4.8 Utilities and Service Systems

This section evaluates potential effects on utilities related to adoption and implementation of the 2045 General Plan Update by identifying existing and planned service availability and anticipated demands and determining whether any necessary utility upgrades would result in adverse environmental effects. Potential impacts related to stormwater runoff are evaluated and discussed in Section 4.5, *Hydrology and Water Quality*. Potential impacts related to the use of electricity and natural gas are evaluated and discussed in Section 4.10, *Effects Found Not to be Significant*.

4.8.1 Setting

a. Water Supply and Demand

The City of Santa Maria provides municipal drinking water supply within the City's water service area, which is generally bounded by the City limits and includes a portion of the annexation area. The remainder of the annexation area is served by private water wells. The City of Santa Maria water supply is comprised of a blend of groundwater and imported water from the State Water Project. The City owns a public water system with 22,888 active domestic water service connections which primarily serve residential, commercial, and industrial land uses within City Limits (2021). Water conservation has been a focus for the City and is reflected in the long-term demand forecasts. The City's water portfolio is comprised of the following water supply sources: local groundwater, purchased water from the State Water Project (SWP), associated return flows recaptured from the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin, assigned rights to water from the Basin as governed by a settlement agreement (*Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District vs. City of Santa Maria, et al., Case No. 770214)* and commonly known as the Santa Maria Groundwater Adjudication, and assigned rights to augmented yield from Twitchell Reservoir. The Twitchell Reservoir is located in southern San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County, on the Cuyama River, approximately 4 miles northeast of the city.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates the SWP and imported water supplies for the City are obtained from the SWP via a contract with Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA). The City has a Water Supply Agreement with CCWA for 17,820 acre feet per year of imported SWP water. However, based on the rainfall, Sierra snowpack, and State reservoir levels each year the percentage allocation of State Water varies. SWP water originates within the Feather River watershed, is captured in Lake Oroville, and flows via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the California Aqueduct, and the Coastal Branch Extension, into CCWA's treatment and conveyance facilities. Pursuant to the Stipulation[1], Santa Maria agreed to import and use within the Basin no less than 10,000 acre feet per year of available SWP water, or the full amount of available SWP water if the amount available is less than 10,000 AF in a given year.

[1] The Santa Maria Basin (Basin) is adjudicated, and therefore, already managed. The City's rights to rely on Basin water resources for both pumping and storage are governed by a settlement agreement ("Stipulation") signed by a majority of the parties *(Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District vs. City of Santa Maria, et al., Case No. 770214*), commonly known as the "Santa Maria Groundwater Adjudication." The Stipulation provides the City with quantifiable and certain water rights. Prior to the groundwater adjudication, these rights were not quantifiable. The Stipulation also establishes a framework for both permanent and temporary transfers of water rights within the Basin. Because the City has obtained quantifiable water rights, the City has greater flexibility in facilitating transfers and exchanges.

Groundwater for the City is supplied by six active wells in the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin. The Basin has a surface area of approximately 184,000 acres, or 287.5 square miles. The Basin is bounded by the San Luis and Santa Lucia Ranges on the north, by the San Rafael Mountains on the east, by the Solomon Hills on the south, by the Casmalia Hills on the southwest, and by the Pacific Ocean on the west. The City has an allowed groundwater pumping right of 5,100 AF per year (City of Santa Maria 2021).

The Twitchell Reservoir operates as a flood control and water conservation reservoir. Releases are controlled from Twitchell Reservoir to maximize recharge of the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin through percolation in the Santa Maria Riverbed. The settlement agreement sets the amount of the Twitchell yield at 32,000 AF per year. The City is entitled to 14,300 AF of that yield annually (City of Santa Maria 2021).

Table 4.8-1 shows the City's anticipated water supply and demand through 2045. Also shown is the water demand associated with implementation of the 2045 General Plan Update, included as the "buildout" column. [2] As shown therein, the City projects that water demand would be met by existing water supplies in all years except Year Five of a multi-year drought in 2025 and 2030 (City of Santa Maria 2020a).

Table 4.8-1 Projected Water Supply and Demand in Acre-Feet

	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	Maximum Buildout[1]
Normal Year						
Supply Totals	36,558	36,403	36,250	36,095	35,941	35,941
Demand Totals	15,026	17,247	17,869	18,490	18,716	20,237
Surplus	**21,532**	**19,156**	**18,381**	**17,605**	**17,225**	**15,704**
Single Dry-Year						
Supply Totals	26,419	26,571	26,724	26,876	27,029	27,029
Demand Totals	15,026	17,247	17,869	18,490	18,716	20,237
Surplus	**21,532**	**19,156**	**18,381**	**17,605**	**17,225**	**6,792**
Multiple Dry-Years						
Year One						
Supply Totals	29,189	29,662	30,136	30,610	31,084	31,084
Demand Totals	15,026	17,247	17,869	18,490	18,716	20,237
Surplus	**14,163**	**12,415**	**12,267**	**12,120**	**12,368**	**10,847**
Year Two						
Supply Totals	39,605	28,989	28,374	27,758	27,143	27,143
Demand Totals	15,026	17,247	17,869	18,490	18,716	20,237
Surplus	**24,579**	**11,742**	**10,505**	**9,268**	**8,427**	**6,906**

[2] Buildout assumed in the Annexation Study Technical Memorandum prepared by WSC in December 2024, was estimated to be 60,687. Population for the Annexation Study Technical Memorandum was calculated using the United States Census persons per household rate of 3.76. The plan's estimated addition of 16,140 units was multiplied by the persons per household rate of 3.76 for a total of 60,687 persons. This calculation represents a conservative analysis in which every potential residential unit (16,140 as described in Section 2.6.5, Proposed 2045 General Plan Buildout) is occupied at the full potential persons per household rate.

	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	Maximum Buildout[1]
Year Three						
Supply Totals	27,169	26,417	25,665	24,913	24,161	24,161
Demand Totals	15,026	17,247	17,869	18,490	18,716	20,237
Surplus	**12,143**	**9,170**	**7.796**	**6,423**	**5,445**	**3,924**
Year Four						
Supply Totals	30,126	30,121	30,116	30,111	30,106	30,106
Demand Totals	15,026	17,247	17,869	18,490	18,716	20,237
Surplus	**15,100**	**12,874**	**12,247**	**11,621**	**11,390**	**9,869**
Year Five						
Supply Totals	25,180	25,180	25,180	25,180	25,180	25,180
Demand Totals	25,735	25,396	25,058	24,720	24,382	20,237
Surplus	**(555)**	**(216)**	**122**	**460**	**798**	**4,943**

() indicates a negative number

[1] Water demand associated with implementation of the 2045 General Plan Update was determined in a Technical Memorandum prepared by WSC in December 2024 and is included as Appendix D to this EIR.

