

## **WATER SUPPLY POLICIES**

The County will:

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### 10.1 Coordinate Planning

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

#### 10.2 Safeguarding Water Supplies

Seek to safeguard the productive capacity of groundwater aquifers and storage reservoirs.

#### 10.3 Water Conservation

Promote the conservation and efficient use of water supplies.

#### 10.4 Development of Water Supplies

Promote the development of water supplies to serve: (1) agricultural uses, as the highest priority; (2) domestic uses; and (3) recreational uses.

### **DEFINITION**

#### 10.5 Water System

Define water system as a system of integrated piping, storage tanks, and a source of supply used for providing water for domestic purposes.

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

#### 10.6 Water Quality

- a. Encourage appropriate County and State agencies to monitor water supplies for pollutants.
- b. Encourage the removal of foul odors and tastes from domestic water supplies.

### 10.7 Park and Recreation Water Supplies

- a. Encourage the provision of water supplies in park and recreation areas commensurate with the desired level of development. (Please see the Park Chapter for related information.)
- b. Encourage coastal recreation and visitor serving facilities to provide drinking water.

### 10.8 Water Systems for Coastal Areas

Support efforts to provide adequate water systems for the Mid-Coast, rural service centers, and other unincorporated urban areas.

### 10.9 Potential Water Sources

- a. Support the creation of water supplies which are commensurate with the level of development permitted in adopted land use plans.
- b. Identify and encourage the protection and development of sites in rural areas suitable for reservoirs to store water supplies.
- c. Encourage and support different techniques to convert saltwater to potable water.
- d. Encourage the use of treated wastewater as a potential source of water.
- e. Encourage the development of off-stream reservoirs for the retention of water generated from winter runoff.

## **URBAN WATER SUPPLIES**

### 10.10 Water Suppliers in Urban Areas

Consider water systems as the preferred method of water supply in urban areas. Discourage use of wells to serve urban uses. However, allow wells to serve urban uses when:

- a. No water is available from a water system to serve the area,
- b. There is no threat to public health, safety or welfare presented by the cumulative effects of well drilling in the area, and
- c. The following is demonstrated:
  - (1) Water quality meets County and State standards;

- (2) The water flow meets County and State standards and is sufficient to meet the needs of the requested use; and
- (3) The well is a safe distance from potential sources of pollution and other existing wells.

10.11 Coordination With Water Suppliers

Support and coordinate County water plans with future San Francisco Water Department and the Bay Area Water Users Association planning efforts.

10.12 Coordination of Water Suppliers

Encourage water providers to coordinate the planned capacity of their facilities commensurate with the level of development permitted by adopted land use plans and wastewater management plans.

10.13 Water Systems in Unincorporated Areas

Support efforts to improve water distribution and storage systems in unincorporated neighborhoods and communities.

10.14 Emergency Considerations

Support the development of a sufficient emergency supply of water including plans to interconnect with neighboring municipal water systems during emergencies that cause significant water service interruptions.

**RURAL WATER SUPPLIES**

**WATER SYSTEMS**

10.15 Water Suppliers in Rural Areas

Consider the following as appropriate methods of water supply in rural areas: water systems and wells.

10.16 New Water Systems

Allow the creation of new water systems in Rural Service Centers and Rural Subdivisions areas only when demonstration is made of at least the following: (1) connections to existing systems are not available; (2) the new water system will use, as a source of supply, wells or springs; and (3) adequate financing for the new water system is available.

In the case of the Pescadero Rural Service Center, allow the use of surface water as a source of supply due to an existing inadequate supply of groundwater serving a substantial existing population.

#### 10.17 Improving Existing Water Systems

- a. Support, where local residents express an interest, the possible consolidation of water systems under one management and pursue methods of financing this consolidation, such as assessment districts, Federal and State grants, and creation of new districts.
- b. Support the development of funding sources to make appropriate improvements to the facilities of water systems.
- c. Allow water systems using surface water supplies to continue this practice when done in accordance with appropriate permits and approvals.

### GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES

#### 10.18 Aquifer Studies and Management

- a. Support and cooperate in studies leading to a more thorough understanding of the groundwater aquifers, their location, quality, safe yield and migration patterns. Formulate and carry out a management program that would ensure the long-term viability of aquifers for beneficial use.
- b. Regulate, to the extent not in conflict with State law, the extraction of groundwater from aquifers in order to protect the safe yield and prevent overdrafting and saltwater intrusion.
- c. Discourage activities and operations that would pollute groundwater supplies. Encourage the cleanup and restoration of polluted aquifers.

### DOMESTIC WELLS

#### 10.19 Domestic Water Supply

Encourage the use of wells or springs rather than surface water for domestic water supplies to serve new development.

#### 10.20 Well Location and Construction

- a. Require domestic vertical wells to be located an adequate distance away from the normal watercourse of a stream in order to minimize impacts upon downstream surface water supplies.

- b. Regulate the construction and location of wells in areas subject to flooding or served by septic tanks in order to minimize adverse impacts.

## **AGRICULTURAL WATER SUPPLIES**

### 10.21 Agricultural Surface Water Sources

Protect downstream agricultural surface water sources by discouraging: (1) the creation of new non-agricultural parcels which would use nearby streams as a source for water supplies; and (2) the transfer of riparian rights to the new parcels.

## **AGRICULTURAL IMPOUNDMENTS**

### 10.22 Developing Off-Stream Storage for Agriculture

Encourage the construction of small off-stream impoundments that draw water from peak winter streamflow for agricultural irrigation.

### 10.23 Expediting the Permit Process

Work with the State Division of Water Rights and the State Department of Fish and Game to develop procedures to shorten the time period required to obtain permits to appropriate water for agricultural purposes.

### 10.24 Financing Agricultural Impoundments

- a. Encourage the formation of assessment districts as a method to finance the construction of agricultural impoundments.
- b. Direct the County Manager's Office to research the availability of grants to finance and locate the construction of new agricultural impoundments.
- c. Encourage developers of non-agricultural uses to contribute toward financing the construction of agricultural impoundments.

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

### 10.25 Efficient Water Use

- a. Encourage the efficient use of water supplies through effective conservation methods.
- b. Require the use of water conservation devices in new structural development.

- c. Encourage exterior water conservation.
- d. Encourage water conservation for agricultural uses by using efficient irrigation practices.

## WATER RECLAMATION

### 10.26 Wastewater Reuse

- a. Encourage the reuse and recycling of water whenever feasible.
- b. Encourage the use of treated wastewater that meets applicable County and State health agency criteria.
- c. Support small-scale and on-site water recycling technologies, which meet public health and safety standards, for landscaping and agricultural purposes.

### 10.27 Wastewater Reservoirs

Identify sites suitable for use as reservoirs for treated wastewater. Consider using this wastewater for irrigation and/or public landscaping purposes. (Please see Wastewater Chapter for related information.)