

Public Facilities and Services Element

The Public Facilities and Services Element is an optional element of the General Plan that is designed to address the physical impacts associated with development. The Public Facilities and Services Element is important to ensure that development occurs concurrent with the availability and/or funding of public facilities and services in a timely manner and consistent with the intent to maintain a high quality of life for the Community. Well designed and maintained infrastructure systems are critical to the City of Chowchilla's growth and economic goals and overall general well being. Infrastructure such as water, sewer, storm drainage, natural gas, electrical and communication lines and facilities, as well as solid waste collection, disposal and recycling services must be adequate to provide for present and future needs of the community. Providing quality public facilities such as community centers, libraries, parks, schools and fire and police are also important as they contribute to the City's health, safety, and overall quality of life.

With the exception of natural gas, electrical and communications utilities and services, public facilities and services in the City of Chowchilla are provided primarily by public or quasi-public agencies. Public and quasi-public agencies include, but are not limited to, the City of Chowchilla, County of Madera, State of California, Chowchilla Elementary School District, and the Chowchilla Union High School District.

Requirements of the Public Facilities and Services Element

California Government Code Section 65302 does not require a Public Services and Facilities Element to be included in a General Plan. However, Section 65303 states: "The general plan may include any other elements or address any other subjects which, in the judgment of the legislative body, relate to the physical development of the City."

The Public Facilities and Services Element is closely related to the Land Use and Circulation Elements. The Element is also related to the Safety, and Noise Element and the Open Space and Conservation Element.

Consistency with the Safety, Open Space and Conservation, and Noise Elements are achieved through goals and policies which afford protection related to police and fire service, threats from flooding, avoidance of health hazards associated with inadequate provisions of potable water and sanitary sewer facilities, and the management of

hazardous materials.

This Public Facilities and Services Element provides a description, framework and policies pertaining to the City's municipal water, wastewater, storm drainage, solid waste and recycling services; natural gas, electrical and communication facilities and services; and the placement of public education facilities. Public recreation facilities and services (i.e., parks and community centers) are addressed in the Open Space and Conservation Element. City fire and law enforcement facilities and services are addressed in the Public Safety Element. Public facilities and services related to transportation and circulation are addressed in the Circulation Element.

MUNICIPAL WATER

With the exception of the California Department of Corrections Central Valley Women's Facility and Valley State Prison, the City of Chowchilla is the purveyor of potable water service to residences, commercial and industrial business and institutions located within Chowchilla's City Limits. The City of Chowchilla Department of Public Works is responsible for the operation and maintenance of municipal wells and water lines. The water function is operated as a municipal enterprise along with City's sewer and other urban services it provides. The California Department of Corrections Central Valley Women's Facility and Valley State Prison for Women have their own water supply system.

The City of Chowchilla municipal water supply, and the California Department of Corrections Central Valley Women's Facility and Valley State Prison for Women water supply is derived from groundwater resources. The City extracts its water supply from groundwater aquifers via a series of wells scattered throughout the City. The California Department of Corrections Central Valley Women's Facility and Valley State Prison for Women extract their water supply from groundwater wells located within the confinement of the prison facilities. The Open Space and Conservation Element of this General Plan addresses in detail, the availability and quality of City's municipal water supply resources.

The City currently pumps about 4,189 acre feet of water per year for domestic purposes. The typical residential demand (during peak summer months) is in the range of 310-700 gallons per day per person (the overall demand when considering all other water users in the City is about 280 gallons per day per capita). Water meters are required for all development in the City which is positive aids in the community's water conservation efforts. In 2009, there were approximately 3,653 water service connections, with all but 1,800 are metered.

Chowchilla's system consists of a looped water system using a minimum of 8 - inch mains, with larger mains at 10 to 12 inches. Growth of the system to serve new development will require continued looping of lines and expansion of fire flow reserve capacities. More water system modeling is necessary to determine weaknesses in the existing system, opportunities for additional storage, and interlinking the system. As the City grows, water well locations, storage tanks, and distribution pipelines must be

planned as part of an overall system. The practice of locating wells to serve new developments must be maintained, while pursuing a more comprehensive network and integrated design to serve not only new development, but interconnecting with existing pipelines and new storage tanks. Such an approach will assist the City in developing cross-town pipelines and intermittent storage facilities to assure optimum quantity and quality of domestic water. This system could help reinforce portions of the City that have wells which are low producing and have potential water quality problems.

If the City was to utilize a surface source of water, extensive retrofitting and distribution system improvements would be necessary to provide service throughout the City. The capital costs of surface water alternatives should include the cost of upgrading the distribution system to adequately provide service throughout the City.

The City has adopted minimum fire flow requirements for residential, commercial, and industrial areas of the City. There are no major system constraints for future development; however problems exist in older sections of the City with deteriorating small six inch lines which should be addressed over time, through a retrofitting program. The City does not provide a significant number of domestic water connections outside of the City limits. Typically, if water service is requested by properties in the unincorporated territory and extension of service is feasible, the property will be required to annex to the City before services are provided.

