

4.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This chapter describes the existing utilities and service systems in the San Joaquin River Parkway Plan Area (Parkway Plan Area) and evaluates the potential impacts from buildout of the proposed Project on those services and facilities. Water supply, sanitary wastewater, and solid waste are each addressed in a separate section of this chapter. In each section, a summary of the relevant regulatory setting and existing conditions is followed by a discussion of plan-specific and cumulative impacts. Storm drainage systems and groundwater are addressed in Chapter 4.9, Hydrology and Water Quality.

4.16.1 WATER SERVICES

Public drinking water in the Parkway Plan Area is provided by wells operated pursuant to regulations under the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board, and by public water systems, such as Fresno County Water Works District 18 and the City of Fresno. This section outlines the regulatory setting, describes environmental setting, and discusses potential impacts from buildout of the proposed Project with regard to water supply, treatment, and distribution in the Parkway Plan Area.

4.16.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regulatory Framework

The following are federal and State regulations that affect water service within the Parkway Plan Area.

Federal and State Regulations

Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national standards for drinking water, called the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants. These standards set enforceable maximum contaminant levels in drinking water and require all water providers in the United States to treat water to remove contaminants, except for private wells serving fewer than 25 people. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water conducts most enforcement activities. If a water system does not meet standards, it is the water supplier's responsibility to notify its customers.

California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne), which was passed in California in 1969, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has the ultimate authority over State water rights and water quality policy. Porter-Cologne also establishes nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) to oversee water quality on a day-to-day basis at the local and regional level. RWQCBs engage in a number of water quality

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functions in their respective regions. RWQCBs regulate all pollutant or nuisance discharges that may affect either surface water or groundwater.¹ The Plan Area is overseen by the Central Valley RWQCB.

California Urban Water Management Planning Act

Through the Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983, the California Water Code requires all urban water suppliers within California to prepare and adopt an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and update it every five years. This requirement applies to all suppliers providing water to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet² of water annually. The Act is intended to support conservation and efficient use of urban water supplies in a local area. The Act requires that total project water use be compared to water supply sources over the next 20 years in five-year increments, that planning occur for single and multiple dry water years, and that plans include water recycling analyses that incorporate a description of the wastewater collection and treatment system within the agency's service area along with current and potential recycled water uses.³

California Groundwater Management Act of 1992

The Groundwater Management Act of the California Water Code (Assembly Bill [AB] 3030) provides guidance for applicable local agencies to develop voluntary Groundwater Management Plans (GMP) in State-designated groundwater basins. GMPs can allow agencies to raise revenue to pay for measures influencing the management of the basin, including extraction, recharge, conveyance, facilities' maintenance, and water quality.⁴

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (Senate Bill x7-7, 2009)⁵

Senate Bill x7-7 (SBx7-7) requires all water suppliers to increase water use efficiency. SBx7-7 mandates the reduction of per capita water use and agricultural water use throughout the State by 20 percent by 2020.

The Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881)⁶

AB 1881 requires cities and counties (including charter cities and counties) to adopt landscape water conservation ordinances by January 31, 2010 or to adopt a different ordinance that is at least as effective in conserving water as the California Updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance that went into effect in October 2009.⁷ Until

¹ California Wetlands Information System. *Summary of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act*, http://resources.ca.gov/wetlands/permitting/Porter_summary.html, accessed April 21, 2017.

² One acre-foot is the amount of water required to cover 1 acre of ground (43,560 square feet) to a depth of 1 foot.

³ Department of Water Resources. *About Urban Water Management*, <http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanwatermanagement/>, accessed April 21, 2017.

⁴ Department of Water Resources Planning and Local Assistance Central District. *Groundwater, Groundwater Management*, <http://www.cd.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwab3030.cfm>, accessed April 21, 2017.

⁵ California Department of Water Resources, <http://water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/sb7/>, accessed April 21, 2017.

⁶ California Department of Water Resources, <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>, accessed April 21, 2017.

⁷ State of California, Division 2, Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 2.7, Sections 490 through 495.

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such time as the City’s amendments are complete, the provisions of the Updated Model Landscape Ordinance are in effect.⁸

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) gives local agencies (cities, counties and water districts) the powers needed to sustainably manage groundwater over the long-term, and requires Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) be developed for medium- and high-priority groundwater basins.⁹

Parkway Master Plan Policies

The San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) will implement its mission and the Parkway Master Plan in a manner consistent with its adopted Parkway Master Plan goals, objectives, policies, design guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) to the extent practicable.

Local Regulations and Policies

The Conservancy is the lead agency responsible for preparing, approving, and implementing the proposed Parkway Master Plan. The Conservancy may assist other government agencies and nonprofit organizations in implementing elements of the proposed Plan. The Conservancy’s authorities and jurisdiction are described in Chapter 3, Project Description. Local land use policies relevant water services for Parkway development and implementation are discussed in this section.

Madera County General Plan

Part II, Section 3, Public Facilities and Services, of the Madera County General Plan sets forth regulations pertaining to water supply and infrastructure within the County. Relevant goals and policies are found in Table 4.16-1 below.

TABLE 4.16-1 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO WATER SUPPLY

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
<i>Goal 3.C</i>	<i>To ensure the availability of an adequate and safe water supply and the maintenance of high quality water bodies and aquifers used as sources of domestic and agricultural water supply.</i>
Policy 3.C.1	The County shall approve new development only if an adequate water supply to serve such development is demonstrated.

⁸ AquaSave, AB 1881, http://www.aquasave.us/C2_AB1881.shtml, accessed April 21, 2017.

⁹ California Department of Water Resources, <http://water.ca.gov/>.

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TABLE 4.16-1 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO WATER SUPPLY

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy 3.C.2	The County shall approve new development based on the following guidelines for water supply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Urban and suburban development should rely on community water systems Rural communities should rely on community water systems. Individual wells may be permitted in cases where no community water system exists or can be extended to the property but development will be limited to densities which can be safely developed with wells. Agricultural areas should rely on public water systems where available, otherwise individual water wells are acceptable.
Policy 3.C.3	The County shall limit development in areas identified as having severe water table depression to uses that do not have high water usage or to uses served by a surface water supply.
Policy 3.C.4	The County shall require that water supplies serving new development meet state water quality standards.
Policy 3.C.5	The County shall require that new development adjacent to bodies of water used as domestic water sources adequately mitigate potential water quality impacts on these water bodies.
Policy 3.C.6	The County shall promote efficient water use and reduced water demand by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring water-conserving design and equipment in new construction; Encouraging water-conserving landscaping and other conservation measures; Encouraging retrofitting existing development with water-conserving devices; and Encouraging use of recycled or grey water for landscaping.
Policy 3.C.7	The County shall promote the use of reclaimed wastewater to offset demand for new water supplies.
Policy 3.C.8	The County shall support opportunities for groundwater users in problem areas to convert to surface water supplies.
Policy 3.C.9	The County shall promote the use of surface water for agricultural use to reduce groundwater table reductions.

Source: Madera County General Plan, October 24, 1995.

Madera County Municipal Code

Title 13, Waters and Sewers, contains several chapters to address water supply and quality within Madera County. Chapter 13.12, Service Design Requirements, establishes minimum design requirements for the design and construction of water systems within Madera County. Such considerations include the quantity of water pumped and stored, and the adequacy and dependability of all waterworks facilities. Chapter 13.45, Cross-Connection Prevention for Water Systems, of the Madera County Municipal Code establishes regulations to protect the public water supply from potential contamination through cross-connections. Development standards and design guidelines of Chapter 13.45 must be followed in order to prevent cross-connections.

Fresno County General Plan

The Public Facilities & Services Element of the Fresno County General Plan includes policies and goals to protect and ensure adequate water supply and conveyance infrastructure for residents of Fresno County. Table 4.16-2 shows policies and goals relevant to water supply.