Source: City of Santa Maria 2020a

b. Sewer Collection and Wastewater Treatment

The City provides wastewater collection and treatment services within the wastewater service area, which includes the city limits and an area to the south of the city that is outside city limits. The City's wastewater treatment facility is rated to treat 13.5 million gallons per day of wastewater. The annexation area is not currently serviced by the City's wastewater collection and treatment services are instead serviced by Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems, or septic tanks. Liquid waste haulers permitted through the city that collect wastewater within the annexation area may dispose of liquid waste at the City of Santa Maria Septage Receiving Station at the treatment plant (City of Santa Maria 2025).

Sewer Collection

The City's wastewater collection system consists of eight wastewater basins with associated trunk sewers and one treatment plant. The basins generally drain east to west to trunk lines that run to the treatment plant. The treatment plan is located at 601 South Black Road within the City of Santa Maria's westernmost city limit. The wastewater collection system is comprised of approximately 250 miles of gravity-flow sewer pipes and mains, and one lift station with 0.2 mile of force main serving 117 residential parcels. Most of the older pipes are constructed of vitrified clay pipe and newer pipes of polyvinyl chloride pipe. Sewer mains range in size from four inches to 30 inches in diameter, with 60 percent constructed of vitrified clay pipe, 25 percent constructed of polyvinyl chloride, and the remaining constructed of presently unknown material.

Wastewater Treatment

The City owns and operates a treatment plant located at 601 Black Road. In March 2010, the hydraulic capacity of the existing facility was evaluated and improvements were made to the system to increase capacity from 9.5 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD) to 13.5 MGD (City of Santa Maria 2020b; City of Santa Maria, n.d.). The treatment processes consist of headworks, grit removal,

primary clarifiers, trickling filters, intermediate clarifier, secondary trickling filters, secondary clarifiers, gravity sludge thickeners, anaerobic digesters, and sludge drying beds. The treated wastewater is discharged to percolation ponds located adjacent to the site.

The average daily sewage flow as measured at the treatment plant, calculated by totalizing the flow over a period and dividing by the number of days in that period. In the case of average annual flow, the period is a 365-day calendar year. The Utilities Capacity Study lists average annual flow as 9.99 MGD in 2024 (City of Santa Maria 2015). The peak hour wet weather flow, which is the theoretical maximum sustained sewage flow the collection system will experience, was estimated as 19.98 MGD in 2024 (City of Santa Maria 2020b).

c. Stormwater Facilities

The City of Santa Maria and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SBCFCD) provide stormwater conveyance, management, and recharge facilities in and around the city. The City and SBCFCD jointly developed regional recharge basins west of Blosser Road and south of Stowell Road (the Getty Basin, Hobbs Basin, and Kovar Basins). These basins are designed to retain stormwater and allow that water to percolate into the groundwater basin. Groundwater recharge programs currently replenish the Basin by recharging more than 20,000 AF of water annually through the Santa Maria River, local retardation basins, and regional recharge basins.

Stormwater within Santa Maria that does not infiltrate into the ground becomes surface runoff, which either flows into surface waterways or is channeled into the City's stormwater system. The flood control facilities owned and operated by the SBCFCD are key flood control facilities in the city. Channels owned and operated by the SBCFCD are currently listed as impaired waterbodies under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. Once a water body has been added to the State's list of impaired waters it stays there until the State develops a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the EPA approves it. Once a TMDL is developed, a water body is no longer on the 303(d) list, but it is still tracked until the water is fully restored. These flood control facilities are as follows:

- Blosser Channel. The concrete lined portion of the Blosser Channel flows northward along the western side of the city and discharges via a culvert to an earthen portion, which discharges through the levee to the Santa Maria River. High flows from Blosser Channel flow via a spillway into the Blosser Basin, which is a large flood control facility. Vegetation becomes established rapidly in the earthen portions and must be continually removed by the SBCFCD to protect against blockages and flooding.
- Bradley Channel. Bradley Channel, a concrete lined ditch, begins in the farm fields south of East Betteravia Road. This ditch runs north toward the Santa Maria River bordering the farm fields as it enters the residential neighborhoods north of East Jones Street. The flow source is almost entirely from heavily sediment-laden agriculture runoff. During storm events, it also receives some stormwater from City neighborhoods. Sediment is removed from the channel by the SBCFCD on a maintenance schedule. The earthen ditches upstream are sprayed with pesticides to control weeds. Sediment deposition and vegetation reduce volume capacity in the unlined ditches. As it enters the residential neighborhoods, the channel travels until it reaches the manmade lake at Jim May Park. This manmade lake operates as a settling basin for the Bradley Channel, which carries constant agricultural flows. The lake has no natural water source. It collects the agricultural flows, and in storm events, runoff from the surrounding neighborhoods combines with the agricultural flow. Flows from the Bradley Channel are directed under the US-101 freeway as the channel continues westward through the city where it eventually combines

with the Blosser Channel flow and discharges through the levee to the Santa Maria River. High flows are partially diverted into the Blosser Basin.

- Main Street Channel. Stormwater from the central part of the city discharges to the Main Street Channel through a large underground storm drainpipe that flows west along the south side of West Main Street. The Main Street Channel collects agricultural runoff and flow from the City's MS4. The Main Street Channel, which is a degraded, unlined roadside ditch that runs west from the western city limits at Hanson Way parallel to West Main Street for approximately 1.5 miles. At that point, it flows under West Main Street through a culvert and enters a SBCFCD facility known as the Unit II Ditch. The Unit II Ditch continues north for approximately two miles where it discharges through the levee to the Santa Maria River. Overflow from the Getty, Hobbs, and Kovar basins also discharge into the Main Street Channel.

The City of Santa Maria proactively manages stormwater within its city limits. Historically, the City has focused on the impacts of stormwater as it relates to flood control; however, in the last decade additional regulations have been adopted in the State of California which specifically address the discharge quality of stormwater from a City's stormwater conveyance system (City of Santa Maria 2025a). Discharges from the City's storm drain system to the Santa Maria River and ultimately the Pacific Ocean are regulated in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Small General Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (Phase II MS4), Order No. 2013-0001-DWQ (Division of Water Quality) NPDES No. CAS000004. In recent years, new developments in Santa Maria have been designed to comply with state regulations, incorporating features such as retention basins and bio swales to enhance stormwater infiltration and reduce stormwater runoff. The City and SBCFCD have instituted several programs to improve and increase groundwater recharge to the Santa Maria Basin, including adoption of Low-Impact Development guidelines and construction of recharge basins. These basins are intended to slow the movement of stormwater and allow the stormwater to percolate into the groundwater basin to recharge it.

d. Solid Waste

The City of Santa Maria provides solid waste collection services through its Utilities Department. The annexation area is currently serviced by MarBorg industries for solid waste collection. Residential trash collection is mandatory and occurs once per week, while recycling is collected every other week (City of Santa Maria 2025b). All municipal and MarBorg Industries collected solid waste is transferred to the Santa Maria Regional Landfill located at 2065 East Main Street in Santa Maria. The Santa Maria Regional Landfill has a maximum permitted daily throughput of 8,820 tons per week and a remaining capacity of approximately 2,845,000 cubic yards and is estimated to remain operational through 2034 (California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery [CalRecycle] 2025a).

