, replacing water mains as necessary and improving water transmission facilities.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-F-6:** Evaluate the City's long-term water supply strategies, including development of new sources of water supply, improved water conservation and re-use and implementation of appropriate growth control measures if necessary.

¹ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 1.

ii. Open Space and Conservation Element

Goal OSC-F: Conserve water and maintain water quality.

- ◆ **Policy OSC-F-1:** Maintain high levels of water quality for human consumption and for other life systems in the region by regularly monitoring water quality.
- ◆ **Policy OSC-F-4:** Consider water conservation measures in the review of new residential development projects.

d. Santa Rosa 2005 Urban Water Management Plan

Each urban water purveyor serving more than 3,000 connections or 3,000 acre-feet annually is required by the State of California Urban Water Management Planning Act to prepare and submit an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years. The City's 2005 UWMP has been prepared according to the requirements of the Urban Water Management Planning Act and includes details about Santa Rosa's projected water supply and demand through 2030 during an average water year, a single dry year and multiple dry years; current and projected recycled water use; water conservation program details; and detailed information about our regional water supply. The City's 2005 Plan also includes an update to the City's Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

e. Water Conservation Efforts

The City works with the SCWA to establish conservation measures. The present conservation efforts have returned a 15 percent reduction in water use. Currently, the City of Santa Rosa has Residential and Commercial Water Conservation Programs, which are listed below.

i. Residential Program

- ◆ Residential Clothes Washing Machine Rebates - Incentives toward the purchase of a qualifying water conserving high-efficiency washing machine.

- ◆ Turf Time - Current lawn watering requirements for the Santa Rosa area.
- ◆ Water Use Efficiency Calculator - Determine monthly water goals and compare them to water use for the past 24 months.
- ◆ Water Wise Gardening Tips - Tips, recommendations and more.
- ◆ Water Conservation Check Up Program – Review of indoor and outdoor water uses by expert staff and recommendations for improving water use efficiency
- ◆ Water Use Home Survey Kits – Home surveys to assist residents in identifying and fixing leaks, reviewing indoor and outdoor water use, and improving water use efficiency.

ii. Commercial Programs:

- ◆ Commercial Incentives - Programs to help businesses save water - rebates, free equipment, surveys and more.
- ◆ Commercial Toilet Replacement Program – Replacement of high flush volume toilets, and high flow showerheads and faucet aerators with ultra low flow models.
- ◆ Commercial Clothes Washing Machine Rebates - Incentives toward the purchase of a qualifying water conserving high-efficiency washing machine.
- ◆ Best Available Technologies Program – Demand fee reductions for new restaurants and Laundromats that install the best available technologies for water use efficiency.
- ◆ Landscape Water Conservation Programs - Landscape Surveys, Irrigation Efficiency Rebates, Service Split Incentive Rebates.

f. Santa Rosa Fire Flow Requirements

The City Standards provide a guide to required fire flow requirements for development within the urban boundary. In general, single- and two-family residential lots require 1,500 gallon per minute (gpm) of flow. Schools, com-

mercial, industrial, and multi-family residential (three or more units) typically require 2,500 gpm from two hydrants to conform to the City Fire Code. Mid-rise and high-rise structures require higher flows. In addition, all parcels located in the High Fire Severity Zone are required to have a fire flow of 2,500 gpm. All fire flows mentioned above must maintain a residual of 30 psi (pounds per inch) while providing the required flow. The fire flows requirements mentioned above are ultimately under the jurisdiction of the Santa Rosa Fire Department.

2. Existing Conditions

This section discussed the existing water supply conditions. Unless otherwise noted, the information presented in this section is summarized from the Water Supply Assessment (WSA) prepared for the Specific Plan that can be found in Appendix H.

a. Current Water Sources and Water Supplies

Santa Rosa currently receives all of its potable water supply from SCWA under the provisions of the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply, which was executed in June 2006. Approximately 95 percent of water delivered by SCWA is from surface water sources, primarily the Russian River, with the remainder from three deep groundwater wells. The wells are located near the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed and feed directly into SCWA's Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline. The SCWA draft 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, dated October 2006, estimates the production capacity of these wells at 3,870 acre-feet per year (AFY).

In addition to SCWA supply, in July 2005, the City received permission from the California Department of Health Services (DHS) to use two of its own groundwater wells for supply to meet future demands; this supply source has not yet been used, but is permitted to provide up to 2,300 AFY of local supply to the City. The City is also the owner and operator of the Subregional System, which produces recycled water for landscape irrigation and has capacity for up to 6,600 AFY.

In 2005, the City utilized 22,895 AF from the SCWA and is not utilizing any available groundwater. The City's highest annual use was 23,993 AF in 2004.

b. Projected Water Supplies

i. Surface Water

SCWA holds appropriative water rights to Russian River and Dry Creek water by virtue of an assignment to SCWA of Sonoma County's portion of the 1949 application to the State of California for the Coyote Valley Dam Project appropriative water rights, and SCWA's 1960 application for the Warm Springs Dam Project appropriative water rights. The combined water supply storage from these two projects exceeds 300,000 AFY. The combined limit on SCWA's annual Russian River diversions under its water rights permits (Permit Nos. 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596) is currently 75,000 AFY, with a maximum diversion rate of 180 cubic feet per second. In 2002, which was the last year SCWA formally reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on these permits, approximately 64,000 AFY of demand was reported under these water rights permits. SCWA has submitted petitions to the SWRCB to increase its annual Russian River diversions from 75,000 AFY to 101,000 AFY.