Guidelines for the management of the Chowchilla water system are presented in the Chowchilla Municipal Code, Chapter 13.04. The City's Municipal Code establishes specific guidelines for the provision of water services, billing and service charges, and defines unlawful acts regarding the wasting of water.

Water quantity and quality limitations appear to be localized within the Planning Area based on a limited number of wells drilled by the City. It is difficult to predict water quality and quantity from one area to another, which is the primary reason the City, recommends test wells before proceeding to develop domestic wells for the City.

Although there appears to be a good supply of water for the City to implement the Land Use Plan, such continued draw downs of the groundwater table will eventually have a cumulative adverse effect on total water supply for domestic and agricultural purposes. The City's conservation program is effective in reducing the amount of water taken annually from the groundwater supply, but over time and without effective recharge to the groundwater table, the cumulative effect of groundwater use will be significant. The development of a surface water alternative water supply is one method of lowering demand on the groundwater table. This alternative is very expensive and delivery of surface water on a year-round basis may be impractical because of supply and delivery system constraints.

Groundwater Recharge

The City also recharges a substantial amount of water each day through its wastewater treatment facility. Rules and regulations regarding wastewater disposal methods may

preclude substantial groundwater in the City's newly proposed wastewater treatment plant.

Groundwater in the Chowchilla area occurs in several ways. Water from natural precipitation, natural and manmade drainage ways and canals, and agricultural irrigation percolates to aquifers. Water also migrates below the ground surface from areas east of Chowchilla.

Water supply appears to be sufficient for the existing City. Long term water supply will be sustained with the implementation of water recharge programs. Both urban growth and continued agricultural production near the City will increase the demand for ground water and the need to participate in ground water recharge activities. There are alternatives to ground water supply such as obtaining domestic water from secure surface water entitlements, treating and pipelining it to the City. The cost of obtaining this surface water appears to be far more expensive and less dependable than continuing to use ground water and engaging in groundwater recharge activities. Consideration must be given to a system that relies on both methods of providing domestic water. The ultimate limiting constraint is the capacity of the aquifer. Ground water recharge efforts can assist in slowly renewing ground water levels, and potentially shifting agricultural ground water use to the upper aquifer. The City's long term development potential will depend on expanding and documenting knowledge of the aquifer and developing cooperative conservation efforts to bank water through recharge efforts. The City has begun a cooperative effort with CWD of groundwater recharge basins and exploring cooperative agreements with the CWD to engage in additional water recharge programs.

Urban Water Management Plan

The City of Chowchilla has more than 3,000 water customers and is required by State Law to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

City staff coordinated the development of the Plan with various City departments, the CWD, and other interested agencies and persons.

The General Plan projections of population growth and land annexations from which demand projections and decisions regarding water management in the plan were made. These projections in concert with the City's water, sewer and storm water master plans were used to form the basis of the UWMP.

The City of Chowchilla water supply is produced solely from groundwater wells within the Chowchilla Subbasin as defined in DWR Bulletin 118 - Update 2003. The City does not currently share water sources with other agencies other than indirectly through precipitation recharge and pumping from the same groundwater basin. Agencies coordinated with for development of this UWMP included local government, private, and agricultural interests.

The amount of groundwater pumped by the City of Chowchilla over the last 5 years is

shown in Table PF - 1. The amount of groundwater projected to be pumped in 5-year increments over the next 20 years is shown in Table PF - 2. Pumpage estimates are based on the population growth estimates contained in the General Plan and assume that the current per-capita use will remain constant, although it is hoped that through the City's conservation efforts and water use policies that the per-capita use will decrease in the future. Pumpage estimates also assume that the City will continue to rely solely on groundwater for its supply since it currently has no surface water supplies or entitlements.

Table PF - 1
Amount of Groundwater Pumped by the City of Chowchilla (AFY)

Basin Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Chowchilla Subbasin	2,852	3,087	3,169	3,570	4,189
Percent of total supply	100	100	100	100	100

Table PF - 2
Future Estimates of Groundwater Pumpage by the City of Chowchilla (AFY)

Basin Name	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Chowchilla Subbasin	4,577	5,306	6,152	7,131	8,267
Percent of total supply	100	100	100	100	100

1 Estimates based on annual population growth rate of 3.0%.

The City of Chowchilla is actively managing its water system and, water use in an attempt to reduce or eliminate overdraft. Although the City does not have a Groundwater Management Plan, the City is within CWD, which also actively manages its groundwater supplies and is implementing a Groundwater Management Plan that was developed and adopted in 1999 in conjunction with the Chowchilla - Red Top Resource Conservation District. The City cooperated with CWD in the development of the Plan.