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TABLE 4.16-2 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO WATER SUPPLY

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy PF-C.12	The County shall approve new development only if an adequate sustainable water supply to serve such development is demonstrated.
Policy PF-C.13	In those areas identified as having severe groundwater level declines or limited groundwater availability, the County shall limit development to uses that do not have high water usage or that can be served by a surface water supply.
Policy PF-C.14	The County shall require that water supplies serving new development meet US Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Health Services [now Division of Drinking Water] and other water quality and quantity standards.
Policy PF-C.15	The County shall require that surface water used to serve new development be treated in accordance with the requirements of the California Surface Water Treatment Rule (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 17)
Policy PF-C.16	If the cumulative effects of more intensive land use proposals are detrimental to the water supplies of surrounding areas, the County shall require approval of the project to be dependent upon adequate mitigation. The County shall require that costs of mitigating such adverse impacts to water supplies be born proportionately by all parties to the proposal.
Policy PF-C.17	<p>The County shall, prior to consideration of any discretionary project related to land use, undertake a water supply evaluation. The evaluation shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A determination that the water supply is adequate to meet the highest demand that could be permitted on the lands in question. If surface water is proposed, it must come from a reliable source and the supply must be made "firm" by water banking or other suitable arrangement. If groundwater is proposed, a hydrogeologic investigation may be required to confirm the availability of water in amounts necessary to meet project demand. If the lands in question lie in an area of limited groundwater, a hydrogeologic investigation shall be required. A determination of the impact that use of the proposed water supply will have on other water users in Fresno County. If use of surface water is proposed, its use must not have a significant negative impact on agriculture or other water users within Fresno County. If use of groundwater is proposed, a hydrogeologic investigation may be required. If the lands in question lie in an area of limited groundwater, a hydrogeologic investigation shall be required. Should the investigation determine that significant pumping-related physical impacts will extend beyond the boundary of the property in question, those impacts shall be mitigated. A determination that the proposed water supply is sustainable or that there is an acceptable plan to achieve sustainability. The plan must be structured such that it is economically, environmentally, and technically feasible. In addition, its implementation must occur prior to long-term and/or irreversible physical impacts, or significant economic hardship, to surrounding water users.
Policy PF-C.19	The County shall discourage the proliferation of small community water systems.
Policy PF-C.20	The County shall not permit new private wells within areas served by a public water system.
Policy PF-C.25	The County shall require that all new development within the County use water conservation technologies, methods, and practices as established by the County.
Policy PF-C.26	The County shall encourage the use of reclaimed water where economically, environmentally, and technically feasible.

Source: Fresno County General Plan, October 2000.

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Fresno County Municipal Code

Title 14, Water and Sewage, of the Fresno County Municipal Code contains several chapters to regulate water supply and water quality within Fresno County. As such, Chapter 14.03, Groundwater Management; Chapter 14.94, Well Regulations; and Chapter 14.20, Transportation of Water for Domestic Use are relevant to water supply.

City of Fresno General Plan

Chapter 4, Section E, Public Facilities Element, establishes policies and objectives necessary to provide adequate, and safe water supplies to the city of Fresno. Table 4.16-3 contains the policies relevant to maintain the City's water supply for current and future development.

TABLE 4.16-3 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO WATER SUPPLY

Policy/Objective Number	Policy/Objectives
Objective E-22	Manage and develop the City of Fresno's water facilities to ensure a safe, economical, and reliable water supply for existing and planned urban development and economic diversification.
Policy E-22-a	The Departments of Public Utilities and Public Works will develop and use available and innovative tools as necessary to forecast demand on water production and distribution systems by urban development, and to determine appropriate facility needs.
Policy E-22-b	Set adequate and appropriate conditions of approval for each new development proposal to ensure that the necessary potable water production and supply facilities are in place prior to occupancy.
Policy E-22-d	Continue to evaluate existing water production and distribution systems and facilitate necessary repair or enhancement of damaged or antiquated facilities.
Policy E-22-e	Capital improvement costs and benefits of new or upgraded water production and distribution facilities shall be allocated equitably and fairly between existing users and new users, consistent with economic diversification strategies.
Policy E-22-g	Continue to implement water system policies that require the provision of a potable water supply that complies with the standards of the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Acts for consumptive use, and meets applicable standards of volume and pressure for fire suppression purposes.
Policy E-22-i	Mitigate the effects of development and capital improvement projects on the long-range water budget to ensure an adequate water supply for current and future uses.
Policy E-22-k	Implement the Fresno Metropolitan Water Resource Management Plan as necessary to ensure adequate water supplies are available for both short and long term needs that development of peripheral areas, including the planned North Growth and Southeast Growth Areas and other areas outside the city's adopted sphere of influence, will not adversely affect efforts to balance water demand with water supply.

Source: City of Fresno 2025 General Plan, February 1, 2002.

City of Fresno Municipal Code

Article 5, Water Regulations, contained in Chapter 6, Municipal Services and Utilities, of the City of Fresno Municipal Code sets forth regulations with respect to water supply and water quality. Rates, rules and regulations, system construction, water connection charges, and permits, are a few of the items addressed in Article 5.

2010 Urban Water Management Plan¹⁰

The 2010 City of Fresno Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), adopted on November 29, 2012 describes the current and future water use, sources of supply and their reliability, pursuant to the Urban Water Management Planning Act. The UWMP presents supply and demand projections in five-year increments to the year 2035.

Existing Setting

*Madera County*¹¹

The County of Madera water users have relied on groundwater to meet their domestic and agricultural water demand. That demand has begun to put a strain on the overall groundwater supply. Madera County consists of approximately 2,147 square miles, and in terms of groundwater supply, has two major groundwater basins: 1) Valley Floor, and 2) Foothills and Mountains. Much of the strain in water supply is a result of Madera County's rapid increase in growth and population, having averaged 3 percent per year from 2000 to 2007. The Madera County Planning Department estimates that the County could have a population of approximately 355,000 by 2030 based on area-specific plans. This estimate is more than double the approximately 150,000 residents at the time of this Draft EIR.

The primary land uses in the County range from agricultural and open space to residential and commercial uses. Accordingly, agriculture accounts for about 53 percent of the land use, and open space for about 38 percent. The remaining nine percent consist of residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial uses. Therefore, to keep production viable, agricultural uses consume a majority of the County's water supply.

According to the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWP), Madera County demanded approximately 1.2 million acre-feet (maf) of water, of which 1.17 maf (97 percent) was utilized by agricultural uses and only 29,540 acre-feet used by cities, unincorporated towns, and private residences. Between 2000 and 2006, water demand averaged 311 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) for the City of Chowchilla, 230 gpcd for the City of Madera, and 168 gpcd for the unincorporated areas, and 191 gpcd for the County on average.

Madera County's water demand is met by groundwater, which supplies approximately 75 percent of the demand, and surface water sources supplying the remaining 25 percent. In the vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area and near the San Joaquin River, east of the City of Madera, the groundwater levels have declined at an average rate of less than 1 foot per year, while in other areas of the County have averaged nearly 1 foot per year. In general, the further away from the Chowchilla, Fresno, or San Joaquin River, the potential for greater decline in groundwater level can occur.

Diversions from the San Joaquin River through the Madera Canal is a the major source of surface water for agricultural and urban uses throughout Madera County. The river is controlled through several dams and reservoirs, of which the Friant Dam is in the vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area.

¹⁰ City of Fresno, 2012. 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, November 29.

¹¹ County of Madera, 2008. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, April, pages ES-4 to ES-9.

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*Fresno County*¹²

Fresno County uses a water supply consisting of groundwater and surface water supplies. Management of the water supply is accomplished through several agencies including the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), cities within the County, water and flood control districts, utility companies, and local irrigation districts; however, all are governed by State and federal regulations. All 15 incorporated cities within the County have municipal water systems with approximately 370 entities providing water to the unincorporated areas of the County, of which 20 serve more than 200 connections.

The San Joaquin River and the Kings River are the major sources of surface water for agricultural and urban uses throughout Fresno County. Both rivers are controlled through several dams and reservoirs, of which the Friant Dam is in the vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area. An average of 700,000 acre-feet per year is released from the reservoirs.

More than 95 percent of the County's total population is dependent upon groundwater for domestic and industrial purposes. Additionally, groundwater supply plays an active role in supporting agricultural production; however, most of the agricultural demands are met by surface water. Therefore, groundwater is used by agriculture to supplement the surface water supply.

Potable water supplies in the County are primarily managed by each of the cities and special districts in the County.

City of Fresno

The City of Fresno Water Division operates the City of Fresno's water supply system and delivers water to approximately 500,000 urban residential, commercial, and industrial customers covering over 114 square miles of the City along with some County areas located within the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI). Areas not served by the Water Division within the SOI include areas served by: the Bakman Water Company; Pinedale County Water District; Park Van Ness Mutual Water Company; California State University at Fresno; and other private groundwater users located within County islands, but within the City's SOI.¹³ In 2010, the City had approximately 130,317 water service connections, of which, 84 percent were single-family residential; and 16 percent were multi-family residential, commercial/institutional, industrial, landscape irrigation, and fire service connections.¹⁴

The City of Fresno's primary source of water is groundwater coming from an underground basin known as an aquifer. Comprised of approximately 260 wells, the City's Water Division pumps approximately 125 million gallons of water per day (mgd). At peak, the Water Division can deliver as much as 200 mgd. Supplementing the City's groundwater supply is water conveyed from the Sierra Nevada mountain range which transfers through the Surface Water Treatment Facility (SWTF), which supplies nearly 20 mgd.¹⁵ Overall, groundwater levels in the Fresno area have declined at an average of 1.5 feet per year since 1990.