In 1998, SCWA's Board of Directors certified an EIR for the SCWA's Water Supply and Transmission System Project (WSTSP) and approved the project. The objective of the WSTSP was to provide a safe, economical and reliable water supply to meet the defined future needs of SCWA's service area, which includes providing for the future water supply needs of the City. The WSTSP was expected to increase the amount of water SCWA diverts from the Russian River to 101,000 AFY. In 1999, a lawsuit was filed challenging the WSTSP EIR. In 2000, the trial court found the EIR to be adequate. On May 16, 2003, however, the Court of Appeals reversed the trial court's decision, concluding that the EIR was inadequate because it did not contain adequate cumulative impacts and alternatives analyses, and its description of the project's environmental setting was deficient. On November 9, 2004, the SCWA adopted a resolution directing the preparation of a new EIR, the Water Supply, Transmission, and Reliability Project EIR (Water Project EIR) to

address the inadequacies of the WSTSP and to more closely reflect current water supply circumstances. The draft Water Project EIR is expected to be released for public review in June 2007.

ii. Groundwater

The City maintains a total of six municipal groundwater wells within the Santa Rosa Plain Sub-basin of the Santa Rosa Valley Groundwater Basin. Two wells are operated primarily to provide some landscape irrigation, and these wells are also permitted by DHS to operate during an emergency outage condition; the status of two wells (Farmers Lane Wells No. 1 and 2) were recently changed from emergency to active status; one well is operated to provide minor amounts of landscape irrigation water supply only; and one well only provides water during an emergency outage condition. Since 2000, the City has only pumped an estimated 161 acre-feet of groundwater from these wells, which averages approximately 27 AFY for the last six years. Based on projected future use of the converted Farmers Lane wells, projected City groundwater pumpage is anticipated to be up to 2,300 AFY, about 6.6 percent of the City's projected total water supply, by the year 2020.

iii. Recycled Water

Because the City is the owner and operator of the Subregional System, the recycled water resources from the Subregional System are available within the City water utility service area to serve sites currently served by potable water. In 2001, the City undertook the Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP), which includes plans for recycled water urban reuse efforts. The IRWP outlines a water recycling alternative that can replace the City's potable water sources (not including private groundwater supply sources) up to a maximum of 2,200 AFY upon implementation and 4,400 AFY by 2020. The total recycled water available in 2020 will be up to 6,600 AFY, which is greater than the potable offset demand for that year; the additional recycled water may be available to supply irrigation and industrial connections after 2020.

iv. Planned Water Conservation

The aggressive conservation efforts of the past 15 years in the City have resulted in a current annual savings of about 3,500 AFY. Without this effort, City water use would be 15 percent higher than current demand. This effort resulted in implementation of most Best Management Practices (BMPs) beyond the target established by the California Urban Water Conservation Council, and for some BMPs further sustainable savings cannot be achieved because participation levels have been so high.

Future conservation efforts will focus first on sustaining the savings already achieved, and secondly on achieving additional savings. By relying on emerging technologies such as high-efficiency toilets and “smart” irrigation controllers, the City expects to achieve additional sustainable savings of 900 to 1,100 AFY by 2020, and an additional 300 to 500 AFY by 2030.

c. Water System Improvements

For Santa Rosa, part of providing clean safe water means replacing broken water mains and upgrading existing reservoirs. Water mains were replaced in more than a dozen locations throughout the city in 2004. These existing improvements can be found in Appendix G.

Every ten years each reservoir is drained and inspected. All 20 of the current reservoirs are to be seismically retrofitted at a rate of three per year. Two additional 2.6 million gallon reservoirs are under construction on city property near the north end of Farmer’s Lane.²

d. Water Storage and Distribution³

Water for drinking is stored in varied facilities by both SCWA and Santa Rosa. SCWA has water rights permits to store up to 122,500 acre-feet annually in Lake Mendocino, and up to 245,000 acre-feet annually in Lake Sonoma. The combined current Russian River diversion rights of SCWA’s wa-

² Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, email January, 2007.

³ City of Santa Rosa, 2005, *2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, Section 2.3 and 2.4.

ter rights permits is up to 75,000 acre-feet annually at the Wohler/Mirabel site where 6 Ranney Collectors and a field of traditional groundwater wells divert the water from the underflow of the Russian River.

The main transmission facility for SCWA in the Santa Rosa area is the 15.6-mile Santa Rosa Aqueduct which transfers water from the Ranney Collectors to Santa Rosa. SCWA also maintains the Russian River Cotati Intertie Project, the Petaluma Aqueduct and the Sonoma Aqueduct. SCWA's transmission system serves a number of customers in Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Santa Rosa maintains 22 reservoirs (tanks) with a capacity of nearly 23.1 million gallons of water. There are 19 pump stations to maintain over 51,000 connections. The City has a distribution system of nearly 617 miles of pipe to maintain supply to the nearly 170,000 individual customers in Santa Rosa and the unincorporated neighboring areas.

e. Water Demand

Table 4.13-1 compares projected supply during non-drought year conditions with projected demand. Based on this comparison, it is not anticipated that a shortage in supply, during non-drought conditions, is likely to occur in the next 20 years.

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to water services if it would:

- i. *Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed.*
- ii. *Require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.*

TABLE 4.13-1 **SANTA ROSA NON-DROUGHT YEAR PROJECTED SUPPLY AND DEMAND (AFY)**

Water Supply or Demand	2005*	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030 {2028}
Water Supply (Non-Drought Year)	26,235	29,428	32,469	34,992	37,033	38,486
Water Demand	26,235	30,200	32,400	34,300	36,700	{37,750}

* The actual demand in 2005 was 22,895 AFY.

4. Impact Discussion

a. Project Impacts

This section discusses the impacts of the Specific Plan on water resources for the Specific Plan Area. This discussion is organized by and responds to each of the potential impacts identified in the Standards of Significance.

- i. Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed.*

The water demand for the Specific Plan is projected to be a maximum of 975 AFY. This density and land use is consistent with the General Plan water supply projections through the 2026 analysis of the WSA. The following provides a summary of how the 975 AFY was calculated and is based on the findings from the WSA prepared by the City of Santa Rosa and contained in Appendix H.

The projected water demand for the Specific Plan is determined by using residential equivalency factors (REFs) consistent with the land use classifications of General Plan and zoning code, and with those set forth in SB 610. These classifications are: residential (attached and detached), retail (shopping center/business establishment), office (commercial office buildings), industrial (industrial park/processing plant/manufacturing), and public/institutional. Because the Specific Plan includes development of parks, a category for landscaped area is also used. Table 4.13-2 shows the number of REFs in each classification for the Specific Plan.