Water levels in area wells are monitored by the City as well as DWR and CWD. Water quality monitoring is also conducted by the City and is reported annually to its citizens and the California Department of Public Health. The monitoring of water levels and their continued decline has led to a series of efforts that the City has been implementing. The nature of the efforts include:

- Percolation of storm drainage water via storm water retention basins
- Buying or exchanging water from CWD and MID
- Reducing demand by installing residential ,water meters

Percolation through storm drainage retention basins and negotiating with CWD and MID for water it can provide during surplus years are ongoing efforts being employed in the groundwater recharge effort.

Continued cooperation with CWD and MID, along with other water users in the Chowchilla Basin, to manage the groundwater basin will be essential to maintaining the

availability of high-quality groundwater resources in the area.

The City also prepared a Water System Infrastructure Rehabilitation Feasibility Study, which was completed in 2003. This study identified water system infrastructure improvements that could reduce system losses and improve system operations. Since the study the City has implemented some of the proposed improvements, which has reduced the amount of water the City loses from pipe leakage. Although water loss from pipe leakage infiltrates back into the ground, minimizing pipe leakage reduces well pumping and groundwater overdraft.

The climatic conditions of the central San Joaquin Valley demand careful water management practices because of the typically low amount of rainfall and short rainy season and because of the extreme high temperatures that frequently occur in the summer months. The average annual precipitation for the Chowchilla area is approximately 11.26 inches. The rainy season runs from November through April, but 80 percent of the rainfall occurs between the beginning of November and the end of March. Drought conditions are not uncommon and can last for multiple years. Summer water consumption varies directly with daily temperature maximums, and the Chowchilla region experiences a mean of 108 days a year with maximum daily temperatures over 90 degrees.

The reliability and vulnerability of the City's water supply to seasonal or climactic changes can be easily qualified, but reliability and vulnerability are difficult to quantify. Because the City relies entirely on groundwater wells, the drawdown will obviously be more severe in drought years and high mean temperature years. Without a program of recharge, as recommended by the Water System Master Plan, this drawdown may eventually reach a critical point, but this point has not yet been determined by a formal study and is not expected to occur for many years. Recharge, conservation, and seeking new primary and backup water sources will all aid in reducing vulnerability and in increasing reliability.

Because the City relies on groundwater for its supply, it is not anticipated that a single or multiple dry year period will have any impact on the availability of the supply, as shown in Table PF - 3. The most recent multiple dry year cycle was the 1987 - 1992 period, which did not impact the ability of the City to meet all of its water demands. Also, the impact of an extreme single dry year such as 1977 did impact the ability of the City to meet all of its water demands. Supply reliability for normal water years such as 2001 and multiple and single dry years is shown in Table PF - 3. The reliability of water service which is subject to proper operation and maintenance of the City's water distribution system and its ability to deliver the water, is discussed later in the Plan.

Table PF - 3
Supply Reliability

Normal Water Year	Single Dry Water Year	Multiple Dry Water Years			
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The City is required to update the UWMP every five years.

WASTEWATER

The City of Chowchilla Public Works Department operates a comprehensive wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system that serves the City. In 2009, the City's wastewater collection system was comprised of over 35 miles of gravity sewer pipelines and 4 wastewater pump stations. The City of Chowchilla Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which provides secondary treatment of municipal wastewater received from throughout the City, is permitted to treat 1.8 million gallons / day (mgd). The WWTP is located at the southwest corner of South 5th Street and Avenue 24½ (East Palm Parkway), adjacent to the City's designated Light and Heavy Industrial area north of Berenda Slough.

Planned Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

There is remaining capacity in the plant for modest expansion of residential and industrial development within the existing City Limits.

Growth projections indicate the wastewater flow will reach capacity when another 2,200 dwelling units are built in the City, or if a large industrial user decides to build in the City.

The City has initiated a process to permit a new wastewater treatment facility for domestic waste by the year 2014. It is anticipated that post economic recovery growth in the City will be slow at first in the range of 150 units per year rising to a rate of about 300 to 400 residential units per year. Given those projections, the existing plant capacity will be at its limits by the year 2014 or 15. The City's long term plan is to create a new residential wastewater treatment plant southwest of the City and divert all domestic flows to that new facility. The current facility would become an industrial treatment plant and have substantial capacity for growth. At the present time, the treatment plant has only enough capacity for the industrial land north of Brenda Slough, not assuming a major wastewater discharge industry. As industry is allowed to develop south of the Slough, or outside the industrial park, the existing plant flows should be re-evaluated to determine if additional industrial areas could be served. A major new demand could accelerate the need to construct a domestic plant. Once the domestic wastewater is diverted to the new facility, the existing facility will have more than 1.2 mgd available for industrial development.

Water conservation efforts have both positive and negative effects on the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The reduction of wastewater in the sewer system from conservation programs may create additional treatment capacity for additional residential units at the plant, however, lower total amounts of water in the waste stream increases concentration of wastes requiring modified treatment techniques.

Similar to the domestic water system, the Chowchilla Public Works Department is the responsible City department for the operation and maintenance of both the treatment

and collection system. The wastewater system is operated as an enterprise function of the City.

