

4.0 PUBLIC SERVICES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

LEGAL BASIS AND REQUIREMENTS

Within this element of the General Plan, various aspects of public services, including schools, libraries, transit, recreation facilities, water supply, wastewater treatment, and solid waste disposal, are considered. While State law requires the General Plan to address domestic water service issues, requirements regarding public services are not clearly or specifically defined. However, State law encourages the local jurisdiction to include any other element that it determines to be relevant to the jurisdiction. This element considers a range of public services that the County regards as important to future growth.

4.2 OVERVIEW

The following provides a brief overview of the County's school, libraries, recreational, water, wastewater, and solid waste facilities. Police and fire protection is discussed in the Safety Element.

SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Tehama County Schools

Tehama County public schools include: twenty-one elementary schools, four middle schools, and five high schools. Additionally, there are three private elementary schools and one private Catholic high school in the County. There are also two charter schools in operation. Additionally, there are adult education classes and classes for the disabled offered at the Red Bluff Community Center.

The total enrollment for Tehama County K-12 public schools in fall 2004 was reported to be 7,833 students. Information from the California Department of Education indicates that enrollment in all Tehama County schools has been fairly consistent over the last five years. In the 2003/04 school year, the total school enrollment in the County was 11,083 students with an average class size of 24 students. Technology resources in schools include computers and associated technology. Within the County, the student-to-computer ratio ranges from 2.8 to 4.2 students per computer for elementary, middle, and high schools. Tehama County schools student-to-technology ratio is lower than the state average of 5.5, offering a greater exposure of Tehama County students to technology.

Tehama County and Shasta College are in the process of identifying an appropriate location within the County to construct a new campus to replace the rented and temporary facilities. The new campus will also expand the curriculum for technology-related occupations.

Library Services and Historical Resource Centers

The Tehama County Library system has three branches to serve the residents of the County with locations in Red Bluff, Los Molinos, and Corning. The Tehama County library system has developed collections, resources, and services that reflect the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational diversity of the residents. In addition, the Tehama County Library system is affiliated with the North State Cooperative Library System (NSCLS), which serves 13 Northern California Counties. NCSLA facilitates an extensive





inter library loan program between independent city and county libraries in cooperation with academic library affiliates to provide services to the north state.

Local history collections are preserved at county libraries as well as at the Tehama County Museum located in the City of Tehama. Museum exhibits include artifacts that represent the cultural heritage of Tehama County and the genealogy of northern California. Other historical resource centers include the Red Bluff Round-Up Museum, Tehama County Genealogical and Historical Society, and the Corning Museum.

Recreational Facilities

Tehama County is rich in recreational resources and lands. Hiking, fishing and boating opportunities abound, as well as the opportunity for more passive recreation. The Tehama County valleys and mountains have diverse and unique scenic resources, including rivers, lakes, wetlands, large expanses of grassland, spectacular forests and high mountains. The Sacramento River provides numerous recreational opportunities to residents and visitors to the County. Within Tehama County, access is provided by a number of public agencies along the extent of the river.

The Tehama County Parks system is operated and maintained by the Tehama County Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks system consists of nine parks and two public access areas, all of which are maintained by County Parks and Recreation staff. Additionally, there is an abundance of Federal land within the county that can be utilized for recreational purposes.

WATER SUPPLY

A safe and reliable water supply, for drinking and for fire protection, is important to the health and well being of any community. There are 26 water agencies operating throughout Tehama County. During an average year, approximately 59 percent of the total water used by Tehama County comes from groundwater sources. Local surface water sources supply 28 percent of the County's demand. Sacramento River/Central Valley Project (CVP) projects provide 10 percent, while surface water reuse accounts for about 3 percent. Most wells are located in a north-south swath along both sides of the Sacramento River. Over 10,000 wells exist in the County, with approximately 78 percent classified as having domestic usage.

Recent efforts have been made to estimate County water needs under a variety of conditions. For an average year (assuming the year 2000 crop pattern, precipitation, evapo-transpiration rates, and urban per-capita usage), it is estimated that the County uses approximately 378,000 acre-feet (AF) of water for its total annual needs. Of the total, agriculture uses about 82 percent (308,600 AF), municipal and industry use six percent (23,100 AF), environmental programs use one percent (4,100 AF), and conveyance losses are responsible for 11 percent (42,400 AF).