Beyond 2034, solid waste generated by the city may be diverted to other nearby landfills, such as the Cold Canyon Landfill. The Cold Canyon Landfill has a maximum permitted daily throughput of 1,650 tons per day and a remaining capacity of approximately 13,000,000 cubic yards and is estimated to remain operational through 2040 (CalRecycle 2025c).

e. Electricity, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications

Pacific Gas & Electric

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) provides transmission lines to convey electric power supply to Santa Maria. PG&E is one of the nation's largest electric and gas utility companies, and it maintains 106,681 circuit miles of electric distribution lines and 18,466 circuit miles of interconnected transmission lines (PG&E 2025).

Central Coast Community Energy

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is a Community Choice Aggregator established by local communities to source clean and renewable electricity and is responsible for procuring power for Santa Maria. In 2023, 3CE's power mix consisted of 30.3 percent renewable resources, 0.4 percent large hydroelectric facilities, and 69.3 percent unspecified power (3CE 2025).

Southern California Gas Company

Santa Maria is in the natural gas service area of the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) which spans central and southern California. SoCalGas' distribution network is composed of approximately 51,070 miles of gas mains across an approximate 20,000 square mile service territory (California Gas and Electric Utilities 2025). Natural gas supplied by SoCalGas is sourced from gas fields in several sedimentary basins in the western U.S. and Canada including supply basins located in New Mexico (San Juan Basin), West Texas (Permian Basin), Rocky Mountains, western Canada, and local California supplies (California Gas and Electric Utilities 2025).

Telecommunications

Telecommunication services, including broadband, cellular, and wireless services, are provided to residents and businesses from a variety of private companies, including national retailers Comcast, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile and regional retailers such as Frontier, Hughesnet, Viasat, and Ranch WiFi (HighSpeenInternet.com 2025).

4.8.2 Regulatory Setting

a. Federal Regulations

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 258 (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Subtitle D) contains regulations for municipal solid waste landfills and requires states to implement their own permitting programs incorporating the federal landfill criteria. The federal regulations address the location, operation, design, groundwater monitoring, and closure of landfills.

b. State Regulations

California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed legislation requiring that California's critical groundwater resources be sustainably managed by local agencies. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act gives local agencies the power to sustainably manage groundwater and requires

groundwater sustainability plans to be developed for medium- and high-priority groundwater basins. The Santa Maria River Valley Basin is a very low priority basin (DWR 2025). Because of this, and because the Basin is adjudicated, a groundwater sustainability plan has not been prepared for this basin.

Water Conservation Act of 2009

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (Senate Bill [SB] X7-7), effective November 9, 2009, requires each urban retail water supplier to develop urban water use targets and agricultural water suppliers to implement efficient water management practices. Because of the small size of the City of Solvang, it has fewer than 3,000 service connections, and is therefore not considered an "urban" water supplier.

Assembly Bill 1881

Assembly Bill (AB) 1881 expanded previous legislation related to landscape water use efficiency. AB 1881, the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006, enacted landscape efficiency recommendations of the California Urban Water Conservation Council for improving the efficiency of water use in new and existing urban irrigated landscapes in California. AB 1881 required the California Department of Water Resources to update the existing Model Local Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and local agencies to adopt the updated model ordinance or an equivalent. The law also requires the California Energy Commission to adopt performance standards and labeling requirements for landscape irrigation equipment, including irrigation controllers, moisture sensors, emission devices, and valves to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy or water.

California Senate Bills 610 and 221 (Water Supply Assessment and Verification)

Senate Bills (SB) 610 and 221 amended State law, effective January 1, 2002, to improve the link between the information on water supply availability and certain land use decisions made by cities and counties. Both statutes require detailed information regarding water availability to be provided to city and county decision-makers prior to approval of specified large development projects with greater than 500 dwelling units or 500,000 square feet of commercial space. Both statutes also require this detailed information to be included in the administrative record that serves as the evidentiary basis for an approval action by the city or county on such projects. Under SB 610 water assessments must be furnished to local governments for inclusion in any environmental documentation for certain projects as defined in Water Code 10912 subject to CEQA. Under SB 221 approval by a city or county of certain residential subdivisions requires an affirmative written verification of sufficient water supply.

California Water Plan

The California Department of Water Resources is responsible for preparing and updating the California Water Plan, which is a policy document that guides the development and management of State water resources. The plan is updated every five years to reflect changes in resources and urban, agricultural, and environmental water demands. The California Water Plan suggests ways of managing demand and augmenting supply to balance water supply with demand.

California Urban Water Management Planning Act

In 1983 the California Legislature enacted the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code Section 10610–10656). The Act states that every urban water supplier that provides water to 3,000 or more customers, or that provides over 3,000 acre-feet annually, should make every effort to ensure the appropriate level of reliability in its water service sufficient to meet the needs of its various categories of customers during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The Act requires that urban water suppliers adopt an urban water management plan at least once every five years and submit them to the Department of Water Resources. Noncompliant urban water suppliers are ineligible to receive funding pursuant to Division 24, commencing with Section 78500, or Division 26, commencing with Section 79000, or receive drought assistance from the State until the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is submitted and deemed complete pursuant to the Urban Water Management Planning Act.

California Senate Bill 7x7 (Statewide Water Conservation)

In November 2009 the California State Legislature passed and the Governor approved a comprehensive package of water legislation, including SB 7x7 addressing water conservation. In general SB 7x7 requires a 20 percent reduction in per capita urban water use by 2020, with an interim 10 percent target in 2015. The legislation requires urban water users to develop consistent water use targets and to use those targets in their UWMPs.

Senate Bills 350 and 100

The Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (SB 350) requires the amount of electricity generated and sold to retail customers per year from eligible renewable energy resources to be increased to 50 percent by December 31, 2030. This act also requires doubling of the energy efficiency in existing buildings by 2030.

Adopted on September 10, 2018, SB 100 supports the reduction of GHG emissions from the electricity sector by accelerating the State's Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, last updated by SB 350. SB 100 requires electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 44 percent by 2024, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

Senate Bill 1374

SB 1374 states that the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) must receive an annual report, including progress made by jurisdictions in regard to their advances on diverting construction and demolition waste material. The CIWMB specified that CalRecycle was required to adopt a model ordinance that would divert 50 percent to 75 percent of construction and demolition waste materials from landfills.

California Assembly Bill 939

AB 939 (Public Resources Code 41780) requires cities and counties to prepare integrated waste management plans and to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfills beginning in calendar year 2000 and each year thereafter. AB 939 also requires cities and counties to prepare Source Reduction and Recycling Elements as part of the integrated waste management plans. These elements are designed to develop recycling services to achieve diversion goals, stimulate local recycling in manufacturing and stimulate the purchase of recycled products.

California Assembly Bill 341

The purpose of AB 341 is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts and to expand the opportunity for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California. AB 341 required all businesses that generate four or more cubic yards of garbage per week and multi-family dwellings with five or more units to recycle by July 1, 2012. AB341 also sets a statewide goal of 75 percent waste diversion.