Collection System

While the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is not an immediate constraint to growth, the capacity of the collection and transportation system is a major constraint.

The wastewater collection system is basically a gravity system with lift stations as necessary. A gravity system is the most cost effective and energy conservative system to operate. The City has prepared a Sanitary Sewer Master Plan (2005) which forms the basis of the City's implementation program to expand the sewer collection system. The elements and constituents of growth have caused the need to modify the Master Plan and respond to changing conditions. However the basic elements remain in place for the developed City. New development will be required to connect to a new interceptor sewer line planned to be constructed along the alignment of Avenue 24 to the new wastewater treatment facility. The present system can only accommodate projected growth within the existing City Limits. Growth to the west of the City will be immediately served by the new sewer interceptor as the new wastewater treatment plant will be located southwest of the City. Future growth to the east of the City will be responsible for constructing a new interceptor sewer line from east of Highway 99 along Avenue 24 to connect with the first phase sewer interceptor. The growth rate assumptions and projected residential densities contained in the current Sewer Master Plan are consistent with projections contained in this General Plan.

STORM WATER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Storm water drainage is accomplished in the City through a system of storm water collection and drainage disposal basins.

The City prepared a Storm Drainage Master Plan (2005) which described the retention and disposal facilities necessary to accommodate additional new growth within the growth area to the year 2030. This study area comprises a major portion of the General Plan study area, and therefore, this study with amendments over time, forms the continuing basis for drainage infrastructure planning in the City.

Based on the preliminary study of the build-out area, 2,385 acre feet of additional storm drainage basin capacity will be required. Given typical design standards for a multi-use facility (combination use as a passive recreation area plus a secure nuisance water holding area), approximately 290 acres of land within the General Plan Area will be necessary to accommodate storm water needs. Additional acreage may be required for design modifications for multi-use facilities depending on uses and accessibility. The General Plan Open Space, Recreation and Open Space Element support this concept and provide implementation measures. Studies should be undertaken to determine if soil conditions in the area would allow for positive ground water recharge to occur in these basins.

The City of Chowchilla Department of Public Works is responsible for implementing the Drainage Master Plan and maintaining the system. Unlike water and sewer services, drainage maintenance is not an enterprise function of the City. Typically, drainage maintenance funding for new development is provided by in new developments through the formation of drainage maintenance districts allowed for by California Law. The City has enacted utility rate element for properties not within maintenance districts to off-set capital and maintenance costs for storm drainage facilities.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) promotes an integrated solid waste management approach pursuant to the following hierarchy of goals: 1) source reduction; 2) recycling and composting; and 3) environmentally safe transformation and disposal of wastes. The statewide mandated goal for waste diversion was 50 percent by the 2000.

Solid waste collection and disposal for the City of Chowchilla is provided by contract with a private refuse collection and disposal service purveyor. The City's franchised refuse collection and disposal service is responsible for collecting residential, commercial and industrial waste in the City. The City's contracted solid waste collection purveyor is also responsible, under the City's solid waste collection contract, to meet or exceed the waste diversion goals required by AB 939. Collections are based upon customer need and quantity of waste generated.

In 2008, the City of Chowchilla sent 13,800 tons (approximately of solid waste to landfills of which 99 percent was disposed sent to the Fairmead Sanitary Landfill. The remaining of one percent was disposed at other landfill facilities outside Madera County. Seventy-five percent of the City's total solid waste stream is attributed to business (i.e., retail, services, medical, construction) waste, while the remaining 25 percent was attributed to residential waste.^{1, 2}

The City has embarked on a recycling program incorporating separation at the curb (mixed waste, mixed recyclables, and green waste) which is collected and processed through the Mammoth Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located at the Fairmead Landfill. The MRF located at the Fairmead Landfill is the only municipal solid waste diversion facility in Madera County. All paper, glass, plastic (#1 through #7), aluminum products and tin cans are accepted by the recycling program. Green waste is

¹ California Integrated Waste Management Board. 2009. Jurisdiction Profile for City of Chowchilla. Waste Flows.
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile2.asp?RG=C&JURID=83&JUR=Chowchilla>
(accessed April 22, 2009).

² _____. 2009. Jurisdiction Profile for City of Chowchilla. Overview.
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile1.asp?RG=C&JURID=83&JUR=Chowchilla>
(accessed April 22, 2009).

composted for beneficial purposes. In 2006, the City of Chowchilla reached a 59 percent solid waste diversion rate.³

The Fairmead Sanitary Landfill, located just west of Highway 99 at Road 19 and Avenue 22, has a maximum permitted capacity of 9,400,000 cubic yards and is permitted to serve the County (including the Cities of Chowchilla and Madera) through the year 2033. The maximum permitted daily disposal at the Landfill is 1,100 tons / day or 401,500 tons annually.⁴ The total amount of solid waste disposed of at the Landfill in 2007 was 128,495 tons, which represents approximately 32 percent of the facility's permitted maximum annual disposal capacity.⁵

NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIC SERVICES

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides natural gas and electricity to residential, business and public agency customers in the City of Chowchilla and surrounding area. Natural gas and electrical power available in within City and surround area is supplied from PG&E's inter-grid systems serving the State of California.