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The unincorporated areas of Tehama County are heavily reliant upon on-site septic tank sewage treatment systems. The advantage of these on-site wastewater treatment systems is the relatively low cost of installation and operation and their water recharge characteristics. Disadvantages include the narrow requirements of the systems with respect to soil characteristics, topography, and their sensitivity to high groundwater levels. Failure of a septic tank is its major disadvantage because it may result in contamination

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of groundwater or other health-related problems. In some cases failure can also restrict or eliminate habitation of a property. A recent State study, published in 2003, determined dense development that is heavily reliant on septic tank sewage systems is the primary reason that tap water found in some Tehama County homes is high in nitrate levels. The study found that nitrate levels exceed federal and state safety standards in some populated unincorporated areas of the County (Antelope, Hogsback Road, and Los Molinos).

Technologies in the use of wastewater treatments have evolved dramatically over the last 20 years, as have the standards regulating these treatments in the State of California. Because of the negative effects often associated with septic tanks, several new alternatives now exist to provide wastewater treatment. While in the past, Tehama County has relied almost exclusively on septic tanks, some of these new alternatives, including smaller package plants, Biolax systems, and individual or small group community treatment facilities, have become increasingly viable options toward meeting cleaner and more rigid waste discharge requirements.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid waste management in Tehama County includes: one landfill, several transfer stations, and an extensive waste stream diversion program including recycling and composting programs.

The Tehama County Sanitary Landfill Agency (TCSLA) serves as the planning and reporting agency for the entire County under the California Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMA). The TCSLA oversees private waste management services for all areas of Tehama County except for the Cities of Red Bluff and Corning. The TCSLA has contracted with Green Waste of Tehama, a private franchise of Green Waste Recovery Inc., to oversee the waste management services for the County. Waste management services include operation of the county landfill and three transfer stations as well as curbside waste pickup that include an extensive recycling effort.

COUNTY BUILDINGS AND SPACES

County facilities are largely concentrated within the City of Red Bluff. Most facilities are located within the centralized downtown area of Red Bluff (Courts, District Attorney, Health services, and Agricultural Extension Services). Animal control officers are an active force within the Police Departments of the City of Red Bluff and the City of Corning. The Tehama County Animal Shelter is located within the City of Red Bluff on Walnut Street.





4.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

GOAL PS-1

To develop a full range of local services (i.e. schools, libraries, and recreation facilities) that meet local needs in a cost-effective manner.

Policy PS-1.1

The County shall foster the provision of comprehensive services targeted to meet the needs of the County's growing population.

Implementation Measure PS-1.1a

The County shall actively work with other agencies and jurisdictions in the development/expansion and funding of a wide range of public services including, but not limited to schools, libraries, and recreation facilities.

Implementation Measure PS-1.1b

The County shall regularly survey or otherwise identify the service needs and priorities of Tehama County residents.

Implementation Measure PS-1.1c

The County shall pursue grants and other funding opportunities to create new services or expand existing services targeted to meet the needs of Tehama County residents and employees.

Implementation Measure PS-1.1d

The County shall encourage the co-location of public service providers into mixed-use sites that are accessible to persons in need of services.

Policy PS-1.2

The County shall support enhanced library services for existing and future residents.

Implementation Measure PS-1.2a

The County shall provide financial support to the existing library system to improve services for local residents and employees (e.g., extended hours).

Implementation Measure PS-1.2b

The County shall monitor the need for additional library services at existing branches and seek to establish new branch facilities in response to growth.

Implementation Measure PS-1.2c

The County shall locate new libraries in areas easily accessible to pedestrians, bicycles, and public transit riders.

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Policy PS-1.3

The County shall support enhanced recreation services for existing and future residents.

Implementation Measure PS-1.3a

The locations of existing and proposed large-scale community recreation facilities shall be designated on the General Plan Land Use.

Implementation Measure PS-1.3b

In determining appropriate levels of recreation services to meet the various needs of residents, the County shall consult the standards contained in the existing Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plans.

GOAL PS-2

To obtain dedicated lands for new schools, libraries, and recreational facilities when existing facilities are not adequate.

Policy PS-2.1

The County shall coordinate with independent public service providers, including schools, parks and recreation, and other service districts, in developing service and financial planning strategies.

Implementation Measure PS-2.1a

The County shall establish a Review Committee for continued coordination with outside service agencies, including water and sewer providers, the Tehama County Parks and Recreation District, and the school districts, during the review of plans and development projects. Additionally, the County shall coordinate with Federal land agencies to provide recreation opportunities to the public.