¹² County of Fresno, Fresno County General Plan Update Draft EIR, February 2000, Chapter 4.8, Water Resources.

¹³ City of Fresno, 2013. NOP for Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update DEIR, September 6.

¹⁴ City of Fresno, 2012. 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, November 29, page 3-4.

¹⁵ City of Fresno, <https://www.fresno.gov/publicutilities/water-quality-delivery-testing/water-source-distribution/>, accessed April 21, 2017.

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Surface water supplies in the City of Fresno are sourced through contracts with the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) to secure an allocation of FID’s water entitlement from the King’s River; a USBR contract supply from the San Joaquin River; and, the City’s Wastewater Recycle Exchange Agreement with FID.

FID Contract

An agreement executed by the City of Fresno and FID on May 25, 1976, establishes a maximum amount of water available to the City of Fresno from the Kings River.

USBR Contract

In December 2010, the City of Fresno procured a permanent contract with the USBR pursuant to Section 9(d) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 providing the City with a permanent supply of surface water from the USBR. Since the USBR oversees diversions from the San Joaquin River through the Friant-Kern Canal, the City was required to enter into an agreement to ensure a steady supply of surface water from the San Joaquin River. The contract entitles the City to 60,000 acre-feet per year (af/yr) of Class 1 water, which is water supplied from Millerton Lake, and considered to be very dependable as a source of supply.

Wastewater Recycle Exchange Agreement¹⁶

The Wastewater Recycle Exchange Agreement allows for the City to pump groundwater developed through the percolation of previously treated wastewater effluent. The water is then extracted and supplied to FID canals to become available to downstream customers. The amount of surface water that FID is required to provide to the City is limited to 46 percent of the groundwater that the City pumps into FID’s delivery canal. However, the contract limits the quantity that can be pumped into FID’s canals to 30,000 af/yr or 100,000 af/yr over 10 years. Thereby, 46 percent return from the FID totals a maximum of 13,800 af/yr of Kings River water delivered to the City from FID.

Table 4.16-4 shows the surface water available to the City of Fresno based on the three contracts as described above.

TABLE 4.16-4 CITY OF FRESNO SURFACE WATER SUPPLY THROUGH CONTRACTS (ACRE FEET)

Classification	2015	2020	2025
FID Contract^a			
Wet	126,400	139,100	151,800
Normal-wet	115,200	126,800	138,400
Normal	105,400	115,900	126,500
Normal-dry	96,500	106,200	115,800

¹⁶ City of Fresno, 2013. NOP for Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update DEIR, September 6.

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TABLE 4.16-4 CITY OF FRESNO SURFACE WATER SUPPLY THROUGH CONTRACTS (ACRE FEET)

Classification	2015	2020	2025
Dry	86,600	95,300	104,000
Critical-high	62,800	69,100	75,400
Critical-low	54,600	60,100	65,600
USBR Contract^b			
Wet	60,000	60,000	60,000
Normal-wet	60,000	60,000	60,000
Normal	58,200	58,200	58,200
Normal-dry	56,200	56,200	56,200
Dry	39,200	39,200	39,200
Critical-high	25,200	25,200	25,200
Critical-low	13,900	13,900	13,900
Wastewater Recycle Exchange^c			
Wet	13,800	13,800	13,800
Normal-wet	13,800	13,800	13,800
Normal	13,800	13,800	13,800
Normal-dry	13,800	13,800	13,800
Dry	13,800	13,800	13,800
Critical-high	13,800	13,800	13,800
Critical-low	13,800	13,800	13,800
Totals			
Wet	200,200	212,900	225,600
Normal-wet	189,000	200,600	212,200
Normal	177,400	187,900	198,500
Normal-dry	166,500	176,200	185,800

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TABLE 4.16-4 CITY OF FRESNO SURFACE WATER SUPPLY THROUGH CONTRACTS (ACRE FEET)

Classification	2015	2020	2025
Dry	139,600	148,300	157,000
Critical-high	101,800	108,100	114,400
Critical-low	82,300	87,800	93,300

a. In 2005, the City received 0 AF of water from the FID; in 2010, the City received 500 AF of water from FID.
 b. In 2005, the City received 58,731 AF of water from USBR; in 2010, the City received 71,959 AF of water from USBR.
 c. In 2005, the City received no water from the wastewater recycle exchange; in 2010 the City received no water from the wastewater recycle exchange.
 Source: City of Fresno, 2013. NOP for Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update Draft EIR, September 6.

4.16.1.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Project would have a significant impact on water service if it would:

1. Have insufficient water supplies available to serve development as a result of implementing the Plan from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded entitlements.
2. Require or result in the construction of new water facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects.

4.16.1.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

UTIL-1	The Project would result in a less than significant impact on water supplies available to serve the Plan Area from existing entitlements and resources. No new or expanded entitlements would be needed.
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The proposed Project would have a significant impact if it would result an impact on water supplies such that new or expanded entitlements would be needed. As discussed in Chapter 3, Project Description, of this Draft EIR, the update to the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan is conceptual and, therefore, no specific projects are being proposed as part of the Plan itself. Rather, the proposed Project identifies existing facilities, planned facilities, and sites suitable or appropriate for future development based on the recreational needs and demand. Future development under implementation of the proposed Project would be required to comply with CEQA and identify project-level impacts and mitigation measures when specific projects are proposed.

For purposes of this analysis, future facilities identified as part of the proposed Plan are considered in this impact discussion. As described in the existing conditions of this section, Madera County, Fresno County, and the City of Fresno, rely on a combination of groundwater and surface water resources which serve the needs of agricultural, residential, and commercial demands. Having water supplied from groundwater and surface sources, allows for jurisdictions to be flexible as to how water is sourced based on demand and seasonality. The City of Fresno has

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several contracts which allot a maximum amount of water from surface water sources. As indicated in the Table 4.16-4 notes, the City doesn't yet always utilize what is allocated, therefore the existing supply would be sufficient to accommodate facilities within its jurisdiction.

Several Parkway facilities currently have irrigation, restrooms, campsites, and picnic areas, all of which require water to operate. The proposed Project would introduce new facilities and/or structures that would require water to operate, including drinking fountains, restrooms, and campsites, and landscape irrigation, which could result in an increased demand to the overall water supply. Habitat restoration projects would also require short-term irrigation. Drinking water demands would be served by public water systems where available, or by individual on-site wells. In the case of habitat restoration, irrigation needs may be met through on-site wells or existing riparian rights associated with the Parkway properties.

Although there could be an increase in demand on the water supply as a result of implementation of the proposed Project, such demand would occur over a number of years, and be distributed among the supplies and systems of the County of Fresno, County of Madera, and City of Fresno, depending on the location of a future facility. Accordingly, no one jurisdiction would be the sole supplier of the water supply. Further, since the proposed infrastructure to serve low-impact recreation and habitat conservation would be minimal, the overall increase in demand would be inconsequential compared to the existing and projected water supplies of each jurisdiction.

Policy ACCESS.31, listed below, and associated BMPs and design guidelines of the proposed Project would establish that drinking water may only be provided in the Parkway where a public water system connection is available or a public water system well is feasible, in compliance with standards, and with efficient water fixtures and irrigation.

Public Access and Recreation

ACCESS.31 Provide drinking water in Parkway recreation areas where a community water system connection is available. If feasible, new public drinking water systems may be built, operated and monitored in compliance with State and local laws and regulations.

BMPs WATER-3 Wells and WATER-5 Water Efficiency provide that any drinking water wells must meet the necessary water quality requirements and permits, and that new fixtures and landscape irrigation shall be high-efficiency and designed to minimize water demand.

Additional policies under each local jurisdiction's General Plans would require the demonstration of adequate water supply prior to future development as well. Madera County has policies Goal 3.C, Policy 3.C.1, Policy 3.C. through Policy 3.C.9 to protect its water supply. Fresno County's Policy PF-C.12 through Policy PF-C.20, Policy PF-C.25, and Policy PF-C.26 ensure adequate water supply for areas within its jurisdiction, and the City of Fresno's Objective E-22, and Policy E-22-a through E-22-k require adequate water supply for development that demands water services from the City.