In 2009, only one PG&E electrical power substation served the entire City residents' and businesses' electrical power needs. This PG&E electrical power substation is located adjacent to South Chowchilla Boulevard between West Robertson Boulevard (Highway 233) and Berenda Slough. As the City's planned residential, commercial and industrial designated lands develop, additional electrical power substations and utility corridors will be necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Telephone service is provided by AT&T Communications Inc. Basic internet service is available through direct telephone lines. Cellular telephone, voice over IP and an advanced internet services are available through a number of private service providers. High speed digital subscriber line (DSL), cable internet and wireless broadband internet is available depending on the location and private service provider.

Cable television service is the only franchised service provided in the City. The City of Chowchilla contracts with Comcast to provide cable services, for a fee, to residences and business and other entities located in the City. In addition, satellite television

³ _____. 2009. Jurisdiction Profile for City of Chowchilla. Waste Flows.
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Juris/JurProfile2.asp?RG=C&JURID=83&JUR=Chowchilla>
(accessed April 22, 2009).

⁴ _____. 2009. Active Landfills Profile for Fairmead Solid Waste Disposal Site (20-AA-002). Overview.
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/LandFill/LFProfile1.asp?COID=20&FACID=20-AA-0002>
(accessed April 22, 2009).

⁵ _____. 2009. Active Landfills Profile for Fairmead Solid Waste Disposal Site (20-AA-002). Operations.
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Profiles/Facility/LandFill/LFProfile2.asp?COID=20&FACID=20-AA-0002>
(accessed April 22, 2009)

services are available through several private service providers.

Above and below grade telephone, cable and fiber optic lines are placed in public utility easements and subject to regulations governing communication services and public utility easements. Placement, size and appearance of communication services facilities (i.e., relay station) are subject to City Zoning Ordinances and building codes.

EDUCATION

Public education facilities and services in the City of Chowchilla and surrounding area is provided by the Chowchilla Elementary School District (CESD) for primary (grades K-6) and intermediate (grades 7 and 8) education levels, and by the Chowchilla Union High School District (CUHSD) for secondary education (grades 9-12). Public school facilities included permanent and interim school facilities, land for permanent and interim school facilities, and District-wide support facilities (i.e. administration offices, food service, transportation services, warehousing and storage, etc.).

The location of public school facilities as well as the design, architecture and materials used in the construction of public school facilities are subject to applicable policies of the CESD and CUHSD, and the requirement and guidelines of the State of California, Department of Education (i.e., classroom size and site size).

Chowchilla Elementary School District

The CESD's boundaries cover approximately 108 square miles in the northwestern portion of Madera County. Although the City of Chowchilla represents a small geographic portion of the District, a majority of the District's students and school facilities are located in the City of Chowchilla. In 2009, the District operated 3 elementary schools (Stephens Elementary School, Merle L. Fuller Elementary School and Ronald Reagan Elementary School) and 1 intermediate or middle school (Wilson Middle School) in the City of Chowchilla, and 1 elementary school (Fairmead Elementary School) in the community of Fairmead.

In 2009, each of the District's primary education schools served specific primary grade levels rather than serving all primary grade levels (grades K-5). As result, the District provides transportation services to and from school for all of their school facilities. Stephens Elementary School serves as the District's Kindergarten school. Merle L. Fuller Elementary School serves as the District's 1st and 2nd grade school. The District's newest school facility, Ronald Reagan Elementary School, serves as the District's 3rd and 4th grade school, and Fairmead Elementary School serves as the District's 5th and 6th grade school.

Chowchilla Union High School District

The CUHSD's boundaries include approximately 450 square miles in the northwestern portion of Madera County. Similar to the CESD, the majority of CUHSD students and school facilities are located in the City of Chowchilla. The CUHSD operates 1 high

school (Chowchilla High School) and 1 continuation school (Gateway High School).