California Senate Bill 1016

SB 1016 requires that the 50 percent solid waste diversion requirement established by AB 939 be expressed in pounds per person per day. SB 1016 changed the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery's (CalRecycle) review process for each municipality's integrated waste management plan. After an initial determination of diversion requirements in 2006 and establishing diversion rates for subsequent calendar years, the Board reviews a jurisdiction's diversion rate compliance in accordance with a specified schedule. Beginning January 1, 2018, the Board will be required to review a jurisdiction's source reduction and recycling element and hazardous waste element once every two years.

California Senate Bill 1383

SB 1383 was adopted in September 2016 and establishes targets to achieve a 75 percent reduction in the level of Statewide landfilled organic waste from the 2014 level by 2025. The law grants CalRecycle the regulatory authority required to achieve the organic waste disposal reduction targets and establishes an additional target that not less than 20 percent of currently disposed edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025. In addition, SB 1383 regulations require that jurisdictions conduct education and outreach on organics recycling to all residents, businesses, haulers, solid waste facilities, and local food banks and other food recovery organizations.

California Energy Commission

As the State's primary energy policy and planning agency, the California Energy Commission (CEC) collaborates with State and federal agencies, utilities, and other stakeholders to develop and implement State energy policies. Since 1975, the CEC has been responsible for reducing the State's electricity and natural gas demand, primarily by adopting new Building and Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards that have contributed to keeping California's per capita electricity consumption relatively low. The CEC is also responsible for the certification and compliance of thermal power plants 50 megawatts and larger, including all project-related facilities in California.

California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities operating in California. The energy work responsibilities of the CPUC are derived from the California State Constitution, specifically Article XII, Section 3 and other sections more generally, numerous State legislative enactments and various Federal statutory and administrative requirements. The CPUC regulates natural gas utility service for customers that receive natural gas from PG&E and other natural gas utilities across California.

California Green Building Standards

The California Green Building Standards Code, commonly referred to as "CALGreen" originally went into effect on August 1, 2009 and outlines architectural design and engineering principles that are in synergy with environmental resources and public welfare. CALGreen sets minimum standards for buildings, and since 2016, applies to new building construction and some alterations/additions within certain parameters. CALGreen establishes planning and design standards for sustainable site development, including water conservation measures and requirements that new buildings reduce water consumption by 20 percent below a specified baseline. CALGreen requires installations of 1.28 gallons-per-flush toilets and 0.5-gallon-per flush urinals for all non-residential projects as part of the prescriptive method of reducing indoor water use by the required 20 percent.

CALGreen lays out the minimum requirements for newly constructed residential and non-residential buildings to reduce GHG emissions through improved efficiency and process improvements. It also includes voluntary tiers to encourage building practices that improve public health, safety, and general welfare by promoting a more sustainable design. In addition, CALGreen includes several requirements related to solid waste diversion. Importantly, new non-residential construction is required to achieve at least 65 percent construction and demolition waste diversion and provide recycling areas for paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, metal, and organic waste. The 2022 CALGreen update primarily includes new requirements for the inclusion of electric vehicle charging stations and carbon dioxide monitoring and controls in classrooms. These requirements went into effect January 1, 2023.

c. Local Regulations

Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin Final Amended Judgement

The Final Amended Judgment for the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin establishes a legal framework for managing groundwater rights among various parties, including cities, water companies, and landowners. It affirms the City of Santa Maria and Golden State Water Company's prescriptive rights to groundwater against non-stipulating parties, grants return flow rights from imported water, and prioritizes the Northern Cities' rights to 7,300 acre-feet annually. The judgment enforces groundwater monitoring, restricts water export outside the basin, and protects overlying rights subject to prescriptive claims. It binds all current and future property owners in the basin, retains court jurisdiction for enforcement and future adjustments, and mandates compliance with state and federal water quality laws.

City of Santa Maria Urban Water Management Plan

The 2020 UWMP was adopted on June 15, 2021, and it serves as a critical document for long-term water planning, helping the city prepare for future growth and potential water shortages. Santa Maria's UWMP outlines comprehensive strategies to ensure sustainable water use, including water supply, conservation, and demand management (City of Santa Maria 2020a).

City of Santa Maria Sewer System Management Plan

The Sewer System Management Plan was adopted in July 2009 and outlines how the City should properly manage, operate, and maintain all portions of the City's wastewater collection and treatment system. It also provides methods to meet capacity to convey the City's peak wastewater flows, minimize the frequency of sewer system overflows, and mitigate the impacts that are

associated with any sewer overflows that may occur. The plan also seeks to meet all applicable regulatory notification and reporting requirements (City of Santa Maria 2009).

City of Santa Maria Municipal Code

Chapter 8-10

Chapter 8-10 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code outlines the regulations and requirements for water service within the city. It covers the procedures for applying for water service, the responsibilities of both the city and the customers, and the standards for water meters and connections. The chapter also details the billing process, including rates, payment schedules, and penalties for late payments. Additionally, it addresses issues related to water conservation, such as restrictions on water use during drought conditions and the implementation of water-saving measures. The overall goal is to ensure a reliable and efficient water supply for all residents and businesses in Santa Maria.

Chapter 8-10A

Chapter 8-10A of the Santa Maria Municipal Code addresses the prevention of cross connections in the City's water supply system. It establishes regulations to protect the public water supply from contamination due to backflow, which can occur when non-potable water or other substances enter the potable water system. The chapter outlines the requirements for installing and maintaining backflow prevention devices, conducting regular inspections, and ensuring compliance with state and federal standards. It also specifies the responsibilities of property owners and the city in preventing cross connections. The overall goal is to safeguard public health by maintaining the integrity and safety of the water supply.

Chapter 8-11

Chapter 8-11 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code addresses the regulations for refuse collection and recycling within the city. It outlines the responsibilities of both the city and residents in managing waste, including the mandatory use of city-provided containers for trash, recyclables, and green waste. The chapter specifies the collection schedules, container placement guidelines, and the types of materials that can be recycled. It also includes provisions for bulky item pickup and the proper disposal of hazardous waste. The goal is to ensure efficient waste management, promote recycling, and maintain a clean and healthy environment for the community.

Chapter 8-12

Chapter 8-12 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code focuses on water conservation and water supply regulations. It includes guidelines on permissible water usage, particularly emphasizing restrictions during drought conditions to ensure sustainable water management. The chapter also outlines requirements for maintaining water supply infrastructure, aiming to prevent leaks and ensure efficient operation. Additionally, it sets standards for wastewater treatment and discharge to protect water quality and public health. These regulations are designed to manage the city's water resources responsibly, ensuring long-term availability and environmental protection.

Chapter 8-14

Chapter 8-14 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code outlines the regulations for drainage fees within the area of North Blosser Road and Battles Road and the Orcutt Drainage Plan area. It specifies the

fees that property owners must pay to fund the construction, maintenance, and improvement of the city's drainage facilities. These fees are assessed based on the type and extent of development on a property, ensuring that the costs are fairly distributed among those who benefit from the drainage system. The chapter also includes provisions for fee adjustments, exemptions, and the process for appealing fee assessments. The overall goal is to ensure adequate funding for the city's drainage infrastructure, thereby reducing the risk of flooding and maintaining public safety.