Because there are several measures, policies, and regulations that would require potential future development to be adequately served by water supply prior to construction, the impact with respect to water supply would, therefore, be *less than significant*.

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Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 3.C, Policy 3.C.1, Policy 3.C. through Policy 3.C.9)
- County of Fresno General Plan (Policy PF-C.12 through Policy PF-C.20, Policy PF-C.25, and Policy PF-C.26)
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-22, and Policy E-22-a through E-22-k)

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

UTIL-2	The Project would not require or result in the construction of new water facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects.
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The proposed Project would have a significant impact if it would result in the construction of new water facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. As discussed previously, the proposed Project is a programmatic plan and there are no specific projects being proposed under the proposed Project. The proposed Project is a long range planning document that identifies areas suitable for future development and as needed to support the demand for habitat restoration and recreational use. For purposes of the analysis, future recreational facilities such as restrooms, campsites, and picnic areas would require water to operate, and therefore could result in the potential of expansion of existing facilities, or the construction of new facilities. Habitat restoration irrigation needs would be met through existing riparian rights or on-site wells.

Overall, the proposed Project seeks to provide facilities to support the recreational visitors to the extent that such facilities are in need based on usage of the Parkway. Further, the demand at potential buildout, would utilize an amount of water inconsequential to the overall water use of each of the local jurisdictions and suppliers. As mentioned earlier, future projects would be required to comply with CEQA and separate project-level review would identify specific impacts and mitigation measures relevant to the actual location of development.

The County of Madera, County of Fresno, and the City of Fresno also have provisions in their municipal codes that regulate and in some cases levy development impact fees to ensure that existing water conveyance and supply facilities are adequately maintained to accommodate demand. Madera County's Title 13, Waters and Sewers, Fresno County's Title 14, Water and Sewage, Chapter 14.03, Groundwater Management, Chapter 14.94, Well Regulations, and Chapter 14.20, Transportation of Water for Domestic Use, and the City of Fresno's Article 5, Water Regulations, all seek to ensure water supply is adequate to serve the needs of its residents.

Because compliance with State and federal laws, and consistency with local land use planning would ensure that water supply systems are sufficient to accommodate development, and the overall inconsequential demand usage of water at full buildout of the proposed Project, it is unlikely that existing infrastructure would be significantly impacted nor additional municipal water facilities be constructed as a result of implementation of the proposed Plan, therefore, the impact would be *less than significant*.

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Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera Municipal Code (Title 13, Waters and Sewers)
- County of Fresno Municipal Code (Title 14, Water and Sewage, Chapter 14.03, Groundwater Management, Chapter 14.94, Well Regulations, and Chapter 14.20, Transportation of Water for Domestic Use)
- City of Fresno Municipal Code (Article 5, Water Regulations)

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.16.1.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

UTIL-3	The Project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in less than significant cumulative impacts with respect to water service.
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The proposed Project would have a significant effect, if in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, it would result in significant cumulative impacts with respect to water service.

Because the geographical scope in consideration to the water services for cumulative impacts is similar to the individual impact analyses above, the impacts would be the same. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 3.C, Policy 3.C.1, Policy 3.C. through Policy 3.C.9)
- County of Madera Municipal Code (Title 13, Waters and Sewers)
- County of Fresno General Plan (Policy PF-C.12 through Policy PF-C.20, Policy PF-C.25, and Policy PF-C.26)
- County of Fresno Municipal Code (Title 14, Water and Sewage, Chapter 14.03, Groundwater Management, Chapter 14.94, Well Regulations, and Chapter 14.20, Transportation of Water for Domestic Use)
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-22, and Policy E-22-a through E-22-k)
- City of Fresno Municipal Code (Article 5, Water Regulations)

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.16.2 SEWER SERVICES

4.16.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regulatory Framework

Federal Regulations

Clean Water Act

The Federal Clean Water Pollution Act of 1972, more commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), regulates the discharge of pollutants into watersheds throughout the nation. Under the CWA, the EPA implements pollution control programs and sets wastewater standards.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was established in the Clean Water Act to regulate municipal and industrial discharges to surface waters of the United States. Federal NPDES permit regulations have been established for broad categories of discharges, including point-source municipal waste discharges and nonpoint-source stormwater runoff. NPDES permits generally identify effluent and receiving water limits on allowable connections and/or mass emissions of pollutants contained in the discharge; prohibitions on discharges not specifically allowed under the permit; and provisions that describe required actions by the discharger, including industrial pretreatment, pollution prevention, self-monitoring, and other activities.

Wastewater discharge is regulated under the NPDES permit program for direct discharges into receiving waters and by the National Pretreatment Program for indirect discharges to a sewage treatment plant.

State Regulations and Agencies

Wastewater treatment and planning is regulated at the State level. Specific regulations relevant to the proposed Plan are described below.

State Water Resources Control Board

On May 2, 2006, the SWRCB adopted a General Waste Discharge Requirement (Order No. 2006-0003) for all publicly owned sanitary sewer collection systems in California with more than one mile of sewer pipe. The order provides a consistent statewide approach to reducing sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) by requiring public sewer system operators to take all feasible steps to control the volume of waste discharged into the system, to prevent sanitary sewer waste from entering the storm sewer system, and to develop a Sanitary System Management Plan (SSMP). The General Waste Discharge Requirement also requires that storm sewer overflows be reported to the SWRCB using an online reporting system.

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The Central Valley RWQCB is the local division of the SWRCB. The Central Valley RWQCB issues NPDES permits in the Plan Area. NPDES permits allow the RWQCB to collect information on where the waste is disposed, what type of waste is being disposed, and what entity is depositing the wastes. The RWQCB is also charged with conducting inspections of permitted discharges and monitoring permit compliance.

Sanitary District Act of 1923

The Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health and Safety Code, Section 6400 et seq.) authorizes the formation of sanitation districts and enforces the requirements for districts to construct, operate, and maintain facilities for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater. The Act was amended in 1949 to allow the districts to also provide solid waste management and disposal services, including refuse transfer and resource recovery.

Parkway Master Plan Policies

The Conservancy will implement its mission and the Parkway Master Plan in a manner consistent with its adopted Parkway Master Plan goals, objectives, policies, design guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) to the extent practicable.

Local Regulations and Policies

The Conservancy is the lead agency responsible for preparing, approving, and implementing the proposed Parkway Master Plan. The Conservancy may assist other government agencies and nonprofit organizations in implementing elements of the proposed Plan. The Conservancy's authorities and jurisdiction are described in Chapter 3, Project Description. Local land use policies relevant to Parkway development and implementation are discussed in this section.

Madera County General Plan

The Public Facilities and Services section of the Madera County General Plan contains policies and goals to ensure adequate wastewater treatment facilities in Madera County. Relevant policies are shown in Table 4.16-5.

Madera County Municipal Code

Title 13, Water and Sewers, establishes regulations with regard to sewer service to residences and businesses of Madera County. Chapter II, Sewage Disposal, and Chapter III, Sewerage and Pit Privy Discharge, are the relevant chapters for sewer-related services.

Fresno County General Plan

The policies and goals shown in Table 4.16-6 are contained in the Public Facilities & Services Element of the Fresno County General Plan, and seek to ensure that Fresno County maintain adequate infrastructure to successfully treat wastewater generated within Fresno County.

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TABLE 4.16-5 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SEWER SERVICES

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Goal 3.D	<i>To ensure adequate wastewater collection and treatment and the safe disposal of liquid and solid waste.</i>
Policy 3.D.2	The County shall promote efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand by: a. Requiring water-conserving design and equipment in new construction; b. Encouraging retrofitting with water-conserving devices; and c. Designing wastewater systems to minimize inflow and infiltration, to the extent economically feasible.
Policy 3.D.3	The County shall permit on-site sewage treatment and disposal on parcels where all current regulations can be met; where parcels have the area, soils, and other characteristics that permit such disposal facilities without threatening surface or groundwater quality or posing any other health hazards; and where community sewer service is not available and cannot be provided.
Policy 3.D.4	The County shall require that the development, operation, and maintenance of on-site disposal systems complies with the requirements and standards of the County Department of Environmental Health.

Source: Madera County General Plan, October 24, 1995.