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TABLE 4.13-2 **RESIDENTIAL EQUIVALENCY FACTORS FOR THE SPECIFIC PLAN AREA**

Land Use Category	Area pre REF (SF)	Specific Plan Area (SF)	Residential Units	Residential Dwelling Units or REF's
Residential (Detached)	n/a	n/a	36	36
Residential (Attached)	n/a	n/a	3,214	2,153
Mixed Use (Retail/Office)	500	352,677	n/a	705
Industrial	1,300	(699,903)	n/a	(538)
Public/Institutional	500	141,120	n/a	282
Park Landscape	2,819	174,240	n/a	62
Total		(31,866)	3,250	2,700

SF = square foot.

The City's projected residential water use is 110,000 gallons per detached residential unit per year. Attached residential water use includes no landscape irrigation and averages two-thirds of the detached residential water use. This is based on an analysis of the past ten years of actual residential water use. The REFs for the non-residential use categories are based on land use categories and equivalent water use per Code section 10912(a).

Therefore, the water demand for the Specific Plan Area is 110,000 gallons per residential equivalency factor multiplied by 2,700 residential equivalency factors for the Specific Plan, or a total of 297 million gallons per year, or approximately 911 AFY. The total demand for the Specific Plan must also include the system standard for unaccounted for water. Unaccounted for water is the difference between water produced and water sold. Typically it is water that is used but unmetered, such as water for system maintenance, and leakage from the actual distribution system before the water meter. Based on the

UWMP, this factor is 7 percent for the Santa Rosa system. The addition of system unaccounted for water brings the total Specific Plan demand to 975 AFY. According to the WSA prepared for the Specific Plan, the City currently has adequate supply to meet existing demands and planned future demands plus the maximum anticipated demand associated with the Specific Plan.

In addition to ensuring adequate water supply, the Specific Plan is designed to minimize potential impacts to utilities in general and water services in particular. For example, Goal SP-UPS-1 under the Specific Plan would seek to provide funding for public services and utilities in the Specific Plan Area. Supporting this goal is Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-1.1 which would ensure that private development provides its fair share of funding for necessary improvements to public services and utilities in the Specific Plan Area. Furthermore, Goal SP-UPS-2 under the Specific Plan would ensure the adequate water supply and water supply system improvements are available to serve existing and new development in the Specific Plan Area. Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-2.1 supports this goal by ensuring that water supply capacity and infrastructure are in place prior to occupancy of new development in the Specific Plan Area. Additionally, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-2.2 and SP-UPS-2.4 would require new development and streetscape landscaping employ water conservation and re-use measures. These policies are designed to make certain that growth occurs only as appropriate water supplies are available.

Therefore, implementation of the Specific Plan would result in a *less-than-significant* impact in regards to water supplies.

- ii. *Require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.*

As discussed in the Project Description, the Specific Plan has identified specific improvements to the water supply system that would be required to transport water to the Specific Plan Area to support future development.

As the Sub Areas are developed as allowed under the Specific Plan, improvements will be required to provide water supply systems to serve new development as well as improvements to the existing system where deficiencies are caused by the development. Improvements must be consistent with the City's utilities standards. Some existing pipe reaches may be near the end of their useful life and may need to be replaced prior to serving new development. Conveyance to the existing water pipe network will be a combination of CIP and private projects. Appendix G includes a detailed list of the improvements that would be required in each Sub Area to ensure that adequate water supply system would be provided to support the development that would occur under the Specific Plan.

The generalized, programmatic-level analysis of the potential physical impacts associated with the construction of the necessary water system improvements within the Specific Plan Area are analyzed throughout this EIR as part of the overall analysis since the water system improvements are included in Chapter 3, Project Description. As specific improvements are designed, additional project-level environmental review may be required, as is discussed in Chapter 1, Introduction of this EIR. Impacts identified in to other EIR sections would also apply to the construction of water system improvements within the Specific Plan Area.

There may also be the need to construct improvements to the regional water system to support the water demand of the Specific Plan at buildout. This could include new wells, recycled water infrastructure, or other distribution or treatment improvements. However, as this time, specific improvements have not been identified, so it would be speculative to attempt to analyze the improvements to the regional water system resulting from buildout of the Specific Plan area. As a result, this EIR does not attempt to analyze the unknown improvements to the regional system. Future improvements will be subject to their own environmental review process, as required by CEQA.

b. Cumulative Impacts

The potential cumulative impacts associated with the water supply are consistent with the findings of the WSA since the WSA took into consideration the cumulative growth anticipated for Santa Rosa when determining the project-level impact associated with water supply. As stated above, the WSA concludes that there would be adequate water supplies for both the Specific Plan, as well as cumulative growth in Santa Rosa. As a result, the proposed project *would not contribute* to a significant cumulative impact associated with water supply.

Additionally, the potential cumulative impacts related to water supply infrastructure within the Specific Plan Area necessary to supply the Specific Plan Area are analyzed under each of the other sections of this EIR since the construction of the water supply system is analyzed as part of the overall Specific Plan.

However, the nature and timing of future water infrastructure improvements required to support future cumulative growth in the Santa Rosa area have not been identified. Without additional information about specific improvement programs, analysis of possible impacts in this EIR would be speculative. Continued water infrastructure planning efforts by the SCWA and the City of Santa Rosa will require environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which will identify any potential future physical impacts and appropriate mitigation measures.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no new significant impacts, other than those identified throughout the remainder of this EIR or can be identified with the non-speculative information available, were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to water, no mitigation measures are required.

B. Wastewater

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to wastewater services in the Specific Plan Area.