Chapter 8-15

Chapter 8-15 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code implements a unified growth mitigation fee program to fund the acquisition, design and construction of certain public facilities and related equipment necessary to serve new development within the City. Pursuant to this code, growth mitigation fees would be imposed as a condition of approval of a development project prior to the distributions of permits and map approvals. The growth mitigation fee would fund water, wastewater, traffic, recreation and parks, police, fire, and library services within the city.

Chapter 8-21

Chapter 8-21 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code focuses on reducing the disposal of organic waste. This chapter was established in compliance with California Senate Bill 1383, which mandates significant reductions in organic waste to combat climate change. The regulations require residents and businesses to separate organic waste, such as food scraps and yard trimmings, from regular trash. The chapter also outlines the responsibilities of the city in providing organic waste collection services and ensuring compliance through monitoring and enforcement. Additionally, it includes provisions for public education and outreach to promote proper organic waste disposal practices. The overall goal is to reduce landfill waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and support environmental sustainability.

4.8.3 Impact Analysis

a. Methodology and Significance Thresholds

Methodology

Impacts related to utilities and service systems were evaluated by forecasting utility demands associated with the 2045 General Plan Update and comparing estimated utility demands to current and planned service system capacity and availability. The following impact analysis relies on an Annexation Study Technical Memorandum prepared by WSC in December 2024 that evaluates water supply, wastewater generation, and wastewater system capacity and is included as Appendix E to this EIR. Utilities and service system demands of the 2045 General Plan Update have been quantified where possible, based on readily available information. Where insufficient data was able to quantify demands, such demands are discussed qualitatively in order to inform the impact analysis.

Significance Thresholds

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G provides the following significance thresholds to determine if a project would have a potentially significant impact on utilities and service systems. For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact if it would:

1. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects;
2. Not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years;
3. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;
4. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
5. Fail to comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

b. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold 1:	Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?
Threshold 3:	Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Impact UTIL-1 DEVELOPMENT FACILITATED BY THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD INCREASE DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH MAY REQUIRE RELOCATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITY FACILITIES OR SERVICES TO SERVE PLAN BUILDOUT BEYOND EXISTING CONDITIONS, SPECIFICALLY WITHIN THE ANNEXATION AREA. HOWEVER, DEVELOPMENT FACILITATED BY THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE CITY CODE, BUILDINGS STANDARDS, AND ENGINEERING STANDARDS. THEREFORE, THESE IMPACTS WOULD BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

Water

Growth and development facilitated by the plan would create additional demand for water. Development facilitated by the plan would generally occur in developed areas of Santa Maria with existing water infrastructure; however, increased density in undeveloped areas, such as in the planned annexation area, could require additional water infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure. Potential environmental impacts associated with developing new water supply connections would be evaluated as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements. Water infrastructure, such as pipelines, could require upgrades for future development which would result in ground disturbance. Generally, this ground disturbance would occur in previously disturbed or developed areas, reducing the potential for environmental impacts. Such facilities would be installed during individual project construction and generally within the disturbance area of such projects or the rights-of-way of previously disturbed roadways; therefore, the construction of these infrastructure improvements would not substantially increase a project's disturbance area or otherwise cause significant environmental effects.

The annexation area currently lacks water infrastructure that is adequately sized to support the level of development envisioned under buildout conditions of the plan. Future development within these areas may require installation of new utility infrastructure to support anticipated development. However, installation of new utility infrastructure would be required to comply with all applicable provisions of the City of Santa Maria Municipal Code, as well as relevant building and engineering standards. Potential environmental impacts of developing new water infrastructure would be evaluated as necessary as part of the City's review of individual development applications. Consequently, any potential impacts related to water infrastructure within these areas would be reduced to a less than significant level.

In addition, Chapter 8-10 and Chapter 8-10A of the Santa Maria Municipal Code address and minimize additional water demand. Specifically, Section 8-10.33 seeks to promote water conservation and prevent water waste through outdoor water use restrictions. Sections 8-10A.05 and 8-10A.06 outline the requirements for future development that require installation of cross connections to install and maintain backflow prevention devices, conduct regular inspections, and ensure compliance with state and federal standards. Furthermore, the plan includes the following proposed goal and policy related to water facilities:

Goal PFS-2: Water resources. High-quality drinking water supply meets existing and future water demands.

> **Policy PFS-2.1: Water system.** Maintain and expand the existing water system to meet the daily and peak demands of existing and future city residents and businesses.

Because the water connections associated with implementation of the plan would be installed during individual project construction and would generally be located within the disturbance area of such projects or the rights-of-way of previously disturbed roadways, the relocation or construction of water facilities would not be expected to result in significant environmental impacts. Potential environmental impacts of the relocation or construction of water facilities would also undergo individual environmental review at the time a project is proposed. This impact would be less than significant.

Wastewater

Development facilitated by the plan would generally occur within the city and on sites that are already developed or surrounded by existing wastewater facilities. The annexation area currently lacks wastewater infrastructure to support the level of development envisioned under buildout conditions of the plan Future development within these areas may require installation of new utility infrastructure to support anticipated development. However, installation of new utility infrastructure would be required to comply with all applicable provisions of the City of Santa Maria Municipal Code, as well as relevant building and engineering standards. Furthermore, the potential environmental impacts of implementing new wastewater, such as sewer infrastructure, would be evaluated as necessary as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements. Consequently, any potential impacts related to wastewater infrastructure within these areas would be reduced to a less than significant level. The plan includes the following goal and policies to ensure wastewater infrastructure would be available to serve future development facilitated by the plan:

Goal PFS-1: Public infrastructure. Public infrastructure provides a high level of service for the existing population and keeps pace with planned growth.

> **Policy PFS-1.1: Resource and infrastructure capacities.** Maintain resource and infrastructure standards and capacities to meet the city's existing and future needs.
>
> **Policy PFS-1.2: Wastewater system.** Maintain a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system capable of meeting the daily and peak demand of existing and future city residents and businesses.

The development facilitated by the plan would generate wastewater that requires treatment before discharge or reuse. For example, the plan envisions residential development that would include bathrooms with toilets and showers that generate wastewater. As discussed within the City's UWMP, the per capita wastewater generation for the City service area is approximately 68 gallons per day (GPD) (City of Santa Maria 2020a). This per capita wastewater generation factor was calculated based on the volume of wastewater currently generated by the customers in the City's wastewater system. At maximum buildout of the plan, with the assumption that each estimated residential unit would be occupied at the maximum persons per household rate, there would be an estimated 58,265[3] net new residents, resulting in approximately 167,613 total City residents by 2045. Therefore, utilizing the generation factor of 68 GPD, the proposed plan would create 11,397,684 GPD or 11.4 MGD.