TABLE 4.16-6 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SEWER SERVICES

Policy / Goal Number	Policy / Goal
Goal PF-D	<i>To ensure adequate wastewater collection and treatment and the safe disposal of wastewater.</i>
Policy PF-D.1	The County shall encourage the installation of public wastewater treatment facilities in existing communities that are experiencing repeated septic system failures and lack sufficient area for septic system repair or replacement and/or posing a potential threat to groundwater.
Policy PF-D.2	The County shall require that any new community sewer and wastewater treatment facilities serving residential subdivisions be owned and maintained by a County Service Area or other public entity approved by the County.
Policy PF-D.4	The County shall limit the expansion of unincorporated, urban density communities to areas where community wastewater treatment facilities can be provided.
Policy PF-D.5	The County shall promote efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand by: a. Requiring water-conserving design and equipment in new construction; b. Encouraging retrofitting with water-conserving devices; and c. Designing wastewater systems to minimize inflow and infiltration, to the extent economically feasible.

Source: Fresno County General Plan, October 2000.

Fresno County Municipal Code

Title 14, Water and Sewage, of the Fresno County Municipal Code regulates and governs sewer service within Fresno County. Chapter 14.12, Mandatory Sewer Connection Regulations, Chapter 14.13, Regulation of Wastewater Discharges in County of Fresno Wastewater Treatment Facilities, and Chapter 14.16, On-site Sewer Connection Assessment Procedures, specifically regulate sewer services.

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City of Fresno General Plan

The policies and goals shown in Table 4.16-7 are contained in the City of Fresno General Plan.

TABLE 4.16-7 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SEWER SERVICES

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Objective E-18	Ensure provision for adequate trunk sewer and collector main capacities to serve existing and planned urban development and economic diversification, including existing developed uses not presently connected to the public sewer system consistent with the Wastewater Master Plan.
Policy E-18-a	Pursue construction of new or replacement sewer trunk facilities (such as extension of the Fowler Avenue sewer from South Maple Avenue to the Regional Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility (RWTRF) and capacity enhancement of the Herndon Avenue sewer trunk), or pursue other alternatives consistent with the Wastewater Master Plan (including satellite regional wastewater treatment/reclamation facilities) where necessary to relieve the existing sewer trunks and provide additional capacity to serve planned urban intensification within established areas, planned urban growth areas and existing land uses not presently connected to the public sewer system.
Policy E-18-b	Pursue enlargement or extension of the sewage collection system where necessary to serve planned urban development including the designated North and Southeast Growth Areas, with the capital costs and benefits allocated equitably and fairly between the existing users and new users while facilitating economic diversification. New users shall, to the extent not inconsistent with economic diversification strategies, pay for the cost of being attached to the collection system through connection fees, including the cost of any incremental burden that they may place on the entire system; and pay for their share of operational and maintenance costs in addition to any costs for extraordinary facilities such as lift stations or capacity enhancement measures.
Policy E-18-d	Determine that adequate trunk sewer capacity exists or can be provided to serve proposed development prior to the approval of rezoning, special permits, tract maps, and parcel maps so that the capacities of existing facilities are not exceeded.
Policy E-19	Preserve groundwater quality and ensure that the health and safety of the community is not impaired by use of private on-site disposal systems.
Policy E-19-a	Continue to require mandatory abatement of existing septic systems and mandatory connection to the city's public sewage collection and disposal system including those areas outside the city's adopted sphere of influence where determined necessary for public health and safety reasons.
Policy E-19-b	Discourage use of septic systems, community wastewater disposal systems or other non-regional sewage treatment and disposal systems within the Fresno Metropolitan Area and including areas located outside the city's sphere of influence if these types of wastewater treatment facilities would cause discharges that could result in groundwater degradation, or if such systems are not economically feasible.
Objective E-20	Ensure the provision of adequate sewage treatment and disposal by utilizing the Fresno-Clovis Regional Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility as the primary facility, when economically feasible, for all existing and new development within the metropolitan area.
Policy E-20-a	Provide increased wastewater treatment plant capacity in a timely manner to facilitate planned urban development within the facility's planned service areas, and accommodate experienced increase in flows and loadings from the existing community with the capital costs and benefits allocated equitably and fairly between existing users and new users while facilitating economic diversification. New users shall, to the extent not inconsistent with economic diversification strategies, pay for the cost of being attached to the treatment facility through connection fees, including the cost of any incremental burden that they may place on the entire system; and, pay for the full operational costs of extraordinary facilities such as satellite or "package" treatment plants.

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TABLE 4.16-7 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SEWER SERVICES

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy E-21-a	Implement conservation and other programs and policies to reduce wastewater flows.
Policy E-21-c	Investigate and implement economically effective and environmentally beneficial methods of biosolids handling and disposal.
Policy E-21-f	Ensure adequate provision of facilities for the management of wastewater from wineries and other food and beverage processing facilities.

Source: City of Fresno 2025 General Plan, February 1, 2002.

City of Fresno Municipal Code

Article 5, Water Regulations, contains several sections to regulate and establish procedures related to sewer service connection within the City of Fresno. Rates, permitting procedures, regulations, system design, and other operational regulations are addressed in Article 5.

City of Fresno Sewer System Management Plan

The City of Fresno’s 2009 Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) was approved in July of 2007 and sets forth the framework and provides an overview of the sewer system within the City of Fresno. The SSMP provides operations and maintenance programs for maintaining the sewer system and ensuring that it adequately serves the residents of the City of Fresno. The SSMP provides and supports the City’s projected growth until 2025.

Existing Setting

The Parkway Plan Area has several restrooms located throughout the approximately 23-mile stretch situated at various locations to accommodate visitors. Many of the existing restrooms are vault toilets or use a leach field or septic tank system to collect sewage. Currently, there may be older restrooms (i.e. built before 1997) within Parkway facilities that may be located within the 100-year floodplain.

Madera County

Currently, there are no public wastewater systems in Madera County serving the Parkway Plan Area.

Fresno County

The cities and special districts own and operate several wastewater collection and treatment systems throughout the County. All incorporated cities within Fresno County are served by local sewage collection and treatment systems. As indicated in the Fresno County General Plan Draft EIR, most of the cities in Fresno County have adequate treatment capacity to accommodate growth into the foreseeable future, except for Firebaugh and Sanger, which typically experience flows over their capacity. Neither Firebaugh or Sanger are in the vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area.

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Many of the unincorporated communities have elected to form special districts to provide sewage collection and treatment service. Approximately 30 special districts have formed, and the County owns and operates 11 wastewater treatment facilities on behalf of the districts. For rural areas, septic systems are used for sewage collection and are regulated by the Fresno County Planning and Resource Management Department. The district closest to the Parkway Plan Area is Waterworks District 18.

Waterworks District 18 (WWD18) serves approximately 134 residential, commercial and industrial customers in the community of Friant, at the base of the Friant Dam. Although there is no existing wastewater treatment plant in WWD18, they were on a list with the State for grants to build a treatment plant and are planning one in the future.¹⁷

City of Fresno

The City of Fresno's wastewater system serves more than 440,000 residents, along with thousands of businesses. The system consists of a network of sewer lines ranging from 6 inches to 84 inches in diameter that collect and transport wastewater to the City's Wastewater Treatment plant. In total, more than 1,400 miles of sewer lines and 15 sewer lift stations convey the wastewater.

According to the 2009 Fresno Wastewater Collection System Master Plan, an average single-family dwelling unit generates approximately 290 gallons per day of wastewater, and 109,000 linear feet of relief and replacement sewers are needed for full buildout to accommodate buildout of the City of Fresno's 2025 General Plan. The Fresno-Clovis Wastewater Treatment Plant has the current capacity to treat 80 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater, and treats 68 to 70 mgd.¹⁸

4.16.2.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Project would have a significant impact on wastewater service if it would:

1. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
2. Require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
3. Result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Plan Area that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the Plan's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.

¹⁷ Waterworks District 18, <http://waterworksdist18.com/index.html>, accessed April 21, 2017.

¹⁸ County of Fresno, 2000. Fresno County General Plan Update Draft EIR, February, page 4.5-2.

4.16.2.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

UTIL-4 The Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The proposed Project would have a significant impact if it would exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Although the proposed Project would introduce new structures and facilities that could produce wastewater, such as restroom facilities, several policies of the proposed Project, along with policies under each jurisdiction’s General Plan would ensure that such facilities would operate within applicable standards at the State, regional, local, and federal levels.

Restroom facilities for recreational visitors would be located throughout the Parkway spanning multiple jurisdictions, such as Madera County, Fresno County, and the City of Fresno and, therefore, the impacts could vary depending on the actual location of specific projects. Future development would not only be required to comply with CEQA to identify project-level impacts and mitigation measures, but also be consistent with each jurisdiction’s General Plan and Municipal Code.

