

## **4.10 PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **4.10.1 SETTING**

#### **4.10.1.1 SEWER SETTING**

Orcutt Community Plan (OCP) Key Site 18 (KS18) is located within the Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) and sewer service for the proposed OASIS facility would be provided by the LCSD. The LCSD sewer infrastructure consists of a wastewater reclamation facility, a network of trunk sewers and collection pipes, and a system of recycled water distribution pipelines to convey water to user sites as its means of discharge. The wastewater reclamation plant is located at the end of Dutard Road west of Black Road. The district serves approximately 11,700 connections and currently collects, treats and disposes of 1.7 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd). Wastewater is generated primarily from domestic sources with minor contributions from commercial establishments. The district maintains one pump station and 125 miles of collection system. The plant is rated for 3.7 mgd. Effluent is treated to disinfected tertiary levels and includes screening, primary clarification, biofiltration, secondary clarification, membrane filtration (including reverse osmosis for a portion of the flow) and ultraviolet irradiation. Reverse osmosis concentrate is disposed into a class 1 non-hazardous injection well. Recycled water is irrigated on district land and off-site locations. <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/laguna.sbc>.

A LCSD trunk sewer line follows Orcutt Creek within KS18. The OASIS project wastewater lines would be connected to the LCSD sewer line north of the proposed structures and south of Orcutt Creek. The LCSD has indicated that there is sufficient capacity to transport and treat wastewater associated with the proposed project requests (M. Wilder, LCDS).

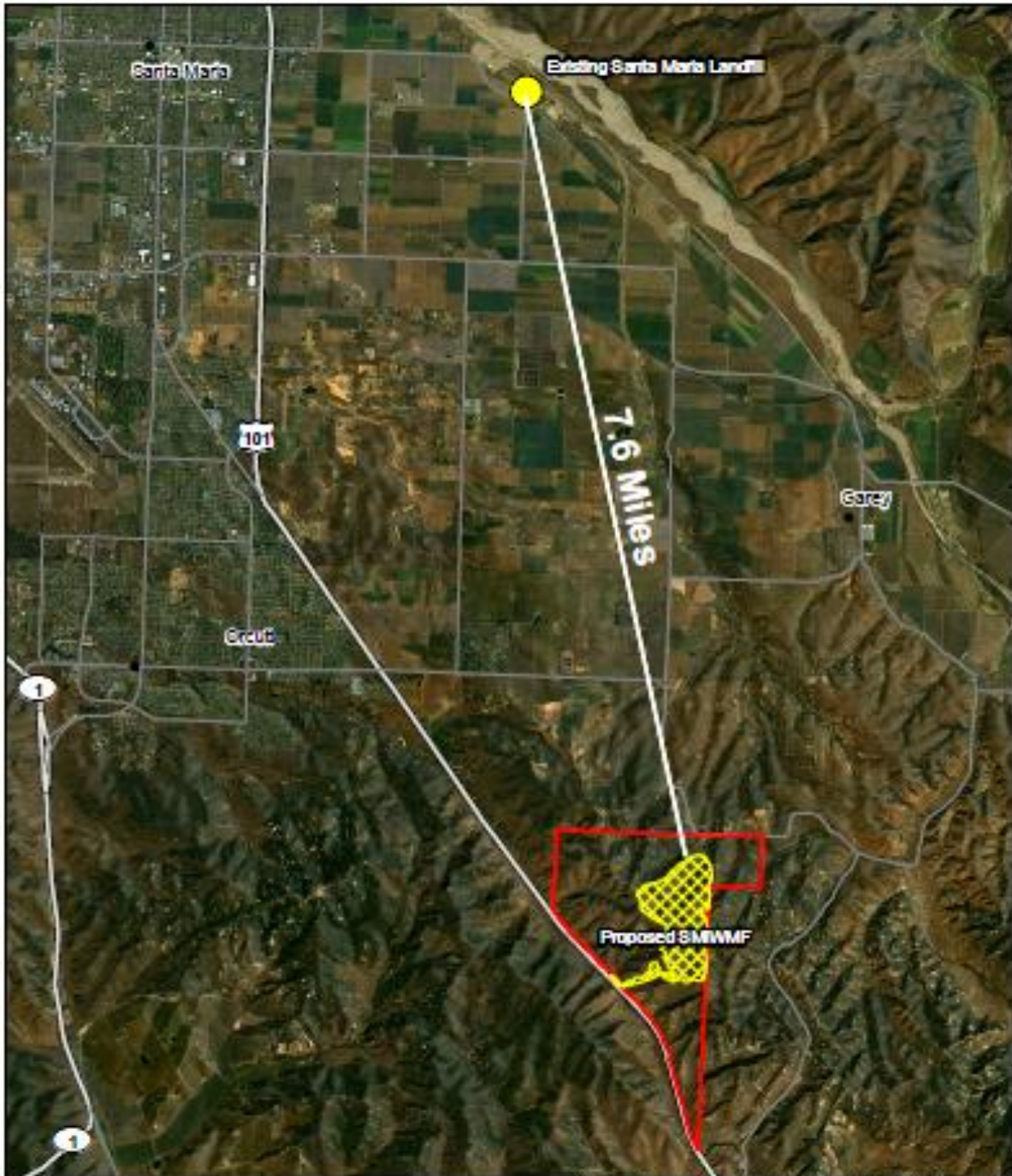
LCSD currently collects, treats, and disposes of approximately 1.7 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater. The District's treatment plant has a permitted/rated design capacity of 3.7 MGD, currently at 46% capacity with an available capacity of 2.0 MGD. This plant is regulated by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in San Luis Obispo under Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Reclamation Permit Order Nos. Master Reclamation Permit Order R3-011-0217. All of the water that is collected and treated at the facility is treated to disinfected tertiary levels and recycled through irrigation and agricultural uses on District land and various off-site locations.