As discussed above in Section 4.9.1, *Setting*, the City owns and operates a municipal treatment facility which is designed to treat an average annual flow of 13.5 MGD. In 2024, the average annual flow was estimated to be 9.99 MGD and the average peak hour wet weather flow as 19.98 MGD in 2024 (City of Santa Maria 2020b). Based on the plan's projected wastewater demand of 11.4 MGD, the treatment plant would have a remaining average annual flow treatment capacity of 2.1 MGD.[4] As such, the treatment plant would have sufficient capacity to serve the development facilitated by the plan during peak hour wet weather flows (maximum flows).

Buildout of the plan would increase wastewater flows to the treatment plant as compared to the 2024 average annual flow estimated at 9.99 MGD. However, this increase in wastewater flow is anticipated at full buildout in 2045. The City has planned sewer collection system projects identified in the 2012 Utilities Capacity Study and within the City of Santa Maria's Capital Projects which are required to meet the planned buildout population (City of Santa Maria 2015; City of Santa Maria 2016). Further, planned Capital Improvement Projects identified by the city would need to be implemented to accommodate growth facilitated by the plan within the city (City of Santa Maria 2020). These include upgrades to meet treatment capacity and replacements of infrastructure that have exceeded their useful lifespan. However, installation of new utility infrastructure would be required to comply with all applicable provisions of the City of Santa Maria Municipal Code, as well as relevant building and engineering standards, such that the potential environmental impacts of implementing new wastewater infrastructure would be evaluated as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements. Therefore, with or without these planned improvements, the plan would not result in the relocation or construction of wastewater facilities that would reasonably be expected to result in significant environmental impacts. Additionally, with the in-process

[3] This calculation represents a conservative analysis in which every potential residential unit (16,140 as described in Section 2.6.5, Proposed 2045 General Plan Buildout) is occupied at the full potential persons per household rate of 3.61 as determined by the California Department of Finance.
[4] 2.1 MGD = 13.5 MGD – 11.4 MGD

improvements to the treatment plant, the treatment plant would have adequate capacity to serve the plan's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Potential environmental impacts of additional wastewater infrastructure would also undergo individual environmental review at the time a project is proposed. This impact would be less than significant.

Stormwater

Development facilitated by the plan within city limits would not result in a substantial increase in stormwater infrastructure because Santa Maria is developed and equipped with an existing stormwater drainage system. The annexation area currently lacks stormwater infrastructure to support the level of development envisioned under buildout conditions of the plan. Future development within these areas requires installation of new utility infrastructure to support anticipated development. However, installation of new utility infrastructure would be required to comply with all applicable provisions of the City of Santa Maria Municipal Code, as well as relevant building and engineering standards. Potential environmental impacts of developing new connections to storm drains would be evaluated as necessary as part of the City's review of individual development applications.

Development facilitated by the plan could introduce new impervious surfaces through the construction of paved areas which could increase stormwater discharge to existing stormwater drainage facilities; however, as described in Section 4.5, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, development would be required to comply with the provisions of California's Phase II MS4 Permit, Section 8-12A.08 of the City's Municipal Code, and RWQCB Central Coast Region Resolution No. R3-2013-0032, which are designed to control the volume and rate of stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects. Existing regulations would ensure development facilitated by the plan would not result in substantial additional runoff, necessitating the expansion of stormwater infrastructure within the city. Stormwater infrastructure could be required to be upsized within the annexation area. As such, the potential environmental impacts of implementing new stormwater infrastructure would be evaluated as necessary as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements. Additionally, the plan includes the following goals and policies related to stormwater facilities:

Goal PFS-3: Stormwater management. The stormwater management system mitigates flood risks, enhances water quality, and promotes environmental health.

> **Policy PFS-3.1: Conveyance of surface drainage.** Convey surface drainage safely through the use of retardation basins, storm drains, recharge basins, and other infrastructure.

Goal COS-4: Water resources. Sustainable watershed management protects the city's water quality and natural ecosystems.

> **Policy COS-4.1: Santa Maria River protection.** Protect and enhance the beneficial uses of the Santa Maria River to support essential community and environmental needs, including municipal and domestic water supply, agricultural supply, and groundwater recharge.
>
> **Policy COS-4.2: Stormwater management.** Improve local surface water and groundwater quality through strategic land use and zoning practices.

Goal S-3: Flood and dam inundation. Impacts from flood and dam inundation to people and property are minimized.

> **Policy S-3.1: Santa Maria River Levee development buffer.** Require new development and sites undergoing redevelopment to provide a non-development buffer of 60 feet, measured from the toe of the Santa Maria River Levee, to provide access to the Santa Maria River levee for maintenance and repairs.
>
> **Policy S-3.3**: **Low-impact design.** Require new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate low -impact design measures for stormwater management, such as bioswales, permeable pavement, and onsite detention ponds.
>
> **Policy S-3.4: Stormwater drainage system.** Maintain and upgrade the City's stormwater drainage system to increase the system's capacity and reduce flooding.

Because new stormwater infrastructure would be evaluated as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements, such that the potential environmental impacts of implementing new stormwater infrastructure would be evaluated as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements, the plan would not result in the relocation or construction of stormwater facilities that would reasonably be expected to result in significant environmental impacts . Potential environmental impacts of additional stormwater infrastructure would also undergo individual environmental review at the time a project is proposed. This impact would be less than significant.

Natural Gas, Electricity, and Telecommunications

Connections to existing electrical and natural gas transmission and distribution systems in the city would be required to serve development facilitated by the plan. Development facilitated by the plan would occur on sites that are generally developed or surrounded by existing development served by existing natural gas and electrical infrastructure. Accordingly, development facilitated by the plan would generally have access to utility infrastructure and not require the installation of substantial electric or natural gas infrastructure to meet demands. However, increased density in the annexation area could require additional infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure. These upgrades would be evaluated and provided in accordance with the rules and regulations of PG&E, SoCal Gas, and under the authority of the CPUC. Similar to electric and natural gas infrastructure, Santa Maria has existing telecommunications infrastructure for cable television, landline services, internet, and cellular phone service. Development facilitated by the plan would not require substantial telecommunications infrastructure to be constructed.

The potential environmental impacts of implementing new electric, natural gas, and telecommunications connections to development facilitated by the plan would be evaluated as part of the City's review of individual development applications for consistency with applicable policies of the plan and City Municipal Code requirements. Therefore, the plan would not result in the relocation or construction of natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications facilities that would reasonably be expected to result in significant environmental impacts . Potential environmental impacts of additional natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications infrastructure would also undergo individual environmental review at the time a project is proposed. This impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

No mitigation is required because these impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 2:	Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Impact UTIL-2 THE OVERALL GROWTH ANTICIPATED BY THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD GENERATE ADDITIONAL WATER DEMAND IN SANTA MARIA THAT COULD EXCEED PROJECTED WATER SUPPLIES DURING SOME MULTIPLE DRY-YEARS. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, THIS IMPACT WOULD BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

Development facilitated by the plan would increase the population of Santa Maria including within the annexation area, resulting in a corresponding increase in overall citywide water demand. As discussed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, and Section 4.10, *Effects Found Not to be Significant,* development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan Update would result in an additional 16,140 net new residential units which corresponds to approximately 58,265 new residents. The City relies on a water demand factor of 118 gallons per capita per day, as stated in the City's 2020 UWMP, as a basis for projecting water demand in Santa Maria (City of Santa Maria 2020a). Accordingly, the addition of 58,265[5] residents would lead to a water demand of approximately 6,875,270 gallons per person per day, or 7,706.4 AFY[6].