Policy PS-2.2

The County shall ensure adequate funding is available for all infrastructure and public facilities, and make certain that the cost of improvements is equitably distributed.

Implementation Measure PS-2.2a

If conditions of overcrowding and financial hardship are evidenced by the various school districts, the County may establish an ordinance requesting the dedication of land, payment of fees in-lieu thereof, or a combination of both, for classrooms and related facilities for elementary or high schools as a condition to the approval of a residential development as per ordinance requirements. Public hearings shall be held prior to any determinations by the County. This policy shall be enacted only after all other available measures to reduce impacts have been exhausted.

Implementation Measure PS-2.2b

The County may require an offer of dedication of parklands or the payment of in-lieu fees in areas of the County designated for urban and suburban development per ordinance requirements.





Implementation Measure PS-2.2c

The County shall require new development to fund its fair share portion of its impacts to all public infrastructure and facilities.

WATER SUPPLY

GOAL PS-3

To ensure the development of quality infrastructure to meet a community's needs at the time they are needed.

Policy PS-3.1

The County shall ensure the development of public infrastructure to meet the long-term needs of residents and ensure infrastructure is available at the time such facilities are needed.

Implementation Measure PS-3.1a

The County shall require sufficient capacity in all public facilities to maintain desired service levels and avoid capacity shortages, traffic congestion, or other negative effects on safety and quality of life.

Implementation Measure PS-3.1b

The County shall adopt a phasing plan for the development of public facilities in a logical manner that encourages the orderly development of roadways, water and sewer, and other public facilities.

Implementation Measure PS-3.1c

The County shall withhold public financing or assistance from projects that do not comply with the planned phasing of public facilities, and approve interim facilities only in special circumstances.

Policy PS-3.2

The County shall ensure that water supply and delivery systems are available in time to meet the demand created by new development, or are guaranteed to be built through the use of bonds or other financial sureties.

Implementation Measure PS-3.2a

The County shall require all development projects, excluding subdivisions, to adhere to the following provisions:

- An assured water supply and delivery system shall be available at the time of project approval. The water agency providing service to the project may provide several alternative methods of supply and/or delivery, provided that each is capable individually of providing water to the project.
- All required water infrastructure for the project shall be in place at the time of project approval, or shall be assured through the use of bonds or other financial sureties to the County's satisfaction. Water infrastructure may be phased to coincide with the phased development of large-scale projects.

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Implementation Measure PS-3.2b

The County shall require all subdivision developments to adhere to the following provisions:

- Proposed water supply and delivery systems shall be identified at the time of tentative map approval, to the satisfaction of the County. The water agency providing service to the project may provide several alternative methods of supply and/or delivery, provided that each is capable individually of providing water to the project.
- The agency providing water service to the subdivision shall demonstrate prior to the approval of the Final Map that sufficient capacity will be available to accommodate the subdivision plus existing developments, other approved projects in the same service area, and other projects which have received commitments for water service.
- Offsite and onsite water infrastructure sufficient to provide adequate water to the subdivision shall be in place prior to the approval of the Final Map or their financing shall be assured to the satisfaction of the County, consistent with the requirements of the Subdivision Map Act.
- Offsite and onsite water distribution systems required to serve the subdivision shall be in place, and contain water at sufficient quality, quantity and pressure, prior to the issuance of any building permits. Model homes may be exempted from this policy as determined appropriate by, and subject to approval of, the County.

GOAL PS-4

To promote development in areas where existing water districts have available resources to accommodate development or where existing districts may be expanded to serve new development in a cost-effective manner.

Policy PS-4.1

*The County shall encourage future development to be located with respect to type and intensity/density of land use as provided in **Table 4-1** in order to ensure the long-term, economically feasible and environmentally sound provision of adequate water supply and quality.*





TABLE 4-1
POLICY MATRIX FOR LOCATION OF LAND USES RELATIVE TO WATER SUPPLY

CONDITIONS	LAND USE DESIGNATION					
	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RR SMALL LOT	RR LARGE LOT	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL
Within an existing district with significant additional unused allocation	X	X			X	X
Within an expansion area of an existing district with significant additional allocation of groundwater source to expand, as identified in California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin #118	X	X			X	X
Possible surface diversion area or existing district but presently without adequate allocation, or areas with water-bearing alluviums but outside identified groundwater basins, or younger volcanics (i.e. quaternary era) as identified in DWR Bulletin #118.			X	X		
Outside of an existing water district or possible expansion area of a district and areas of non-water bearing materials as identified in DWR Bulletin #118.				X		
Outside of an existing district or expansion area but within an area for which a new water system has been proposed and for which a water supply source has been identified and verified	X	X	X	X	X	X

Implementation Measure PS-4.1a

The County shall work with water utility providers to coordinate the installation or upgrading of utilities.