1. Regulatory Framework

This section summarizes existing State and local laws, policies and regulations that apply to wastewater services being analyzed in this section.

a. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) is the local division of the SWQCB. The SWQCB is a State department that provides a definitive program of actions designed to preserve and enhance water quality and to protect beneficial uses of water in California. The NCRWQCB issues National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. NPDES permits allow the NCRWQCB information on where the waste is disposed, what type of wastes are being disposed of and the entity depositing the wastes.

b. Santa Rosa Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan – Draft March 2006

The purpose of this Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan (SSSMP) is to evaluate the adequacy of the City’s sewer collection system, identify system deficiencies both present and future and to develop prioritized lists of improvement projects that will be needed to meet the City’s collection system needs through the year 2020 based on the current 2002 General Plan buildout projections.⁴

c. Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review

In accordance to the Cortese-Know-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, MSRs are required by LAFCOs on cities and service districts in conjunction with review and update of city and district SOIs every five years, according to Government Code Section 56425. Section 56430 re-

⁴ Winzler & Kelly, 2006, *City of Santa Rosa Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, page ES-1.

quires MSRs to be conducted prior to or in conjunction with the sphere updates. MSRs must address at least the following nine factors: infrastructure needs or deficiencies; growth and population projections for the affected area; financing constraints and opportunities; cost avoidance opportunities; opportunities for rate restructuring; opportunities for shared facilities; government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages or consolidation or reorganization of service providers; evaluation of management efficiencies; and local accountability and governance.⁵

d. City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan

The goals and policies in the City of Santa Rosa General Plan address utility services provided by the City of Santa Rosa to residents and businesses. The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan in regards to wastewater services.

i. *Public Services and Facilities Element*

Goal PSF-G: Ensure that adequate sewer capacity is available to serve existing and future needs of the City.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-G-1:** Continue to explore and develop new uses for treated wastewater, including expanding existing programs such as urban and agricultural irrigation, consistent with objectives adopted by the Board of Public Utilities and the City Council. Examples of urban reuse include park and landscaping irrigation.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-G-2:** Maintain existing levels of wastewater service by preserving and improving infrastructure, including replacing sewer mains as necessary.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-G-3:** Decline requests for extension of sewer services beyond the Urban Growth Boundary, except in cases of existing documented health hazards and in areas where the City has agreements to provide services.

⁵ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 1.

2. Existing Conditions

a. Existing Sewer Collection System

The City of Santa Rosa is responsible for the collection of wastewater within the City and Specific Plan Area. There are approximately 581 miles of wastewater piping in the Santa Rosa wastewater system. The City of Santa Rosa generated approximately 12.4 mgd average dry weather flow (ADWF) of the total treated at the Subregional Reclamation System's (Subregional System) Laguna Treatment Plant (Laguna Plant).⁶ The Specific Plan Area is currently served by an existing collection system, as shown in Map #2 of Appendix G.

b. Existing Water Treatment Facilities

The Laguna Plant is the primary site for wastewater treatment and disposal for the cities of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Cotati, Rohnert Park and the Sonoma County South Park Sanitation District. Of the five user agencies participating in the Laguna Plant, Santa Rosa is the owner and operator and is responsible for the operation, maintenance and regulatory compliance of the plant. The Laguna Plant is located southwest of Santa Rosa, in unincorporated Sonoma County, and provides tertiary treatment of wastewater from the five user agencies.⁷

A portion of the water treated at the Laguna Plant is reused for urban and agricultural irrigation. Tertiary treatment employs an ultraviolet disinfection system instead of the standard chlorine gas disinfection method. The UV system eliminates the potential hazards associated with the transport of chlorine gas. Santa Rosa also operates the local Oakmont Treatment Plant, with an average flow of 0.5 mgd, serves the Oakmont community between April

⁶ Personal communication with Joe Schwall, Plant Superintendent, Laguna Subregional Wastewater Treatment Plant. December 1, 2006.

⁷ LSA Associates, Inc., 2005, *Gateways Redevelopment Project Area EIR*, Santa Rosa: City of Santa Rosa, page 143.

and October. Water treated at the Oakmont Plant is used to irrigate the Oakmont Golf Course.⁸

The user agencies' wastewater collection systems collect urban wastewater from over 225,000 people for treatment at these plants. The recycled water distribution system, which includes 45 pump stations, distributes recycled water to approximately 6,130 acres.⁹

c. Geysers Recharge Project¹⁰

The Santa Rosa Geysers Recharge Project, initiated in 1998, has provided an additional use for treated water. The Geysers steam field, operated by the Calpine Corporation, depends on an underground water source that has been gradually depleted in recent years. With the addition of 11 mgd of tertiary-treated recycled water, the steam field will be able to continue producing energy for at least the next 20 years. The \$187 million Recharge project constructed a 41-mile underground pipeline from the Laguna Treatment Plant to the base of the Mayacamas Mountains, three large pump stations and a terminal storage tank, from which treated water is injected into the steam field's underground wells.

d. Planned Collection System Improvements¹¹

Other plans for new and improved operations include the replacement of wastewater collection system lines to reduce inflow and infiltration and up-

⁸ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 13.

⁹ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 13.

¹⁰ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 13.

¹¹ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 13.

grades to the sewer lift stations. The City also continuously conducts inspection and cleaning of wastewater lines and performs numerous repairs, provides replacements and completes equipment surveys.

e. Demand and Capacity

Currently, the Laguna Plant's capacity rating is 21.3 mgd. This capacity is projected to be adequate to meet the City's wastewater needs for the next six years.¹² Current growth projections indicate that, based on the existing General Plan growth projections, Santa Rosa's wastewater flow could increase to 18.8 mgd by the year 2020, with the total Subregional System flow reaching an estimated 25.9 mgd.¹³

To plan for growing demand, the City and the Subregional Reclamation System have initiated the Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP), a Master Plan for a number of projects designed to increase capacity and accommodate projected growth as indicated in the General Plans of each Subregional System member jurisdiction. The IRWP describes several methods of flow reduction and disposal, including indoor water conservation, infiltration and inflow reduction, urban reuse, agricultural reuse, Geysers expansion and discharge to the Laguna de Santa Rosa or Russian River, while evaluating alternative programs combining selected methods. In 2004, the City identified a "Preferred Alternative" that includes all of the methods except for infiltration and inflow reduction, as well as Laguna Treatment Plant upgrades that will increase plant capacity from 21.3 mgd to 25.9 mgd ADWF.