Table 4.8-1 shows the City's anticipated water supply and demand through 2045. As shown therein, the City projects that water demand would be met by existing water supplies in all years except Year Five of a multi-year drought in 2025 and 2030 (City of Santa Maria 2020a). Furthermore, as shown in Table 4.8-1, the City anticipated surplus for Normal, Single-Dry, and the first four Multiple Dry-Years. The projected demand of the plan would be approximately 7,706.4 AFY, which is well within the projected demand and surplus of Normal, Single-Dry, and First, Second, and Fourth Multiple Dry-Years. Projected demand of the plan would not be met within 2040 and 2045 of Year Three of the Multiple Dry-Years scenario or during Year Five of the Multiple Dry-Years scenario. However, during these years, the City would implement its Water Shortage Contingency Plan that addresses stages of action to be undertaken by the City in response to water supply shortages, including more than a 50 percent reduction in water supply, and an outline of specific water supply conditions which are applicable to each stage. In addition to the stages of action, the City of Santa Maria is required to develop mandatory prohibitions against specific water use during shortages and consumption reduction methods in the most restrictive stages (City of Maria 2020a). Accordingly, the anticipated water consumption of the plan would be adequately met by the City's long-term water supply. Furthermore, individual projects would be reviewed by the Utilities Department at the time that they are proposed to ensure that adequate water supply would be available for an individual project.

In addition to the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, the City has adopted various policies and programs aimed at optimizing its available water resources, including groundwater, and implementing water conservation programs throughout its service area. This Santa Maria Municipal Code Chapter 12-44 implements California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance to reduce

[5] This calculation represents a conservative analysis in which every potential residential unit (16,140 as described in Section 2.6.5, Proposed 2045 General Plan Buildout) is occupied at the full potential persons per household rate of 3.61 as determined by the California Department of Finance.
[6] 58,265 people * 118 gallons per person per day = 6,875,270 gallons per day / 892.1 gallons per day in 1 (acre feet) year

potable water usage on landscaping. Additionally, the City of Santa Maria's Recreation and Parks Department initiated a program which requires the City's irrigation system to be regularly upgraded by replacing antiquated lines, heads, and valves. Furthermore, development facilitated by the plan would be required to comply with Chapter 8-12 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code which includes guidelines on permissible water usage, particularly emphasizing restrictions during drought conditions to ensure sustainable water management. Additional water conservation requirements in times of drought are applicable to development in Santa Maria if the City Council declares a drought emergency and implements additional mandatory restrictions. These include, but are not limited to, posting notice of drought conditions in commercial establishments, prohibiting vehicle washing unless done at a commercial car washing facility, and allotment of water use quantity (rationing) if necessary. Additionally, the California Green Building Standards Code requires a 20 percent reduction in residential indoor water use that would lower potential water demand. The following goal and policies included in the plan would also assist to maintain water supply and encourage efficient water use:

Goal PFS-2: Water resources. High-quality drinking water supply meets existing and future water demands.

> **Policy PFS-2.1: Water system.** Maintain and expand the existing water system to meet the daily and peak demands of existing and future residents and businesses.
>
> **Policy PFS-2.2: Supply portfolio.** Improve the reliability of the water supply for current and projected demand by diversifying the City's water supply portfolio, including maintaining and increasing the City's groundwater wells, exploring additional sources of water supply, and supporting the State Water project.
>
> **Policy PFS-2-3: Groundwater.** Improve the long-term recharge of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin by retaining natural watershed areas, developing regional recharge basins, and minimizing impervious surfaces in new development.
>
> **Policy PFS-2.6~~7~~: Efficient water use.** Participate in and implement programs and measures that promote the efficient use of water

Future development facilitated by the plan would adhere to the water reduction policies and requirements described above. Furthermore, water suppliers are required to update their UWMPs every five years. As the current UWMP was prepared in 2020 and adopted by the City Council on June 15, 2021, the City is required to provide an update in 2025, which is anticipated to include the population projections as estimated by the plan. While water supply estimates are currently being updated as part of the City of Santa Maria's 2025 UWMP update, they were unavailable at the time of this EIR's publication. However, as described above, the water demand anticipated through buildout of the plan would be adequately met by the City's long-term water supplies as the City anticipated surplus for Normal, Single-Dry, and the first four Multiple Dry-Years. The projected demand of the plan would be approximately 7,706.4 AFY, which is well within the projected demand and surplus of Normal, Single-Dry, and First, Second, and Fourth Multiple Dry-Years. Therefore, the plan would have sufficient water supplies available to serve development facilitated by the plan and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

No mitigation is required because impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 4:	Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?
Threshold 5:	Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Impact UTIL-3 THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD NOT GENERATE SOLID WASTE IN EXCESS OF STATE OR LOCAL STANDARDS OR IN EXCESS OF THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE. NEW DEVELOPMENT FACILITATED BY THE PLAN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION STATUTES AND REGULATIONS. THIS IMPACT WOULD BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

Implementation of the plan would generate additional solid waste. Construction of future development would create construction debris, such as scrap lumber and flooring materials. Operation of future development would create typical household wastes associated with residential, office, and commercial uses. Future industrial development would also generate solid waste. As discussed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, and Section 4.10, *Effects Found Not to be Significant,* development facilitated by the SMGPU would result in an additional 16,140 net new residential units. Based on CalRecycle's solid waste generation factor of 12.23 pounds household per day, the development facilitated by the plan would result in approximately 197,393 pounds of solid waste per day.[7]

As described in Section 4.9.1, *Setting*, the Santa Maria Regional Landfill has a maximum permitted daily throughput of 8,820 tons per week and a remaining capacity of approximately 2,845,000 cubic yards and is estimated to remain operational through 2034 (CalRecycle 2025a). Development facilitated by the plan would generate approximately 1,381,751 pounds of solid waste per week[8], or 691 tons per week. This would represent approximately 7.8 percent of the total weekly permitted throughput of the Santa Maria Regional Landfill. Additionally, the 2045 General Plan Update would generate roughly 934,129 cubic yards of solid waste annually[9], translating to approximately 32.8 percent of the remaining capacity of the Santa Maria Regional Landfill for the first year of the plan.