Implementation Measure PS-4.1b

The County shall coordinate with water, sewer, and utility service providers to reduce incidences of service interruption, improve quality and sustainability of service, and reduce unit costs.

Policy PS-4.2

The County shall ensure adequate funding is available for all infrastructure and public facilities, and make certain that the cost of improvements is equitably distributed.

Implementation Measure PS-4.2a

The County shall require new development to fund its fair share portion of its impacts to all public infrastructure and facilities.

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT

GOAL PS-5

To provide a level of wastewater treatment to meet local needs in a cost-effective manner as well as appropriately scaled to match a development's characteristics and site conditions.

Policy PS-5.1

The County shall ensure future development to be located with respect to type and intensity/density of land use as provided in Table 4-2 in order to ensure the long-term, economically feasible and environmentally sound provision of adequate wastewater treatment facilities.

**TABLE 4-2
POLICY MATRIX FOR LOCATION OF LAND USES RELATIVE TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

CONDITIONS	LAND USE DESIGNATION					
	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RR SMALL LOT	RR LARGE LOT	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL
Within an existing district with either unused capacity or the potential to add capacity.	X	X			X	X
Within the potential expansion area of an existing district.	X	X			X	X
Areas located outside of an existing district but where there is the potential to develop a new treatment facility using land application or reuse of wastewater.		X	X		X	
All other areas.			X	X		

Implementation Measure PS-5.1a

The County shall require all subdivision developments to adhere to the following provisions, to the extent permitted by state law:

- The agency providing sewer service to the subdivision shall demonstrate prior to the approval of the Final Map by the County that sufficient capacity shall be available to accommodate the subdivision plus existing development, and other proposed or approved projects which have received sewage treatment capacity commitment.
- Onsite and offsite sewage conveyance systems required to serve the subdivision shall be in place prior to the approval of the Final Map, or their financing shall be assured to the satisfaction of the County, consistent with the requirements of the Subdivision Map Act.





- Sewage conveyance systems within the subdivision shall be in place and connected to the sewage disposal system prior to the issuance of any building permits. Model homes may be exempted from this policy as determined appropriate by the County, and subject to the approval of the County.

Implementation Measure PS-5.1b

The County shall encourage future development in areas where existing community wastewater and stormwater treatment systems have unused capacity.

Implementation Measure PS-5.1c

Industrial and commercial development shall provide their own wastewater treatment or pre-treatment facilities so as not to impact existing treatment plants, if feasible.

Implementation Measure PS-5.2d

The County shall investigate the use of on-site alternative wastewater treatment systems such as aerobic tanks, sand filters and constructed wetlands, and determine if and where these alternatives are feasible in Tehama County.

Implementation Measure PS-5.2e

If alternative wastewater systems are found to be an adequate replacement for existing facilities, the County shall allow the use of these types of systems.

Policy PS-5.2

The County shall strive to minimize visual impacts and physical impediments of utility infrastructure and equipment for all areas of the County.

Implementation Measure PS-5.2a

The County shall coordinate with utility agencies to underground, strategically place, and screen equipment to the maximum extent feasible.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

GOAL PS-6

Develop a solid waste program that equitably relates revenues to operating expenses for all County residents.

Policy PS-6.1

The County shall provide for solid waste collection, disposal services, and recycling in a cost-efficient manner.

Implementation Measure PS-6.1a

The County shall continue contracting for garbage and recycling collection services.

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Implementation Measure PS-6.1b

The County shall identify potential future sites for solid waste disposal consistent with the development patterns with an emphasis on centralization.

Policy PS-6.2

Solid waste collection, handling, recycling, composting, recovery, transfer and disposal fees shall recover all capital, operating, and maintenance costs associated with the County solid waste program.

Implementation Measure PS-6.2a

The County shall develop and continually monitor a solid waste disposal fee system based on the quantity of waste set out for disposal and provide incentives for recovery.

Policy PS-6.3

Encourage educational programs that promote recycling and proper waste disposal and create incentive programs for residential recycling.

Implementation Measure PS-6.3a

The County shall develop public education programs about waste reduction that includes: recycling, yard wastes, wood waste, and household hazardous waste.