Although the impacts to existing sewer systems would vary depending on the jurisdiction, each jurisdiction has adequate treatment facilities assuming continued operation per State and local laws. For areas using septic, each jurisdiction would presumably continue operating according to RWQCB standards. Compliance with the following policy under the proposed Project would ensure that water quality would remain at acceptable levels:

Floodplain and Water Resource Management

Policy:

WATER.7 Install vault toilets and septic systems only in areas where community wastewater treatment is not available and feasible; design, install, and operate such systems in accordance with all applicable State and local laws and regulations.

Public Access and Recreation

Policy:

ACCESS.39 Install and properly maintain restrooms, including vault toilet restrooms in areas where septic systems and community wastewater connections are infeasible, in easily accessible locations, such as parking areas, trailheads, and public use areas.

Further, consistency with each jurisdiction’s General Plan policies and goals would ensure that wastewater is adequately treated to acceptable levels. Madera County’s General Plan includes Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4. Fresno County includes Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5. The City of Fresno protects water quality through Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, and Policy E-20.a.

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Because compliance with applicable State laws, and consistency with local land use requirements, along with the requirement of separate project-level CEQA review of projects implemented under the proposed Plan, the proposed Plan is not expected to exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4)
- County of Fresno General Plan (Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5)
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-18, Policy E-18.a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19.a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, and Policy E-20.a)

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

UTIL-5	The Project would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects.
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The proposed Project would have a significant effect if it resulted in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause environmental effects. As discussed in the prior section, the proposed Project would introduce several new structures and build upon the existing infrastructure to serve recreational visitors of the Parkway. Increased demand on wastewater treatment facilities would primarily result from the construction of additional restrooms.

As mentioned, the proposed Project is a conceptual plan, therefore, the actual location of facilities would be identified throughout implementation of the proposed Project. Project-level CEQA review would identify project-specific impacts and mitigation measures as specific projects are proposed. As discussed in the existing conditions of this section, several of the existing restrooms were constructed as vault toilets or septic or leach field systems; thereby, wastewater treatment facilities are not impacted except to the extent the wastes from vault toilets are removed for proper disposal in municipal wastewater systems. The only treatment facility in the Parkway Plan Area that could treat wastewater originating from Parkway facilities is the Fresno-Clovis Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant has an 80 mgd capacity and currently treats 69 – 70 mgd, therefore, it is operating about 10 mgd under its maximum capacity. The capacity is adequate to accommodate any future wastewater generated within the Parkway and disposed through the system. There are no specific plans for new connections to the Fresno-Clovis wastewater treatment system.

Additionally, Policy WATER.7 and ACCESS.39 of the proposed Project (identified above) would ensure vault toilets and septic systems are only installed in areas where connection to the wastewater treatment is not available.

In addition to Parkway policies, each jurisdiction has their own set of policies and goals surrounding the adequacy of water treatment facilities to accommodate the needs of its residents. Madera County's General Plan includes Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4. Fresno County's General Plan includes Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5. The City of Fresno General Plan protects water quality

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through Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, Policy E-20.a, Policy E-21-a, Policy E-21-c, and E-21-f. Further, Madera County’s Municipal Code Title 13, Water and Sewers, Fresno County’s Title 14, Water and Sewage, and the City of Fresno’s Article 5, Water Regulations, also establish regulations surrounding the adequacy of regional wastewater treatment.

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations, along with separate project-level CEQA review to identify specific impacts at the time projects are proposed, would ensure that impacts are *less than significant*.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4)
- County of Madera Municipal Code, Title 13, Water and Sewers
- County of Fresno General Plan (Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5)
- County of Fresno, Title 14, Water and Sewage
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, Policy E-20.a, Policy E-21-a, Policy E-21-c, and E-21-f)
- City of Fresno, Article 5, Water Regulations

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

UTIL-6	The Project would not result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider(s) which serves or may serve the Parkway Plan Area that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the Plan’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments.
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The proposed Project would have a significant impact if it was determined by the wastewater treatment providers which serve or may serve the Parkway Plan Area that they do not have adequate capacity to serve the proposed Project’s projected demand in addition to the providers’ existing commitments.

As previously discussed, the proposed Project would introduce new structures and facilities associated with low impact recreational activities which could require or demand wastewater treatment. Such facilities could include, but are not limited to, restrooms and drinking water fountains. Although the proposed Project does indicate areas that could be suitable for such facilities, as mentioned in the above analyses, the exact locations of the facilities are not identified. The actual impacts would be identified as specific projects are proposed and would be subject to project-level CEQA analysis to determine specific impacts. For the purpose of this analysis, the facilities that could occur under implementation of the proposed Project are not likely to increase the demand on wastewater treatment plants that may serve the Parkway Plan Area.

Many of the existing restroom facilities are vault toilets or on septic systems; therefore, they do not impact local treatment facilities except to the extent that the wastes from vault toilets are removed and properly disposed in permitted wastewater treatment facilities. Policy WATER.7 and ACCESS.39 under the proposed Project state that vault toilets would be installed in areas that are not available for connection to a municipal wastewater conveyance

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system. Policy WATER.7 also states that such on-site vault toilets and septic facilities would operate according to all State and local regulations.

Further, the only area that would likely present the possibility of connecting to a municipal treatment plant are facilities within the City of Fresno and to future facilities planned for the community of Friant. As discussed in the existing conditions, the Fresno-Clovis Wastewater Treatment Plant has the capacity to treat up to 80 mgd of wastewater and currently treats between 68 and 70 mgd daily; therefore, the potential increase in demand for wastewater treatment as a result of the proposed Project would be inconsequential and would not be considered a significant impact.

Additionally, facilities as a result of implementation of the proposed Plan would be developed throughout the Parkway Plan Area and in many areas would be distant from wastewater system connections; therefore, no single wastewater system would absorb all of the demand. The General Plans within each jurisdiction include policies and goals to ensure that the treatment facilities would be adequate prior to approving new connections. Madera County's General Plan includes Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4. Fresno County's General Plan includes Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5. The City of Fresno General Plan protects water quality through Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, Policy E-20.a, Policy E-21-a, Policy E-21-c, and E-21-f. Madera County's Municipal Code Title 13, Water and Sewers, Fresno County's Title 14, Water and Sewage, and the City of Fresno's Article 5, Water Regulations, also establish regulations surrounding the adequacy of wastewater treatment and sewage.

Because the facilities required to implement the proposed Plan would include restrooms and drinking fountains scattered at low densities throughout the planned Parkway, and many are or would be septic systems and vault toilets, it is unlikely that implementation of the proposed Project would increase demand at level that would require expansion of a wastewater treatment plant. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4)
- County of Madera Municipal Code, Title 13, Water and Sewers
- County of Fresno General Plan (Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5)
- County of Fresno, Title 14, Water and Sewage
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, Policy E-20.a, Policy E-21-a, Policy E-21-c, and E-21-f)
- City of Fresno, Article 5, Water Regulations

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.16.2.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACT DISCUSSION

UTIL-7 The Project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in less than significant cumulative impacts with respect to sewer service.

The proposed Project would result in a significant impact if, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, it would result in cumulative impacts with respect to sewer service. The geographic scope for this cumulative impact analysis is the general area surrounding the Parkway Plan Area that could impact or increase demand to sewer service within a respective jurisdiction.

The Parkway Plan Area on the Fresno County side is largely developed, especially within the City of Fresno limit. The areas that are planned for development in the foreseeable future include Friant Ranch, and areas in Madera County along the Parkway Plan Area, primarily Gunner Ranch and Rio Mesa, all of which would increase overall demand on sewer services.

As discussed in the existing conditions of this section, Madera County does not currently have any wastewater treatment plant serving the vicinity near the Parkway Plan Area. Accordingly, Rio Mesa and Gunner Ranch have planned infrastructure to serve planned development within their respective areas. These developments would provide their own wastewater treatment. Friant Ranch also has an Infrastructure Plan to provide the necessary facilities to accommodate demand from their residents and visitors.

The above analyses with respect to wastewater treatment have indicated that most of the existing facilities within the Parkway are on septic or vault toilet systems, which do not appreciably impact treatment facilities. Since the proposed Project is a conceptual plan and, site-specific projects are not being proposed in this CEQA review, specific locations of facilities that could impact sewer service are unknown. However, policies under the proposed Project would ensure that connection to a municipal sewage system can be adequately accommodated and, if not feasible to do so, would construct vault restrooms or septic systems or leach fields.