¹² Personal communication with Joe Schwall, Plant Superintendent, Laguna Subregional Wastewater Treatment Plant. December 1, 2006.

¹³ Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., 2006, *Public Review Draft: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review*, Santa Rosa: Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission, page 13.

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to wastewater services if it would:

- i. *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.*
- ii. *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.*
- iii. *Require or result in the construction of wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.*

4. Impact Discussion

This section discusses the impacts of the Specific Plan on wastewater services for the Specific Plan Area. This discussion is organized by and responds to each of the potential impacts identified in the Standards of Significance.

a. Project Impacts

- i. *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.*

Of the five user agencies served by the Subregional System, Santa Rosa is the owner and operator and is responsible for the operation, maintenance and regulatory compliance of the Laguna Plant. Discharges to the Russian River, and other water bodies, from the Laguna Plant are required to comply with NCRWQCB permitting requirements. It is assumed that, as long as the plant is adequately maintained and development does not occur at a rate that exceeds the plant's capacity that it will continue to comply with permitting requirements.

While the Specific Plan would result in an increase in demand implementation of the Specific Plan would not exceed NCRWQCB water treatment requirements since, as discussed in detail in the following section, the General Plan and Specific Plan include goals and policies that ensure that development

will not occur that without adequate wastewater infrastructure in place. As a result, the Laguna Plant's capacity would not exceed wastewater treatment standards since development would only occur when the plant had adequate capacity to appropriately treat the resulting wastewater. Therefore, this impact is considered *less than significant*.

ii. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.

Currently, the Laguna wastewater treatment and disposal system is operating with an ADWF of 16.4 mgd, with the City of Santa Rosa contributing roughly 12.4 mgd. Based on the existing General Plan growth projections, Santa Rosa's ADWF could increase to 18.8 mgd by the year 2020, with the total subregional ADWF reaching 25.9 mgd by 2020. According to the IRWP Master Plan, the Laguna Plant is expected to implement improvements that will expand overall capacity up to 25.9 mgd to meet the future 2020 demand. The needed capacity of 25.9 mgd for 2020 was based on the anticipated buildout of the area served by the plant as shown in the various General Plans.

Based on the table contained on Map #6 in Appendix G, it is estimated the Specific Plan would add approximately 1.4 mgd ADWF at buildout in the next 20 years to the existing demand, which is in excess of the 25.9 mgd ADWF planned for based on the existing General Plan. This number is conservative in that it uses 3.25 persons per household for calculation purposes for all new residential units. The result is a conservative estimation of the ultimate generation of additional sewer since a variety of densities are planned for these areas. In addition, the calculations did not net out all existing industrial land uses which would be eventually be replaced by the new infill development proposed by the Specific Plan. In general, there will be an increase of sewer generated with the implementation of the Specific Plan when compared with the existing General Plan assumptions for development within the Specific Plan Area.

Neither the IRWP nor the SSMP accounted for the proposed changes in density resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan. As a result, development anticipated from the Specific Plan would exceed the planned expansion to the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system as previously identified. Since the original Master Plan is based on adopted General Plans, it cannot be updated to reflect the Specific Plan land uses until the City takes action to amend its General Plan to incorporate the Specific Plan.

Recognizing the need to plan for additional expansions/upgrades to the collection system and to the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system, the Specific Plan contains goals and policies designed to ensure that additional planning is completed for the additional growth allowed under the Specific Plan. Specifically, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-3.2 ensures that after the City amends its General Plan to incorporate the Specific Plan, that the City's Utility Master Plan will be revised to include wastewater system improvements needs identified in the Specific Plan. In addition, this will initiate an update of the Laguna Subregional Water Reclamation System Master Plan for the Laguna System to reflect the changes to the General Plan growth projections.

In addition to updating the planning process for ensuring adequate future sewer service, the Specific Plan includes goals and policies to ensure that new development pays for improvements to the wastewater system. Specific Plan Goal SP-UPS-1 seeks to provide funding for public services and utilities in the Specific Plan Area. Supporting this goal is Policy SP-UPS-1.1, which would ensure that private development provides its fair share of funding for necessary improvements to public services and utilities in the Specific Plan Area. Additionally, Goal SP-UPS-3 would ensure sewer capacity is available to serve existing and new development in the Specific Plan Area. Policy SP-UPS-3.1 would add to this goal by requiring the maintenance of existing levels of wastewater service and provision for new development by preserving and improving infrastructure in the Specific Plan Area, including upgrading of trunk lines.

Therefore, while current planning for the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system does not take into consideration the additional growth allowed by the Specific Plan in excess of the existing General Plan, the goals and policies within the Specific Plan would ensure that additional planning occurs and development is required to pay for its share of the needed improvements so that there would adequate capacity of the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system at the time it is needed over the next 20 years. As a result, this impact is considered to be *less than significant*.

iii. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

As discussed above, the Specific Plan would result in the need to expand the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system in excess of what is currently planned. In addition, the Specific Plan would also result in the need to improve the local collection system for wastewater. The specific improvements to the local collection system are detailed in Appendix G, but mainly consist of upgrades to the pipe size for the Specific Plan.

As also discussed above, the Specific Plan includes goals and policies that would ensure that these improvements are made such that new development does not exceed the capacity of the regional and local system.

The generalized, programmatic-level analysis of the potential physical impacts associated with the construction of the necessary local wastewater system improvements within the Specific Plan, as described in Appendix G, are analyzed throughout this EIR since the wastewater system improvements are included in Chapter 3, Project Description. As specific improvements are designed, additional environmental review may be required, as is discussed in Chapter 1, Introduction of this EIR.