#### **4.10.1.2 SOLID WASTE SETTING**

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division is responsible for the management of solid waste in the County. The Division's program for the management of solid waste includes the collection, recycling, and disposal of solid waste, as well as the abatement of illegal dumping of waste.

Solid waste collection service in Orcutt is provided by Health Sanitation Service (HSS), a private refuse collection, recycling and disposal company. Solid waste is currently transported to the City of Santa Maria Landfill, a Class III landfill, located in the northeastern corner of the Santa Maria city limits, adjacent to the Santa Maria River. This 290 acre landfill is the second largest in the County (Santa Barbara County, 1995) and is nearing capacity. When the Santa Maria Landfill stops receiving household waste, solid waste from the Orcutt area will be sent to the approved Santa Maria Integrated Waste Management Facility south of Orcutt on the east side of Highway 101. (See Figure 4.10-1, *Area Landfills*).

Figure 4.10-1 Area Landfills



Sources: Bryan A. Simek & Associates, 2008; U.S. Bureau of the Census; Tiger 2000 data and Map images copyright © 2008 ESRI and its licensors. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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## 4.10.2 REGULATORY SETTING

### 4.10.2.1 SEWER REGULATIONS

#### *Federal*

Clean Water Act (CWA): The Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act (i.e., the Clean Water Act or CWA) requires that discharges do not substantially degrade the physical, chemical or biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Specifically Section 402 established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Regulations for wastewater and other pollutant discharges. The CWA addresses water pollution and the restoration and maintenance of water quality and is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency in coordination with state governments. Its implementing regulations are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify and prepare a list of waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards and to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the listed water bodies. The CWA also prohibits certain discharges of storm water containing pollutants except in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES stormwater program regulates stormwater discharges.

CWA 1987 Amendment: Congress amended the CWA to require the implementation of a two-phased program to address storm water discharges. Phase I established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in November 1990, requires NPDES permits for storm water discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) serving populations of 100,000 or greater, construction sites disturbing greater than 5 acres of land, and ten categories of industrial activities. The EPA recognized that smaller construction projects (disturbing less than 5 acres) and small municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s<sup>1</sup>) were also contributing substantially to pollutant discharges nationwide. Therefore, in order to further improve storm water quality, the EPA promulgated the NPDES Phase II program (*Federal Register* Vol. 64, No. 235, December 8, 1999). The Phase II regulations require NPDES permits for storm water discharges from regulated small MS4s and for construction sites disturbing more than 1 acre of land.

CWA Section 303(d): This section requires States to identify waters not attaining applicable water quality standards and requires states to establish for these waters the [total maximum daily load](#) for certain pollutants, at a level necessary to implement the applicable [water quality standards](#). Compliance with this requirement is met by States periodically assessing the conditions of the rivers, lakes and bays and identifying them as "impaired" if they do not meet water quality standards.

#### *State*

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act: The Porter-Cologne Act established the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), along with nine regional boards tasked with implementing the Porter Cologne Act. This Act establishes waste discharge standards pursuant to the Federal NPDES program for California. The state has authority to issue NPDES permits and to implement other aspects of the CWA including section 303(d) described above with regard to impaired water bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> Those generally serving less than 100,000 people and located in an urbanized area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census.