Should the Santa Maria Regional Landfill cease operations, solid waste generated by the city may be diverted to other nearby landfills, such as the Cold Canyon Landfill. The Cold Canyon Landfill has a maximum permitted daily throughput of 1,650 tons per day and a remaining capacity of approximately 13,000,000 cubic yards and is estimated to remain operational through 2040 (CalRecycle 2025c). Solid waste generated by development facilitated by the plan would represent approximately 6 percent of the weekly throughput for the Cold Canyon Landfill.[10] So, while it is anticipated that implementation of the plan would increase solid waste generation, the remaining capacity of the Santa Maria Regional Landfill and other nearby landfills, such as the Cold Canyon Landfill, are anticipated to be able to accommodate this increase in solid waste generation.

AB 939 requires the City to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfills, and SB 1383 would require the City to reduce organic waste disposal by 75 percent by 2025. New development would be required to comply with Chapter 8-21 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code, which includes requirements for mandatory municipal solid waste, recycling, and composting material disposal reductions, as well as compliance with the California Green Building Standards Code requirements

[7] 197,393 pounds/day = 16,140 units * 12.23 pounds/household/day
[8] 1,381,751 pounds/week = 197,393 pounds/day * 7 days
[9] 934,129 cubic yards/year = [(691 tons/day * 365 days) * 0.037037037 yd^3] * 100
[10] 11,550 tons/week =1,650 tons/day * 7 days; 6 percent = [691 tons/week/11,550 tons/week]*100

for diverting construction and demolition debris. Furthermore, the proposed 2045 General Plan Update includes the following policy to reduce solid waste generation:

> **Policy PFS-9.2: Waste reduction through design.** Promote sustainable building practices that reduce waste generation by encouraging developers to incorporate materials reuse, waste reduction, and recycling into their designs.

For the reasons described above, the plan would not generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals, and would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

No mitigation is required because impacts would be less than significant.

4.8.4 Cumulative Impacts

A project's environmental impacts are "cumulatively considerable" if the "incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15065[a][3]). Regional cumulative impacts consider the City-wide impacts together with similar impacts of reasonably anticipated regional projects/programs. The general approach to cumulative impact analysis used in this EIR, as well as the determination of the cumulative impact analysis area, is discussed in Section 3, *Environmental Setting,* Subsection 3.3, *Cumulative Development*. By its nature, a general plan considers cumulative impacts insofar as it considers cumulative development that could occur within the City Limits and the annexation area.

Cumulative growth would increase the demand for water in Santa Maria. Based on the analysis in Impact UTIL-2, the City's long-term water supplies would be able to meet the demands of cumulative development in Santa Maria with an anticipated surplus for Normal, Single-Dry, and the first four Multiple Dry-Years. The projected demand of the plan would be approximately 7,706.4 AFY, which is well within the projected demand and surplus of Normal, Single-Dry, and First, Second, and Fourth Multiple Dry-Years. In addition, applications for new development projects would be reviewed by the City's Utilities Department at the time that they are proposed to ensure that adequate water supply would be available. If necessary, the City is able to implement mandatory prohibitions against specific water use during shortages and consumption reduction methods in the most restrictive stages. Accordingly, cumulative development would be adequately served by the City's long-term water supplies. Therefore, cumulative impacts to water would be less than significant.

Cumulative growth in Santa Maria would increase wastewater generation and demand on the treatment plant. As discussed in Impact UTIL-1, at full buildout, development facilitated by the plan is anticipated to result in 11.4 MGD, leaving a remaining average annual flow treatment capacity of 2.1 MGD. The City of Santa Maria anticipates and plans for future development through the plan, which is then utilized by the City to assess wastewater generation and infrastructure demand within the Sewer System Management Plan and Utilities Capacity Study. Within the City's Utilities Capacity Study and within the City of Santa Maria's Capital Projects, both identify treatment plant treatment facility upgrades needed to accommodate growth in the service area and maintain compliance with applicable regulatory standards for wastewater treatment and discharge. Planned Capital Improvement Projects identified by the city would also be implemented to further accommodate

growth facilitated by the 2045 General Plan Update. Accordingly, with these planned upgrades, it is determined that capacity would exist to service the demand for wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, cumulative wastewater impacts would be less than significant.

The City maintains an extensive stormwater drainage system permitted by the Phase II MS4 permit. Cumulative development would introduce incremental increases in needs for stormwater conveyance; however, due to the existing built-out nature of Santa Maria, new residential development within city limits is not anticipated to introduce substantial new areas of impervious surfaces such that expansion of existing stormwater conveyance infrastructure would be necessary. Development facilitated by the plan within the annexation area currently lacks stormwater infrastructure. However, future development within these areas would be required to comply with all applicable provisions of the City of Santa Maria Municipal Code, as well as relevant building and engineering standards. Implementation of minor additions to stormwater conveyance infrastructure are reviewed by the City on a project-by-project basis in order to ensure consistency with the MS4 permit, Title 14, Chapter 3 of the City's Municipal Code, and RWQCB Central Coast Region Resolution No. R3-2013-0032. Therefore, cumulative stormwater infrastructure impacts would be less than significant.

Telecommunications services in the cumulative impact analysis area are provided by private vendors, and telecommunications facilities are available throughout the cumulative impact analysis area. Connections for new telecommunications services are implemented on an as-needed basis, in accordance with applicable local, State, and federal regulations. Due to the developed nature of the cumulative impact analysis area, there are no anticipated limitations to the availability of telecommunications services that would require the development of substantial telecommunications infrastructure. Similar to telecommunications, electric and natural gas distribution systems provided by PG&E, 3CE, and SoCalGas, respectively, are available throughout the cumulative impact analysis area. Cumulative development would be required to adhere to energy efficiency standards established in Title 24 of the CCR, the California Energy Code, and applicable local building ordinances. Adherence to these requirements would further reduce the need for new electrical or natural gas infrastructure to accommodate cumulative demand. Therefore, cumulative impacts concerning telecommunications, electric, and natural gas infrastructure would be less than significant.

Cumulative growth would increase solid waste generation and increase the demand for landfill disposal, which could result in a potential cumulative impact on waste disposal services and facilities in the region. As discussed under Impact UTIL-2, beyond 2034, solid waste generated by the city may be diverted to other nearby landfills, such as the Cold Canyon Landfill. The Cold Canyon Landfill has a maximum permitted daily throughput of 1,650 tons per day and a remaining capacity of approximately 13,000,000 cubic yards and is estimated to remain operational through 2040 (CalRecycle 2025c). Solid waste generated by development facilitated by the plan would represent approximately 6 percent of the weekly throughput for the Cold Canyon Landfill.[11] So, while it is anticipated that implementation of the plan would increase solid waste generation, the remaining capacity of the Santa Maria Regional Landfill and other nearby landfills, such as the Cold Canyon Landfill, are anticipated to be able to accommodate this increase in solid waste generation. This would not substantially increase daily or annual waste disposal, or result in an exceedance of capacity at the Santa Maria Regional Landfill. Therefore, the plan would not result in a considerable contribution to cumulative impacts to waste disposal services and facilities in the region.

[11] 11,550 tons/week =1,650 tons/day * 7 days; 6 percent = [691 tons/week/11,550 tons/week]*100