However, as this time, the specific improvements that would be necessary to the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system to support the Specific Plan have not been identified, so it would be speculative to attempt

to analyze the improvements to the regional wastewater system resulting from buildout of the Specific Plan Area. As a result, this EIR does not attempt to analyze the unknown improvements to the regional system. Future improvements will be subject to their own environmental review process, as required by CEQA.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Development within Sonoma County has the potential to result in a cumulative impact related to wastewater services. However, the 2002 General Plan EIR identified that with the policies included in the General Plan that the potential for development under the General Plan to result in a cumulative impact related to wastewater services would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the included General Plan policies. All of the reasonably foreseeable development in the Specific Plan Area is in keeping with the overall intent of the General Plan and is subject to General Plan policies. The Specific Plan policies regarding wastewater are designed to ensure the City works with the Laguna wastewater treatment plant and disposal system to ensure adequate wastewater capacity is built in and accounted for in future planning efforts to avoid exceeding any regulations.

Additionally, the potential cumulative impacts related to wastewater infrastructure within the Specific Plan Area necessary to support the Specific Plan Area are analyzed under each of the other sections of this EIR since the construction of the wastewater collection system within the Specific Plan Area is analyzed as part of the overall Specific Plan.

However, the nature and timing of future regional infrastructure improvements required to support future cumulative growth in the Santa Rosa area in combination with the Specific Plan have not been identified. Without additional information about specific improvement programs, analysis of possible impacts in this EIR would be speculative. Continued wastewater infrastructure planning efforts by the Subregional Reclamation System and the City of Santa Rosa will require environmental review pursuant to CEQA,

which will identify any potential future physical impacts and appropriate mitigation measures.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts, other than those identified throughout the remainder of this EIR or can be identified with the non-speculative information available, were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to wastewater services, no mitigation measures are required.

C. Stormwater

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to stormwater services in Specific Plan Area.

1. Regulatory Framework

This section summarizes existing local regulations and policies that apply to stormwater services being analyzed in this section.

a. Storm Water Management Plan

The EPA mandate of the federal Clean Water Act 1987 amendment has brought the City of Santa Rosa, the County of Sonoma and the SCWA together in 1997 to jointly obtain a NPDES Permit from the NCRWQCB. The NPDES permit number for Santa Rosa is CA0025054. As a permit prerequisite, the three agencies created a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) to lessen or remove the amount of pollutants entering the local waterways from the stormwater system. The SWMP defines the roles that the three agencies will partake to meet the NPDES. A Storm Water Utility, was established to fund actions for observance to the NPDES permit, provides public education, stormwater draining testing, system mapping and analysis and system cleaning.

As part of the Stormwater Management Plan, Sonoma County, the City of Santa Rosa and the Russian River Watershed Association joined efforts to

publish stormwater management guidelines.¹⁴ The guidelines were developed to implement the Santa Rosa Area Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP). The goal of the SUSMP is to reduce pollution and runoff flows to the best practicable extent for all new capital improvement program and development projects meeting the following criteria:¹⁵

- ◆ Development of new projects that create one acre or more of new impervious surface. This applies to all public and private projects.
- ◆ Streets, roads, highways, and freeways projects creating one acre or more of new impervious surface. This class includes all surfaces used for transportation of pedestrians, bicycles, and motorized vehicles.
- ◆ Redevelopment of sites that result in the addition and/or reconstruction of one acre or more of new impervious surface. Areas exempted from this class include: interior remodels, routine maintenance or repair, including roof or exterior surface replacement and resurfacing.
- ◆ Capital improvement program, development, and redevelopment projects located directly adjacent to a natural waterway, modified waterway, or constructed channel, or that require a new storm drain outfall to such waterway, regardless of project size or impervious surface.

As new developments are planned, measures for treatment of erosion and stormwater are addressed at the source. As sites are developed each site must establish acceptable source control methods. Varied methods can be employed to satisfy the requirements set forth by the SWMP. The City of Santa Rosa works in conjunction with Sonoma County and SCWA to assure that the requirements are met.

¹⁴ Sonoma County, City of Santa Rosa and Russian River Watershed Association, "Guidelines for the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan, Storm Water Best Management Practices for New Development and Redevelopment," June 3, 2005. On-line at <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/pworks/other/SW/SRSWManualFinalDraft.pdf>.

¹⁵ <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/pworks/other/SW/SRSWManualFinalDraft.pdf>, pg 1-3, 1-4

b. City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan

The goals and policies in the City of Santa Rosa General Plan address utility services provided by the City of Santa Rosa to residents and businesses. The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies most pertinent to the Specific Plan in regards to stormwater services.

i. Public Services and Facilities Element

Goal PSF-I: Manage, maintain and improve stormwater drainage and capacity.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-I-1:** Require dedication, improvement and maintenance of stormwater flow and retention areas as a condition of approval.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-I-2:** Require developers to cover the costs of drainage facilities needed for surface runoff generated as a result of new development.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-I-3:** Require erosion and sedimentation control measures to maintain an operational drainage system, preserve drainage capacity and protect water quality.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-I-4:** Require measures to maintain and improve the storm drainage system, consistent with goals of the Santa Rosa Waterways Plan, to preserve natural conditions of waterways and minimize paving of creek channels.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-I-6:** Require implementation of Best Management Practices to reduce drainage system discharge of non-point source pollutants originating from streets, parking lots, residential areas, businesses, industrial operations and those open space areas involved with pesticide application.

ii. Noise and Safety Element

Goal NS-D: Minimize hazards associated with storm flooding.

- ◆ **Policy NS-D-3:** Require that new developments incorporate features into site drainage plans that would reduce impermeable surface area, increase surface water infiltration and minimize surface water runoff during storm events. Such features may include additional landscape areas, parking lots with bio-infiltration systems, permeable paving designs and stormwater detention basins.

2. Existing Conditions

Within the City of Santa Rosa, the Public Works Department maintains 338 miles of underground stormwater pipes and 18,000 stormwater structures. The existing stormwater system in the Specific Plan Area is illustrated in Map #3 of Appendix G. Sheet flow is the predominant method of drainage within the Sub Areas. This method of drainage provides opportunity for flooding at intersections and other localized low spots.¹⁶ Once in the storm drain system, the drainage is conveyed to outlets along the Santa Rosa Creek. Specific detail on the existing stormwater control infrastructure for each Sub Area is provided in Appendix G.

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to stormwater services if it would:

- ◆ Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

¹⁶ City of Santa Rosa website “<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=2452>” Contaminated Water Warning.