SWRCB, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB): The Orcutt area is located within the Central Coast RWQCB (Region 3). The SWRCB and RWQCBs work under the California Environmental Protection Agency addressing water quality control and related permitting. The RWQCB Region 3 office in San Luis Obispo regulates a variety of programs that address water quality, including Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Permits for municipal sewage treatment facilities, including discharges from Laguna County Sanitation District.

**Local**

Santa Barbara County General Plan: The Conservation Element and Orcutt Community Plan include policies to ensure adequate quality and quantity of groundwater for present and future County residents. The Orcutt Community Plan include

Santa Barbara County Public Works, Water Resources Division, Project Clean Water (PCW): In addition to Planning & Development, Development Review and Building & Safety Divisions' review of grading permits, PCW addresses pollution prevention, construction site runoff control, and post-construction storm water management in new development.

**4.10.2.2 SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS**

**State**

California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill [AB] 939): This act required all cities and counties to develop a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) for diverting 50% of their solid waste from landfills by the year 2000. As of 2006, Santa Barbara County achieved a 69% solid waste diversion rate through recycling and reduction programs and policies (CalRecycle, 2014) and the County has continued to expand programs and locations for solid waste reduction.

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle): CalRecycle was established in 2010 in an effort to streamline state recycling and waste diversion efforts. These responsibilities were formerly administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. CalRecycle is now comprised of the Waste Management Division and the Recycling Division, which manage programs created through the Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939).

AB 341 (2011): AB 341 set a 75 percent recycling goal for California by Year 2020 and includes mandated increased recycling services for public agencies and multifamily housing.

**Local**

Santa Barbara County Source Reduction and Recycling Element, 1992 (SRRE): This element was adopted consistent with the 1989 California Integrated Solid Waste Management Act. The goal of the SRRE is to reduce the amount of solid waste entering landfills by implementing, in order of priority, source reduction, recycling and composting, and environmental transformation (incineration, pyrolysis, or biological conversion), with the final option being land disposal of waste.

Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan includes several policies and programs that promote landfill diversion, including recycling or reuse of construction waste, and the provision of adequate areas for recycling bins and recycling collection activities in new development.

### 4.10.3 PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

#### 4.10.3.1 OCP EIR SEWER

The OCP EIR determined that full buildout under the OCP could generate wastewater flows in excess of the Laguna County Sanitation District's (LCSD's) treatment plant capacity (*Impact WW-4*). The Board's final action on the OCP reduced buildout square footage and the number of residential units to a level where flows could be accommodated by the existing plant, subject to the potential need to expand the plant based on Site 22 development. The OCP EIR also identified significant impacts from decreased groundwater quality as a result of wastewater return flows with high dissolved solids concentrations (*Impact WAT-5*). The impact to groundwater quality could potentially be mitigated to less than significant at some time in the future when agreements are reached to use only low-TDS water to serve development. However, until implementation of such agreements, cumulative impacts (from buildout) to groundwater quality from wastewater disposal were determined to be significant and unavoidable (Class I). The EIR identified seven measures that would partially mitigate the cumulative Class I impact associated with OCP buildout, all of which were incorporated into the OCP. The OCP EIR Volume II Mini-EIR for KS18 also identified significant unavoidable impacts from KS18 buildout under the OCP, as long-term demand for additional wastewater treatment exceeded the LCSD plant's capacity (Class I).

Since OCP adoption, LCSD addressed the above issues with a 2003 plant upgrade, which included incorporation of reverse osmosis and brine disposal. In addition, LCSD has developed a master plan that addresses a future capacity expansion to accommodate full buildout of the OCP.

#### 4.10.3.2 OCP EIR SOLID WASTE

The OCP EIR determined that the OCP would result in significant solid waste impacts from 10-year buildout (*Impact SW-1*), full buildout (*Impact SW-2*) and from increased need for a new landfill due to reducing the life of the Santa Maria Landfill (*Impact SW-3*). The OCP EIR recommended Mitigation Measures SW-1, SW-2, SW-4, SW-5 and SW-6, which would reduce solid waste stream by as much as 50%, prolonging the life expectancy of the landfill. However, the OCP EIR concluded that remaining solid waste would continue to exceed the County's landfill capacity, and that impacts would be significant and unavoidable (Class I). The Mini-EIR for KS18 determined that development of KS18 under the OCP would contribute to each of these impacts and would result in a project specific impact by generating 199 tons/yr of solid waste (*Impact KS18-SW-1*). It was determined that project-specific impacts from solid waste generation could be reduced to less than significant levels (Class II project specific) with implementation of mitigation adopted as development standards in the OCP, which are capable of reducing solid waste generation by up to 50%.