Post-Secondary Education

A number of public and private post-secondary educational opportunities are available in the region. Post-secondary educational opportunities in the region include Madera Community College in Madera, Merced Junior College in Merced, California State University at Fresno and the University of California at Merced.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Goals

- ❖ **To provide sufficient levels of public facilities and services, based upon timely planning and adequate funding.**
- ❖ **To ensure adequate water quality and quantity to meet both existing and planned needs.**
- ❖ **To ensure adequate wastewater collection and treatment to meet both existing and planned needs.**
- ❖ **To ensure adequate stormwater collection and disposal to meet both existing and planned needs.**
- ❖ **To ensure the appropriate and safe disposal of solid waste.**
- ❖ **To reduce solid waste landfill disposal needs through education, recycling and other means.**
- ❖ **To ensure adequate natural gas and electric services for the City of Chowchilla's residents and businesses.**
- ❖ **To expand communication services to enrich the City of Chowchilla's economic opportunities.**
- ❖ **To ensure that city services are able to keep pace with demand.**
- ❖ **To ensure that other public services are reasonably available at the time of need.**

Objectives, Policies and Implementation Measures

The following objectives, policies and implementation are organized into the categories and sequence of categories outlined above. The categories, in the order they are presented, are as follows: Residential Development, New Development, Municipal Water; Wastewater; Storm Drainage; Public Buildings; Education; Public Utilities; Public Waste Management and Recycling; Natural Gas and Electrical Services; Telecommunications Services; Broadband, and Recycling Centers.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective PF 1

Provide sufficient public facilities and services prior to or concurrent with planned development.

Policy PF 1.1

New development shall be phased according to the available capacity of public facilities and services to serve new development.

Policy PF 1.2

Encourage the concurrent (as opposed to piecemeal) annexation of adjacent unincorporated properties in order to facilitate the formation of assessment districts, benefit districts, and other financial mechanisms which will provide public facilities and services in an efficient and effective manner.

Implementation Measure PF 1.2.A

Future annexation applications shall include a full and complete analysis of the public facilities and services required for the proposed development, and provide an analysis which includes the surrounding property to determine: 1) if expansion of the proposed annexation will be beneficial to accommodate the adequate development and financing of required public services; or 2) if existing public facilities and services to existing development require improvements to maintain or meet current level-of-service standards.

Policy PF 1.3

Develop and maintain Master Plans for water, wastewater collection and treatment, and storm water collection and disposal which address future growth demands and address public facilities and services including schools in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Policy PF 1.4

Encourage the school districts to develop and maintain School Facilities Master Plans which address future growth demands and address educational public facilities and services in a coordinated and comprehensive manner in conjunction with the implementation of the General Plan and the growth of the community

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Objective PF 2

New development shall pay fees as necessary to meet all identified costs associated with new development, including but not limited to public facilities and services where a nexus can be shown qualitatively and/or quantitatively.

Policy PF 2.1

New development shall be responsible for the public facilities and service costs attached to each development project which include, but are not limited to, the acquisition of permanent open space, the provision of adequate school facilities, and the provision of streets, street lighting, sidewalks, landscaping, storm drains, and other infrastructure needs, including the preparation of master plans and financing strategies for these systems.

Policy PF 2.2

New development shall be responsible for paying a financial contribution to mitigate the effect of the development on the provision of such public services as solid waste disposal, public education, water, drainage, sewer systems, and school facilities.

Implementation Measure PF 2.2.A

During deliberation on proposed projects, the Planning Department shall recommend a finding to the Planning Commission and City Council in their staff report which addresses the adequacy of public facilities and services and the method by which the proposed development is to provide for these public facilities and services as part of the development.

Implementation Measure PF 2.2.B

As a material part of approving annexation of any property for residential development into the City and in consideration of the City entering into any annexation and/or development agreement and as a public benefit to the Community, the City shall refer developers to the local school districts in order for the school districts to ensure the availability of adequate school facilities (including permanent schools facilities, interim school facilities, and District-wide support facilities) to house students generated by proposed projects.

Policy PF 2.3

Construction permits shall not be granted until the developer provides for the installation and/or financing of needed public facilities and services.

Objective PF 3

Maintain existing public facilities and services.

Policy PF 3.1

Existing public facilities shall be upgraded as they become deteriorated or obsolete.

Implementation Measure PF 3.1.B

Include in the Capital Improvement Program the upgrading of existing facilities that have become deteriorated or obsolete to the degree that public service has been diminished.

MUNICIPAL WATER

Objective PF 4

Provide an adequate system of supply and distribution of quality water to support the General Plan level of development.

Policy PF 4.1

Treatment facilities shall meet or exceed current standards set by federal, state, or local regulatory agencies.

Policy PF 4.2

The City shall condition approval of new development projects on the availability of adequate water supply and infrastructure to serve the new development.

Policy PF 4.3

The City shall work cooperatively with other water management agencies to prepare a groundwater management program as needed to ensure sufficient water supply for the build-out of the General Plan.

Policy PF 4.4

When necessary and practical, the City will cooperate with other water agencies to acquire water for the recharge, replenishment and/or banking of groundwater for future demand.

Implementation Measure PF 4.4.A

The City shall continue to participate with other water agencies in groundwater recharge efforts, as practical, using identified recharge areas such as Brenda Reservoir, Brenda Slough, and Ash Slough. This participation may include the development of multi-use open space corridors or recreation facilities combined with recharge facilities.

Policy PF 4.5

The City shall extend water service to new areas based on its ability to meet domestic and fire flow needs of the area.