Further, consistency with local jurisdictions' policies would ensure that future development does not strain existing sewer and wastewater treatment services. Madera County's General Plan includes Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4. Fresno County's General Plan includes Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5. The City of Fresno's General Plan protects water quality through Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, Policy E-20.a, Policy E-21-a, Policy E-21-c, and E-21-f. Madera County's Municipal Code Title 13, Water and Sewers, Fresno County's Title 14, Water and Sewage, and the City of Fresno's Article 5, Water Regulations, also establish regulations surrounding the adequacy of wastewater treatment and sewage.

Because the demand to sewer service is unlikely to result in a cumulative impact given that foreseeable development would provide their own new infrastructure, and the fact that the proposed Project involves minimal wastewater-generating infrastructure and has a policies in place to only connect to municipal sewer systems if feasible, cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

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Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- County of Madera General Plan (Goal 3.D, Policy 3.D.2, Policy 3.D.3, and Policy 3.D.4)
- County of Madera Municipal Code, Title 13, Water and Sewers
- County of Fresno General Plan (Goal PF-D, Policy PF-D.1, Policy PF-D.2, Policy PF-D.4, and Policy PF-D.5)
- County of Fresno, Title 14, Water and Sewage
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-18, Policy E-18-a, Policy E-18.b, Objective E-19, Policy E-19-a, Policy E-19.b, Objective E-20, Policy E-20.a, Policy E-21-a, Policy E-21-c, and E-21-f)
- City of Fresno, Article 5, Water Regulations

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.16.3 SOLID WASTE

4.16.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regulatory Framework

State Regulations and Agencies

California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991

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

CALGreen Building Code

The California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code) comes into effect for all projects beginning after January 1, 2011. Section 4.408, Construction Waste Reduction Disposal and Recycling mandates that, in the absence of a more stringent local ordinance, a minimum of 50 percent of non-hazardous construction and demolition debris must be recycled or salvaged. The Code requires the applicant to have a waste management plan for onsite sorting of construction debris, which is submitted to the local agencies, in this case the City of Fresno, and the counties of Fresno and Madera, for approval. The plan must:

- Identify the materials to be diverted from disposal by recycling, reuse of waste generated from projects, or salvage for future use or sale;
- Specify if material will be sorted onsite or mixed for transportation to a diversion facility;

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- Identify the diversion facility where the material collected can be taken;
- Identify construction methods employed to reduce the amount of waste generated; and
- Specify that the amount of materials diverted shall be calculated by weight or volume, but not by both.

Parkway Master Plan Policies

The Conservancy will implement its mission and the Parkway Master Plan in a manner consistent with its adopted Parkway Master Plan goals, objectives, policies, design guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) to the extent practicable.

Local Regulations and Policies

The Conservancy is the lead agency responsible for preparing, approving, and implementing the proposed Parkway Master Plan. The Conservancy may assist other government agencies and nonprofit organizations in implementing elements of the proposed Plan. The Conservancy's authorities and jurisdiction are described in Chapter 3, Project Description. Local land use policies relevant to Parkway development and implementation are discussed in this section.

Madera County General Plan

Section 3, Public Facilities and Services, contained in Part II of the Madera County General Plan establishes policies and goals with respect to landfills, transfer stations, and solid waste recycling. As shown in Table 4.16-8, policies and goals aim to ensure sufficient solid waste disposal facilities exist to accommodate solid waste generation within Madera County.

Madera County Municipal Code

Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal, of the Madera County Municipal Code establishes regulations and rates regarding waste collection services in Madera County. Specifically, Section 6-2906, Mandatory Service, states that every person owning or occupying a residence or commercial establishment shall subscribe to solid waste collection service and recycling collection service from an authorized waste collector.

Fresno County General Plan

Section F, Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities, of the Public Facilities & Services Element contains goals and policies relevant to solid waste services in Fresno County. Table 4.16-9 lists applicable policies and goals.

Fresno County Municipal Code

Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal, regulates solid waste collection and disposal services within Fresno County. Section 6-205 provides general regulations such as collection and disposal rules, while Section 6-206 states that solid waste collection and recycling services are mandatory for residents and businesses in Fresno County.

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TABLE 4.16-8 MADERA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SOLID WASTE

Policy/Goal Number	Policy / Goal
Goal 3.F	<i>To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in Madera County.</i>
Policy 3.F.1	The County shall require waste collection in all new urban and suburban development.
Policy 3.F.2	The County shall promote maximum use of solid waste source reduction, recycling, composting, and environmentally-safe transformation of wastes.
Policy 3.F.3	The County shall ensure that solid waste disposal facilities do not violate state standards for contamination of surface or groundwater.
Policy 3.F.4	The County shall promote the siting of new solid waste collection and transfer facilities in locations as close as practical to the areas they serve.
Policy 3.F.5	The County shall ensure that landfills and transfer stations are buffered from incompatible development.
Policy 3.F.6	The County shall require that all new development complies with applicable provisions of the <i>Madera County Integrated Waste Management Plan</i> .
Policy 3.F.7	The County shall encourage the development of regional and community-based recycling facilities in heavy commercial and industrial areas.
Policy 3.F.8	The County shall encourage businesses to use recycled products in their manufacturing processes and consumers to buy recycled products.

Source: Madera County General Plan, October 24, 1995.

TABLE 4.16-9 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SOLID WASTE

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Goal PF-F	<i>To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in the county in an effort to protect the public health and safety.</i>
Policy PF-F.1	The County shall continue to promote maximum use of solid waste source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and environmentally-safe transformation of wastes.
Policy PF-F.3	The County shall protect existing or planned solid waste facilities from encroachment by incompatible land uses that may be allowed through discretionary land use permits or changes in land use or zoning designations.
Policy PF-F.4	The County shall ensure that all new development complies with applicable provisions of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan.
Policy PF-F.8	The County should acquire properties, when feasible, near the regional landfill to protect the landfill from incompatible uses and to provide a buffer for the landfill.
Policy PF-F.10	<p>The County shall require the following siting criteria for resource recovery facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sites shall be of adequate size to accommodate the proposed plant and facilities anticipated for future shifts in resource recovery and pollution control technology; Sites should provide opportunities for steam use or development of steam users or otherwise maximize energy utilization; Sites with existing or planned urban residential land uses downwind should be avoided; and Resource recovery sites with direct access to or in transportation corridors are preferable.

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TABLE 4.16-9 FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SOLID WASTE

Policy/Goal Number	Policy/Goal
Policy PF-F.11	The County shall require the following siting criteria for inert waste disposal sites: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Site shall be of adequate size to accommodate proposed waste disposal operations; b. Operation of disposal sites should not increase the site elevation above elevations of adjacent properties and should not preclude reasonable future use of the property; and c. Permanent site improvements associated with inert waste disposal should be discouraged, as the inert disposal operation is a temporary operation.

Source: Fresno County General Plan, October 2000.

City of Fresno General Plan and Municipal Code

The Public Facilities Element of the City of Fresno 2025 General Plan contains the objectives and policies listed in Table 4.16-10 related to solid waste and community sanitation. Such policies aim to provide an adequate solid waste disposal system, as well as reduce the amount of solid waste generated.

TABLE 4.16-10 CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN POLICIES RELEVANT TO SOLID WASTE

Policy/Objective Number	Policy/Objective
Objective E-30	Provide adequate solid waste facilities and services for the collection, transfer, recycling, and disposal of refuse.
Policy E-30-a	Support programs and new techniques of solid waste such as recycling, composting, and waste separation, to reduce the volume and toxicity of solid wastes that must be sent to landfill facilities.
Policy E-30-b	Pursue programs to maintain conformance with AB 939, the Solid Waste Management Act of 1989, in order to comply with mandated diversion goals.
Policy E-30-c	Expand community sanitation programs to provide neighborhood cleanup and nuisance abatement services throughout the metropolitan area including both incorporated and unincorporated areas.
Policy E-30-d	Locate any private or public waste disposal facilities or transfer stations in a manner that waste transportation and processing is not detrimental to the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetic well-being of the surrounding community.
Policy E-30-e	Pursue the implementation of measures to eliminate illegal tire dumping.

Source: City of Fresno 2025 General Plan, February 1, 2002.

City of Fresno Municipal Code

Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal, contains several sections regulating solid waste collection and recycling services in the City of Fresno. Rates, collection rules and regulations, and operational regulations are found in Article 2.