- **Policy RR-O-1:** Resource conservation and recovery shall be implemented in Orcutt to divert the waste stream from area landfills to the maximum extent feasible.
- **Action RR-O-1.1:** The County, in conjunction with the local waste hauler, shall continue to encourage a residential, commercial, and industrial recycling program throughout the Orcutt Planning Area, including yard waste collection, composting and conservation programs.
- **Action RR-O-1.2:** The County should develop an education program in Orcutt to provide information on conservation, recycling and composting techniques and an awards campaign to recognize significant local reduction achievements.

- **DevStd RR-O-1.3:** All multi-family residential areas and commercial/industrial projects shall establish a recyclable material pickup area (i.e., recycling bins, loading dock) where collection of currently accepted recyclable materials could be accommodated.
- **DevStd RR-O-1.4:** Developers shall provide recycling bins at all construction sites, where collection of currently accepted recyclable construction materials could be accommodated.
- **Action RR-O-1.5:** The County shall encourage developers to use recycled building materials such as composites, metals, and plastics, to the greatest extent feasible.
- **Action RR-O-1.6:** The County shall explore potential recycling drop-off sites that will not impact residential areas.
- **Action RR-O-1.7:** To the greatest degree feasible, in new development of 20 units or greater, the developer shall work with the local recycling service to ensure that curbside recycling pick-up service is provided.
- **Policy RR-O-2:** The County shall strive to ensure that adequate solid waste services are available to accommodate expected growth in Orcutt.

#### 4.10.4 IMPACT ANALYSIS

The project's physical impacts on the environment would result from the proposed construction and long-term use of the OASIS property. Also refer to discussion in section 6.1 (Growth Inducing Effects) regarding increased development potential related to the General Plan Amendments, Lot Line Adjustment, and Government Code consistency requests.

##### 4.10.4.1 WASTEWATER IMPACTS

**WW-1: The project would not result in significant impacts related to wastewater disposal and treatment services (Class III).**

Wastewater services would be provided by LCSD, which has sufficient capacity to serve the project (M. Wilder, LCSD). The County's Thresholds Manual does not include thresholds for wastewater impacts. However, currently LCSD is not exceeding 75% of the plant's design capacity and additional wastewater from the OASIS project would not substantively increase the treatment volumes. In addition, LCSD has developed a master plan that addresses a future capacity expansion to accommodate full buildout of the OCP. The existing trunk sewer line, which runs along Orcutt Creek and near the northern property line of the OASIS property, would be used to convey wastewater generated by the project (no crossing of the creek necessary). The project's connection to this existing trunk line would not extend sewer trunk lines to other properties and the project would not cause the need for new or altered sewer system facilities. The site is already in the LCSD service territory, and the District has adequate capacity to serve the project. As part of the standard development regulatory process, the applicant would need to provide a *final* "can and will" serve letter from LCSD prior to zoning clearance. Therefore, the project would result in adverse, but less than significant impacts related to access to sewer facilities or wastewater treatment. (Class III)

#### 4.10.4.2 SOLID WASTE IMPACTS

##### **SW-1: The project would result in an adverse, but less than significant project specific and cumulative increase in demand for solid waste disposal services. (Class III)**

Solid waste generation for the proposed project was estimated using solid waste generation rates in the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (Thresholds Manual). The County has thresholds for a project's solid waste generation in both the construction and operational phases. Any commercial, industrial or residential construction project that is projected to create more than 350 tons of construction and demolition debris is considered to have a significant impact on public services. Commercial projects of 28,000 sf are estimated to exceed reach this threshold. The OASIS project involves 15,333 square feet (and no demolition). Therefore, the project would not exceed the construction phase threshold. The solid waste threshold for the operational phase is projects that would generate more than 196 tons per year of solid waste. The 196 tons per year threshold is based on 5% of the expected annual percentage increase in the total average solid waste generation for Santa Barbara County from 1990 to 2005. Projects that result in a potentially significant impact on solid waste generation would also be considered cumulatively significant, as the project-specific threshold of significance is based on a cumulative growth scenario. However, as landfill space is already limited, any increase in solid waste of 1% or more of the estimated increase accounted for in the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) would be considered an adverse contribution to regional cumulative solid waste impacts. One percent of the SRRE projected increase in solid waste equates to 40 tons per year. Projects or developments that generate less than 40 tons per year of solid waste would not be considered to have an adverse effect due to the small amount of waste generated by these projects and the existing waste reduction provisions in the SRRE.