Implementation Measure PF 4.5.A

The City shall prepare and maintain a water network analysis which demonstrates its ability to meet development standards and identifies system shortfalls.

Policy PF 4.6

The City shall include in its Capital Improvement Program system-wide improvements to the water supply and delivery system which are required to maintain current levels of service while extending service to newly developing areas.

Policy PF 4.7

New development of public facilities and services shall include water conservation features and drought resistant landscaping.

Policy PF 4.8

All water system improvements shall comply with the City of Chowchilla Public Works Construction Standards.

WASTEWATER

Objective PF 5

Ensure provision of sufficient wastewater collection and treatment facilities to support the existing and future development at General Plan build-out.

Policy PF 5.1

Continue to provide sewer services and operate major public facilities.

Implementation Measure PF 5.1.A

The City shall acquire land and continue to pursue funding for the planning and expansion of the wastewater system as part of its Capital Improvement Program.

Policy PF 5.2

Require new development to be responsible for construction of all sewer lines serving such development (including oversizing of sewers); the costs of oversizing shall be borne by the beneficiary of the oversizing.

Policy PF 5.3

All sewer collection improvements shall comply with the City of Chowchilla Public Works Construction Standards.

Policy PF 5.4

The City shall condition the approval of new development projects on the availability of adequate wastewater treatment capacity and infrastructure to serve the new development.

STORM DRAINAGE FACILITIES

Objective PF 6

Provide a stormwater drainage system that serves the General Plan level of development in a planned and orderly manner.

Policy PF 6.1

The City shall condition approval of development projects on the provision of adequate storm drainage improvements.

Policy PF 6.2

The City shall require the extension of storm drains to new areas in accordance with the phasing of a storm drainage master plan.

Implementation Measure PF 6.2.A

Prepare an updated Master Storm Drainage Plan to support General Plan and Phasing Area Concept Plan land uses, including proposed drainage facilities and estimated costs.

Policy PF 6.3

Detention basins should be considered for multiple use (recreation, parking, etc.), particularly larger basins, providing that the basic detention function is not lost or impaired, and maintenance and liability issues can be satisfactorily resolved.

Objective PF 7

Maintain storm drainage facilities to preserve their function and capacity.

Policy PF 7.1

Natural and manmade channels, detention basins, and other drainage facilities shall be maintained to ensure that their full use and carrying capacity is not impaired.

Policy PF 7.2

Continue to require new development to discharge storm water runoff at volumes no greater than the capacity of any portion of the existing downstream system by utilizing detention or retention or other approved methods, unless the project is providing drainage pursuant to an adopted drainage plan.

Implementation Measure PF 7.2.A

Consolidate policies, programs, and standards for flood control and storm drainage in a Storm Drainage ordinance.

Policy PF 7.3

When necessary, require new development to prepare hydrologic studies to assess storm runoff effects on the local drainage system and, if warranted, require new development to provide adequate drainage facilities and to mitigate increases in storm water flows and / or volume to avoid cumulative increases in downstream flows.

Implementation Measure PF 7.3.A

Development projects requiring disposal of stormwater into Ash Slough, Berenda Slough, or Chowchilla River shall provide a hydrological assessment of a project's potential effects on the local and regional storm drainage systems, so that the City can determine appropriate mitigation to ensure that system capacity and peak flow restrictions are not exceeded.

Policy PF 7.4

New and redevelopment projects shall prepare and provide to the City appropriate drainage studies that assess project storm runoff affects on the City storm drain system, as well as provide appropriate storm drainage facilities to ensure an increase risk of on- or off-site flooding does not result from project implementation.

Policy PF 7.5

All drainage improvements shall comply with the City of Chowchilla Public Works Construction Standards.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Objective PF 8

Provide timely, functional, safe, and attractive public buildings and facilities in order to provide high levels of public service.

Policy PF 8.1

Maintain the City Government Center in the Downtown Commercial District.

Implementation Measure PF 8.1.A

Create Master Plans or Specific Plans for the Downtown Commercial District to ensure the needs of expanding City space for building and parking are adequately met.

Policy PF 8.2

Continue to promote the use of existing City structures for various educational, cultural, and civic programs by the community.

Policy PF 8.3

Encourage the clustering of public and quasi-public uses such as schools, parks, libraries, child care facilities, and community activity centers.

Policy PF 8.4

Promote the use of local public schools by school and community creative arts groups.

EDUCATION

Objective PF 9

Assist, coordinate and cooperate with the school districts in planning for and providing educational facilities with sufficient permanent and interim capacity to meet the needs of current and projected future student enrollments.

Policy PF 9.1

Encourage the CESD and the CUHSD to develop comprehensive master plans as a means of providing greater detail on specific school sites, buildings, educational facilities, and funding mechanisms.

Policy PF 9.2

Support school sites which are appropriately located and sized within attendance areas.