4. Impact Discussion

This section discusses the impacts of the Specific Plan on stormwater for the Specific Plan Area. This discussion is organized by and responds to each of the potential impacts identified in the Standards of Significance.

a. Project Impacts

As the Sub Areas are developed as allowed under the Specific Plan, improvements will be required to provide drainage systems to serve new development as well as improvements to the existing system where deficiencies are caused by the development. This could require the use of onsite detention structures to retain runoff such that there is no net increase in discharge to the existing storm drain pipe network. Improvements must be consistent with the City's storm drain standards. Some existing pipe reaches may be near the end of their useful life and may need to be replaced prior to serving new development. Conveyance to the existing storm drain pipe network will be a combination of CIP and private projects. Appendix G includes a detailed list of the improvements that would be required in each Sub Area to ensure that adequate stormwater drainage would be provided to support the development that would occur under the Specific Plan.

As discussed in the Project Description for this EIR, the Specific Plan has incorporated these specific Sub Area improvements as part of the Specific Plan description. To ensure these improvements are made, Specific Plan Goal SP-UPS-5 requires that the Specific Plan Area's stormwater drainage and capacity be managed, maintained and improved. Supporting this goal, Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-5.2 requires upgrades to the stormdrain pipes to be consistent with City standards. Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-5.1 would require new pipes or easements to provide stormwater improvements to areas identified in the City's SUSMP.

The generalized, programmatic-level analysis of the potential physical impacts associated with the construction of the necessary stormwater drainage improvements are analyzed throughout this EIR since the stormwater improvements are included in Chapter 3, Project Description. As specific im-

provements are designed, additional environmental review may be required, as is discussed in Chapter 1, Introduction of this EIR.

There may also be the need to construct improvements to the regional stormwater drainage system to support the stormwater demand of the Specific Plan at buildout. However, as this time, specific improvements have not been identified, so it would be speculative to attempt to analyze the improvements to the regional stormwater drainage system resulting from buildout of the Specific Plan Area. As a result, this EIR does not attempt to analyze the unknown improvements to the regional system. Future improvements will be subject to their own environmental review process, as required by CEQA.

b. Cumulative Impacts

The potential cumulative impacts associated with physical changes to the stormwater drainage system that would occur under the Specific Plan Area are discussed under each of the other sections of this EIR since the construction of the stormwater drainage system is analyzed as part of the overall Specific Plan.

The nature and timing of future stormwater drainage infrastructure improvements required to support future cumulative growth in the Santa Rosa area have not been identified. Without additional information about specific improvement programs, analysis of possible impacts in this EIR would be speculative. Continued stormwater drainage infrastructure planning efforts by the City of Santa Rosa will require environmental review pursuant to CEQA, which will identify any potential future physical impacts and appropriate mitigation measures.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no new significant impacts, other than those identified throughout the remainder of this EIR or can be identified with the non-speculative information available, were identified resulting from the implementation of the Spe-

cific Plan in regards to stormwater services, no mitigation measures are required.

D. Solid Waste

The following describes current conditions and potential impacts of the Specific Plan with regard to solid waste services in Specific Plan Area.

1. Regulatory Framework

This section summarizes existing State and local regulations and policies that apply to solid waste services being analyzed in this section.

a. California Integrated Waste Management Act

California's Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) set a requirement for cities and counties to divert 50 percent of all solid waste from landfills by January 1, 2000 through source reduction, recycling and composting. To help achieve this, the Act requires that each City and County prepare and submit a Source Reduction and Recycling Element. AB 939 also established the goal for all California counties to provide at least 15 years of ongoing landfill capacity.¹⁷

b. California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991

California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act requires areas to be set aside for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. The Act required the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to develop a model ordinance for adoption by any local agency relating to adequate areas for collection and loading of recyclable materials in development projects. Local agencies are required to adopt the model, or an ordinance of their own, governing adequate areas for collection and loading of recyclable materials in development projects. The intend of the Act is to

¹⁷ California Integrated Waste Management Board's website. <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/landfills/needfor/default.htm>, accessed on October 13, 2006.

require development projects to include advanced planning that focuses on solid waste issues at the beginning of a project and implement an adequate recycling program for the development project.

c. Local Regulations and Policies

i. Sonoma County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP)
Direction for the County's solid waste management system is provided by State law (AB 939 and subsequent legislation), the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) and implementation regulations adopted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The CoIWMP regulations serve as the primary tool for satisfying the County's solid waste management needs for the next 50 years in a manner that is cost-effective and is operated to follow the State of California's solid waste management hierarchy. The hierarchy consists of waste prevention (source reduction), reuse, recycling, composting and disposal. Additionally, the solid waste management system for the County shall protect public health, safety and well being; preserve the environment; and provide for the maximum feasible conservation of natural resources and energy. The CoIWMP contains four elements, the Source Reduction and Recycling Element, Household Hazardous Waste Element, Siting Element and the Non-Disposal Facility Element.¹⁸

ii. City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan

The goals and policies in the City of Santa Rosa General Plan address utility services provided by the City of Santa Rosa to residents and businesses. The following lists applicable General Plan goals and policies found in the Public Services and Facilities Element.

¹⁸ Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, 2003, *Sonoma County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan*, Page 1-2 and 2-1, Santa Rosa. (http://www.recyclenow.org/CoIWMP/Ch1_Executive_Summary.pdf)

Goal PSF-H: Meet the City’s solid waste disposal needs, while maximizing opportunities for waste reduction and recycling.

- ◆ **Policy PSF-H-1:** Continue contracting for garbage and recycling collection services. Negotiate upgrade to a single-stream recycling program.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-H-2:** Work with Sonoma County to identify alternative to meet the need for solid waste disposal after 2014.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-H-3:** Expand recycling efforts in multifamily residential and commercial projects and continue to encourage recycling by all residents.
- ◆ **Policy PSF-H-4:** Require provision of attractive, convenient recycling bins and trash enclosures in residential and non-residential development.