The 196 tons/year operational threshold assumes up to 50% of this solid waste generation could be reduced through implementation of source reduction, recycling and composting measures<sup>2</sup>. Based on rates identified in the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (Thresholds Manual), the project is estimated to generate approximately 191.66 tons of construction waste and between 8 and 15 tons/yr of solid waste, depending on effectiveness of waste reduction efforts. The calculations below are based on the categories in the Thresholds Manual that are the closest fit to the project.

##### **Commercial Project**

Construction – (Commercial Project)

$$25 \text{ lb/square foot} * 15,333 \text{ square feet} = 191 \text{ tons}$$

Long-Term/Operational Phase – (Educational Institution)

$$15,333 \text{ sq. ft.} * 0.0010 \text{ (Thresholds Manual)} = 15.33 \text{ tons/year}$$

Because the construction period and operational phase solid waste generation estimates for the project would not exceed the County's thresholds, impacts related to solid waste generation would be less than significant. Because landfill space is already extremely limited, projects which generate 40 tons per year of solid waste (in operational impacts) would be considered an adverse contribution (Class III) to regional cumulative solid waste impacts. To reduce adverse cumulative

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<sup>2</sup> As noted in the County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (October 2008), AB 939 requires each municipality in the state to divert at least 50% of its solid waste from landfill disposal. Through recycling and reduction programs and policies, Santa Barbara County has achieved a 69% solid waste diversion rate as of 2006 (CalRecycle, 2014), and this is considered a more reliable estimate of waste diversion for the project.

impacts, mitigation is recommended for projects which generate between 40 and 196 tons of solid waste per year. Projects which generate less than 40 tons per year of solid waste would not be considered to have an adverse cumulative effect. Because the OASIS project is expected to generate less than 40 tons per year of solid waste, no mitigation is required. Therefore, the project would result in less than significant project-specific or cumulative solid waste impacts (Class III)

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The project's contributions to cumulative increases in wastewater requiring treatment and solid waste requiring landfill disposal would not be considerable and would not result in significant cumulative impacts based on the following:

Wastewater: The LCSD has confirmed there is sufficient capacity to treat the project's wastewater. Project fees will address the project's fair share contribution toward plant upgrades necessary to meet anticipated demand anticipated under OCP buildout.

Solid Waste: The estimated increase in solid waste generation for both the construction period and the operational phase would be less than the project specific and cumulative solid waste thresholds. The Santa Maria Landfill is nearing capacity and Orcutt area waste will then be disposed of at the Integrated Waste Management Facility southeast of Orcutt.

Approval of the General Plan Amendment components, Recorded Map Modifications and Government Code 65402 Consistency requests may encourage similar requests for the other Southpoint Estates (KS18) open space parcels, as well as for other designated open space parcels in the Orcutt area or elsewhere in the County. Approval of such requests would increase the development potential of additional open space areas, which were set aside as part of past land use decisions for the purpose of preserving resources and offsetting various environmental impacts of development projects.

The amount and types of increased development that could result from similar requests throughout the County's unincorporated area are not specifically known. However, conversion of such open space areas to development and other uses would be expected to increase demand for public services, including sewer, solid waste disposal and school services (less than significant school impacts are discussed in Section 5.0, *Impacts Not Significant*). Impacts would be dependent on project details including location (e.g., rural versus urban), type, size, and estimated population increase. (Also see Section 6.1, *Growth Inducing Effects*).

### **4.10.5 MITIGATION**

No mitigation is required to reduce wastewater and solid waste impacts to less than significant levels. With regard to sewer services, the property is within the LCSD boundaries, is located in proximity to an existing sewer main, and there is adequate existing capacity at the sewer treatment plant to accommodate and treat the project's estimated in wastewater effluent. A can and will serve letter will be required from Laguna County Sanitation District before zoning clearance per standard County regulatory process to ensure that adequate sewer service would be available prior to initiating actual project development. .

Although not required to reduce solid waste disposal impacts to less than significant levels, the following mitigation measure is recommended to minimize adverse, but less than significant impacts from generation of solid waste.



## **IMPACTS AFTER MITIGATION**

**Impact WW-1: The project would not result in significant impacts related to wastewater disposal and treatment services (Class III).**

Impact WW-1 would be less than significant, subject to the standard regulatory process, which requires submittal of a final “can and will” serve letter from Laguna County Sanitation District.

**Impact SW-1: The project would result in an adverse, but less than significant project specific and cumulative increase in demand for solid waste disposal services. (Class III)**

Impact SW-1 would be adverse, but less than significant (without mitigation).