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Existing Setting

Madera County

Madera County trash service is contracted through two franchise agreements and is currently provided by Red Rock Environmental Group for the Valley Area (below 1000 feet of elevation) and Emadco Disposal, Inc. (above 1000 feet elevation). Red Rock, or its successor, would be serving the Parkway Plan Area. After pick up, the waste would then be hauled to the Fairmead Land Fill in nearby Chowchilla or the North Fork Transfer Station and from there to the landfill. The permitted maximum daily capacity for the landfill is 1,100 tons per day with a total estimated permitting capacity of 9,400,000 cubic yards, and a remaining capacity of 5,552,894, or 59 percent remaining. The closure date for the landfill is 2033.¹⁹

Fresno County

Within Fresno County several haulers are contracted depending on the location and jurisdiction. The Parkway Plan Area on the Fresno County side is served by Ponderosa Solid Waste. Ponderosa hauls waste to the Cedar Avenue Recycling and Transfer Station (CARTS), where it is transferred to American Avenue Landfill or Avenal Landfill in Kings County.

American Avenue Landfill is owned and operated by Fresno County and is estimated to have adequate capacity to remain in operation until 2031, and Avenal Landfill in Kings County is estimated to have adequate capacity to remain in operation until 2021. The American Avenue Landfill is permitted to accept a maximum of 2,200 tons per day of solid waste, with a total permitted capacity of 3.3 million cubic yards, of which 2.9 million cubic yards are remaining.²⁰

Fresno City

The City of Fresno provides waste collection services within the city limit, including areas of the Parkway Plan Area. The wastes are disposed at American Avenue Landfill.

4.16.3.2 STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Project would have a significant impact on solid waste disposal if it would:

1. Be served by a landfill without sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs.
2. Be out of compliance with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

¹⁹ County of Madera, 2006. Gateway Village Draft Program EIR, November, page 4.16-3.

²⁰ San Joaquin River Restoration Program, 2011. Program Environmental Impact Statement/Report, page 24-6.

4.16.3.3 IMPACT DISCUSSION

UTIL-8 **The Project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs.**

The proposed Project would introduce new facilities to the Parkway Plan Area including, but not limited to, restrooms, campsites, picnic areas, hiking and biking trails, kayak and canoe launches, and observation decks. All of these facilities would likely increase the amount of trash generated in the Plan Area, that could include cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage bottles, paper cups, plastic cups and utensils, and other trash typical of low-impact recreational areas.

Although the proposed Project is conceptual, it identifies planned public access and recreation facilities, such as River West Madera or Riverbottom Park, and publicly owned sites considered suitable for facilities. Implementation of the proposed Plan would increase the visitor population, therefore, solid waste generation would also increase as a result.

The increase in generated solid waste as a result of the proposed Project is expected to be inconsequential compared to the overall solid waste generation of Fresno and Madera counties as a whole. Trash receptacles would be placed throughout the Parkway; therefore, depending on the location of the receptacle, no one jurisdiction would be responsible for all of the potential increase in solid waste. The Fairmead Landfill on the Madera side has a permitted capacity of 9,400,000 cubic yards, of which 59 percent, or 5,552,894 cubic yards is remaining and the American Avenue Landfill has a total permitted capacity of 3.3 million cubic yards, of which 2.9 million cubic yards remains. As indicated in the existing conditions, the American Avenue and Avenal Landfills serve the Fresno side of the Plan Area and were determined to have adequate capacity to remain in operation until 2031 and 2021, respectively, while the Fairmead Landfill serving Madera County is expected to have adequate capacity until 2033. Policies under the proposed Project, listed below, would also ensure that solid waste is adequately handled:

Public Access and Recreation

Goal:

- Provide public information, proper maintenance, rules, and enforcement to provide for public health and safety in the Parkway.

Policies:

- ACCESS.36 Maintain sufficient trash receptacles, including recycling bins, in numerous locations at Parkway sites and at times with heavy public use.
- ACCESS.37 Implement pack-it-in and pack-it-out policy for trash in lighter use and more remote Parkway areas.
- ACCESS.38 Facilitate, promote, and organize community-based litter removal, stewardship, and restoration programs for the Parkway.

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BMP RECYCLING-1 Reduce waste generation by providing for recycling.

Further, consistency with the General Plans of each jurisdiction would also ensure that adequate capacity to serve development with respect to solid waste would be accommodated. Madera County's Goal 3.F, and Policy's 3.F.1 through Policy 3.F.8, Fresno County's Goal PF-F, Policy PF-F.1, Policy PF-F.3, Policy PF-F.4, Policy PF-F.8, Policy PF-F.10, and Policy PF-F.11, along with the City of Fresno's Objective E-30, and Policy E-30-a. through Policy E-30-e, would all ensure adequate solid waste facilities.

Because there are several policies, State, and local laws and requirements in place to ensure adequate solid waste facilities, along with the permitted capacities still available at each of the landfills that would serve the Parkway Plan Area, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- Madera County General Plan (Goal 3.F, and Policy's 3.F.1 through Policy 3.F.8)
- Fresno County General Plan (Goal PF-F, Policy PF-F.1, Policy PF-F.3, Policy PF-F.4, Policy PF-F.8, Policy PF-F.10, and Policy PF-F.11)
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-30, and Policy E-30-a. through Policy E-30-e)

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

UTIL-9 The Project would not be out of compliance with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

The proposed Project would introduce new facilities that would result in increased visitor population to the Parkway Plan Area; therefore, increasing the amount of solid waste generation. Although solid waste would be increased, the proposed Project includes several policies to ensure compliance with local and State laws, as well as aiming to reduce overall solid waste generation. The policies of the proposed Project that would ensure compliance include:

Public Access and Recreation

Goal:

- Provide public information, proper maintenance, rules, and enforcement to provide for public health and safety in the Parkway.

Policies:

ACCESS.36 Maintain sufficient trash receptacles, including recycling bins, in numerous locations at Parkway sites and at times with heavy public use.

ACCESS.37 Implement pack-it-in and pack-it-out policy for trash in lighter use and more remote Parkway areas.

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ACCESS.38 Facilitate, promote, and organize community-based litter removal, stewardship, and restoration programs for the Parkway.

BMP RECYCLING-1 Reduce waste generation by providing for recycling.

Through the implementation of the policies above, along with consistency with local General Plans and Municipal Codes, and compliance with all applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the impact would be *less than significant*.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- Madera County General Plan (Goal 3.F, and Policy's 3.F.1 through Policy 3.F.8)
- Madera County Municipal Code, Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal
- Fresno County General Plan (Goal PF-F, Policy PF-F.1, Policy PF-F.3, Policy PF-F.4, Policy PF-F.8, Policy PF-F.10, and Policy PF-F.11)
- Fresno County Municipal Code, Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-30, and Policy E-30-a. through Policy E-30-e)
- City of Fresno Municipal Code, Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.

4.16.3.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS DISCUSSION

UTIL-10 The Project, in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in less than significant cumulative impacts with respect to solid waste.

The geographic scope for the purpose of this analysis include areas within the general vicinity of the Parkway Plan Area that could impact solid waste services. The general area on the Fresno side is largely developed with a mix of single- and multi-family residential units, commercial, institutional, and industrial uses, all of which generate solid waste. Future projects include the Friant Area, which would add residential and commercial development and is expected to add 2,500 dwelling units, with a population of 4,842 at buildout. Further, developments on the Madera side include Gunner Ranch with an estimated 8,136 residents at buildout, along with commercial development and a school, and Rio Mesa with more than 29,000 dwelling units at buildout.

Expected development in Madera County is already planned and, therefore, already has been largely accounted for in terms of planning for solid waste disposal. Also, as indicated, the Fairmead landfill has 59 percent of its total capacity remaining, and the American Avenue Landfill also has ample capacity to operate at least until 2030. Compared to the scale of such large planned development that will increase population and dwelling units by the thousands, the increase solid waste generation under the proposed Project is nominal and, therefore would result in a *less-than-significant* cumulative impact with respect to solid waste.

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Permits, Relevant Local Land Use Policies:

- Madera County General Plan (Goal 3.F, and Policy's 3.F.1 through Policy 3.F.8)
- Madera County Municipal Code, Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal

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- Fresno County General Plan (Goal PF-F, Policy PF-F.1, Policy PF-F.3, Policy PF-F.4, Policy PF-F.8, Policy PF-F.10, and Policy PF-F.11)
- Fresno County Municipal Code, Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal
- City of Fresno General Plan (Objective E-30, and Policy E-30-a. through Policy E-30-e)
- City of Fresno Municipal Code, Article 2, Waste Collection and Disposal

Significance Without Mitigation: Less than significant.