Implementation Measure PF 9.2.A

Siting criteria for new schools should include the following:

- 1. Elementary schools should be planned as an integral part of neighborhoods, located away from major Arterial streets and linked with recreational parks and community corridors serving residential neighborhoods, and situated to reduce or eliminate the need for student transportation.*
- 2. Middle schools and high schools should be located with respect to the student populations which they serve, with direct access provided from Collector or Arterial streets.*
- 3. Middle schools are generally considered compatible with most residential and park uses, but are not generally considered compatible with retail commercial and general industrial uses.*
- 4. High schools are generally considered compatible with most residential, park, service commercial, office, and light industrial uses, but are not generally considered compatible with retail commercial and general industrial uses.*

Policy PF 9.3

Notify the school districts of newly proposed developments as soon in the review process as the project has a complete description acceptable to the City to allow ample time for the assessment of impacts on school facility needs.

Implementation Measure PF 9.3.A

The City, local school districts, and the developer of proposed residential developments shall work together to the extent that California Law allows, to attain reasonable voluntary agreements that will insure that school facilities required by the development are funded in a timely and adequate manner.

Policy PF 9.4

Whenever possible, school sites should be integrated with parks and community

recreation corridors to maximize the benefits of those facilities as pedestrian and bicycle access with a minimum of interruption by the street system.

Implementation Measure PF 9.4.A

Where feasible, work with the school districts to design and implement safe pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities which promote the use of these trails as alternative transportation to school sites. Where crossings of these facilities will promote access to schools and otherwise enhance alternative transit modes, the City should investigate cooperative development of such facilities with the school districts, State agencies, and public utilities.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Objective PF 10

Provide adequate public utilities.

Policy PF 10.1

The City shall designate adequate, appropriately located land for utility uses.

Policy PF 10.2

The City shall continue to circulate development proposals to local utility providers, including Pacific Gas and Electric, SBC, local cable television providers, and water districts, for their review and comment and to ensure that they can and will provide service to development.

Policy PF 10.3

The City shall continue to work with local utility providers to allow them adequate time to prepare plans for servicing new planned growth.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

Objective PF 11

Provide for adequate recycling programs and solid waste disposal capacity.

Policy PF 11.1

Promote the reduction of the amount of waste disposed of in landfills by: reducing the amount of solid waste generated (waste reduction); reusing as much of the solid waste as possible (recycling); utilizing the energy and nutrient value of the solid waste (waste to energy and composting); and properly disposing of the remaining solid waste (landfill disposal).

Implementation Measure PF 11.1.A

The City of Chowchilla shall continue to investigate alternatives and implement

source reduction at the household level, and methods of community-wide recycling and composting as ways of reducing waste and increasing the longevity of the Fairmead Sanitary Landfill.

Policy PF 11.2

The City of Chowchilla shall continue to coordinate on activities and studies with Madera County and others on waste management and recycling subject matters including, but not limited to, future Fairmead Sanitary Landfill expansion or new landfill facility requirements, waste stream disposal reduction programs, as feasible.

NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Objective PF 12

Provide adequate natural gas and electrical services.

Policy PF 12.1

The City shall designate adequate, appropriately located land for electric substations and for overhead or underground utility corridors.

Policy PF 12.2

The City of Chowchilla shall continue to circulate development proposals to purveyors of natural gas and electrical power to City residents and businesses for their review and comment and to ensure natural gas and electric services can and will be provided to the development.

Policy PF 12.3

The City of Chowchilla shall coordinate long term development planning with purveyors of natural gas and electrical power to City residents and businesses to service the City's designated planned growth areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

Objective PF 13

Improve and expand communication technology and services in the City of Chowchilla.

Policy PF 13.1

To the extent feasible and practical, all new residential, commercial, industrial and public facilities and services shall be wired for new communication / information technology.

Objective PF 14

Expand the use of communication / information technology to better inform the

community's citizens.

Policy PF 14.1

The City of Chowchilla shall expand the use of cable television as a public access communications tool.

Policy PF 14.2

To the extent financial resources allow, the City of Chowchilla shall participate in the expansion of public access to internet and other current and emerging information technologies at existing and future libraries.

BROADBAND

Objective PF 15

Per the State of California, ensure available and affordable broadband and the devices necessary to access the Internet; and, provide avenues for training and support to enable digital inclusion.

Policy PF 15.1

Coordinate with the State of California 2020 Broadband Action Plan (Executive Order N-73-20) and SB 156 to help create access to high-performance broadband at home, schools, libraries, and businesses; make available affordable broadband and the devices necessary to access the Internet; and, provide avenues for training and support to enable digital inclusion.

RECYCLING CENTERS

Objective PF 16

Ensure healthy, clean, and safe recycling center environments.

Policy PF 16.1

The City shall continue to enforce and update the regulations for Chowchilla Zoning Ordinance Section 18.60.160 Recycling collection facilities including cleaning and washing of permanent structures and surrounding areas; all litter surrounding the site removed as needed to maintain a safe and healthy environment; and possession of stolen shopping carts is a police misdemeanor.