2. Existing Conditions¹⁹

The Specific Plan Area, as for the rest of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County, falls within the jurisdictional boundary of SCWMA, which is responsible for the implementation of regional waste diversion programs, as required by AB 939, in the following categories: Wood Waste, Yard Debris, Household Hazardous Waste, Education and Planning. The SCWMA is a Regional Agency organized under a Joint Powers Agreement to provide solid waste disposal for all nine incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County.

Prior to June 2004, the SCWMA used the Central Landfill in Sonoma County for solid waste disposal. However, the RWQCB issued new Waste Discharge Requirements (#R1- 2004-0040) that prohibited construction of additional landfill capacity at the Central Landfill. Currently, the Central Landfill operates as a transfer station for solid waste.

Since then, the SCWMA has worked out contract agreements with four landfill sites in adjacent counties and has a contingency capacity agreement with a fifth landfill. As of October 2005, SCWMA has utilized the disposal services

¹⁹ Unless otherwise noted, information presented in this section, including the impact analysis, is a result of personal communication with Ken Well, Director, Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. December 4, 2006.

in these contracts to haul 100 percent of the Sonoma County's solid waste. The SCWMA is responsible for transporting solid waste from transfer stations in Sonoma County to these landfills. The landfill sites utilized by the SCWMA are as follows:

- ◆ Keller Canyon Landfill – Pittsburg, CA
- ◆ Potrero Hills Landfill – Suisun, CA
- ◆ Redwood Landfill – Novato, CA
- ◆ Vasco Road Landfill – Livermore, CA
- ◆ Hay Road Landfill – Vacaville, CA (*contingency site*)

The SCWMA contract agreements with these landfills are structured to meet any foreseeable growth in Sonoma County through August 2010. Once the current contracts expire, the SCWMA will negotiate new contracts based on future capacity needs.

The North Bay Corporation (NBC) is the local solid waste service provider under contract with the City of Santa Rosa for the hauling of solid waste, yardwaste and recyclable materials. NBC is responsible for hauling solid waste to the Central Landfill for appropriate transfer. Greenwaste is hauled to the processing center adjacent to the Central Landfill operated by County contractor, Sonoma Compost. Recyclable materials are processed by NBC at the Materials Recovery Facility just outside of the Santa Rosa City Limit. Table 4.13-4 details amount of waste hauled by NBC for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.²⁰

3. Standards of Significance

The Specific Plan would have a significant impact with regard to solid waste services if it would:

- i. *Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.*

²⁰ E-mail communication with Pamela Davis, North Bay Corporation. October 6, 2006.

TABLE 4.13-3 **CITY OF SANTA ROSA WASTE HAULED FROM OCTOBER 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 2006 (IN TONNAGE)**

Waste Type	Yearly Tonnage Hauled
Solid Waste	73,562
Recyclable Waste	33,730
Greenwaste	23,190

- ii. *Conflict with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.*

4. Impact Discussion

This section discusses the impacts of the Specific Plan on solid waste services for the Specific Plan Area. This discussion is organized by and responds to each of the potential impacts identified in the Standards of Significance.

- a. Project Impacts

- i. *Served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.*

Implementation of the Specific Plan would result in an increased production of solid waste generated by construction and development activities as well as residential occupancy and business/retail operations. Based on the 2006 population of 157,145 residents,²¹ Santa Rosa produces 0.468 tons of solid waste per capita each year. Development of the Specific Plan would result in an increase of roughly 8,125 new residents, assuming the average household size of 2.5 anticipated for Santa Rosa in 2020. Therefore, buildout of the Specific Plan it is anticipated to contribute an additional 3,800 tons of solid waste

²¹ State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2006, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California, May 2006.

per capita each year. However, the increase in solid waste would be reduced through current and expanded waste recycling efforts and would not exceed the disposal capacity limits of SCWMA.

Under the City of Santa Rosa General Plan, Policies PSF-H-3 and PSF-H-4 have established and actively encourage residential and non-residential recycling programs. Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-4.1 extends on these policies by expanding on the recycling efforts for multi-family and commercial projects within the Specific Plan Area. Additionally, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access ordinance requires areas to be set aside for collecting and loading recyclable materials in development projects. This ordinance is further supported by Specific Plan Policy SP-UPS-4.2, which requires that new and redevelopment projects must comply with Santa Rosa's Construction and Demolition Debris Franchise Agreement and prepare and implement recycling plans for their construction phase. This recycling plan will address the major materials generated by a construction project and will identify the means to divert these materials away from landfill disposal. These efforts allow the City to meet the AB 939 diversion requirements and Chapter 22 of the County Code (Section 22-7A) which, explicitly bans the disposal at County disposal sites of yard debris, recyclable wood waste, scrap metal and corrugated cardboard.

According to the current disposal contracts established by the SCWMA, there is adequate capacity to meet both short and longer term needs for solid waste disposal generated from the development of the Specific Plan. As part of the SCWMA's mandate, compliance with the policies mentioned above, ensures that disposal capacity will be accommodate through current capacity agreements or use of the contingency capacity agreement.

Taken together, the Specific Plan would result in a *less-than-significant* impact in regards to solid waste capacity and disposal.

ii. Conflict with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

As mentioned above, development allowed under the Specific Plan would be required to comply with applicable local, regional and State solid waste regulations and policies. Therefore, the Specific Plan results in a *less-than-significant* impact.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Development within Sonoma County has the potential to result in a cumulative impact related to solid waste service and disposal. However, the 2002 General Plan EIR identified that with the policies included in the General Plan that the potential for development under the General Plan to result in a cumulative impact related to solid waste service and disposal would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the included General Plan policies. All of the reasonably foreseeable development in the Specific Plan Area is in keeping with the overall intent of the General Plan and is subject to General Plan policies. The Specific Plan policies regarding solid waste service and disposal are designed to guarantee the City works with the SCWMA to ensure adequate solid waste disposal capacity is built in and accounted for in future planning efforts. Thus, the Specific Plan *would not contribute* to a significant cumulative impact related to wastewater services.

5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts were identified resulting from the implementation of the Specific Plan in regards to solid waste capacity or disposal, no mitigation measures are required.

