

CITY OF SANTA MARIA
GENERAL PLAN

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

City of Santa Maria
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PREFACE

The Environmental Resources Management Element (ERME) was adopted by the City Council on April 4, 1981. The ERME includes the state-required Open Space and Conservation Elements. Reformatted in April 1987, the ERME includes amendments made through November 1993. This document updates the ERME that was adopted in 1981 and provides new information, and develops new goals, policies, objectives and implementation programs.

The goals, policies, objectives and programs in the ERME Update are based on the findings contained in the Background Information Report (BIR) that was prepared in January 1996. The Background Information Report is included as the technical appendix to the ERME Update.

The former ERME primarily addressed environmental issues with respect to natural resources and did not fully address man-made resources such as public infrastructure, facilities and services. In order to broaden the scope of this element, public facilities and services, recreation and parks, private community services (including schools), and growth management have been incorporated into this document. This element has also been renamed as the Resources Management Element (RME).

The RME fulfills the State Planning Act (Government Code Sections 65302(d) and 65302(e)) which mandates that a local agency's general plan include a conservation element and open space element. The RME consists of the City of Santa Maria's Conservation and Open Space Elements, and Elements that address Recreation and Parks, Public Facilities and Services, Private Community Services, and Growth Management.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. INTRODUCTION

The City's ability to sustain growth depends on the availability and utilization of resources, and the capacity of public facilities and services.

As the City of Santa Maria's population increases, the demand for resources will also increase. Consequently, non-renewable resources will continue to decrease, and without proper management, resources that are considered renewable will also diminish. The quantity and quality of resources will also be affected. Thus, it is extremely important that the City of Santa Maria address resource concerns.

Growth in Santa Maria does not only depend on natural resources and environmental constraints. The capacity and quality of the City's public facilities and services are also important issues. Without adequate public infrastructure, the residents of the City will experience reduced levels of service.

The Resources Management Element (RME) is a comprehensive long-range planning document which sets forth goals, policies, objectives, and programs to address the conservation and preservation of those resources that are valuable to the City of Santa Maria and its planning area. The RME also includes the provision of public facilities, public services, private community services, and park and recreation facilities to meet the existing and future needs of the community.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

The Resources Management Element is based on certain assumptions which have a direct effect on the physical resources within the Planning Area, and the City's ability to provide public facilities and services. The following assumptions are based on past and current trends as well as future projections.

- 1) The anticipated growth associated with development under the Land Use Element will result in a corresponding increase in demand for resources (renewable and nonrenewable), public facilities, public services, and parks and recreation facilities.
- 2) As current, nonrenewable resources (oil, natural gas, water) become scarce, conservation, and the utilization of renewable resources will become the only acceptable alternatives.
- 3) Based on the growth rate assumptions from the Land Use Element and Sphere Study, the City's population is expected to be about 82,400 in the year 2000 and 100,000 by the year 2010. According to the 1994 Growth Forecast prepared by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Orcutt is expected to have a population of about 37,600 people by the year 2010. The population of the Santa Maria/Orcutt area is projected to be 137,600 by the year 2010.

II. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

This Element of the General Plan combines the state-required Conservation and Open Space Elements. As such, the Element addresses the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, and the preservation and enhancement of archaeological and cultural resources of historical significance to the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Valley.

1. Conservation

Conservation is the wise management of resources to prevent waste, destruction or neglect. By conserving resources, their continued availability for use by present and future generations can be assured. Resources include water, energy, minerals, soils, rivers and other waterways, wildlife (plants and animals), archaeological sites, and historical buildings.

California Planning Law states that local jurisdictions must have a Conservation Element for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources including water, soils, rivers, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources (Government Code Section 65302(d)).

2. Open Space

In accordance with Government Code Section 65302(e), the Santa Maria General Plan must include an Open Space Element. The Open Space Element is a plan for the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of "open space land" (Government Code Section 65563). "Open space land" is any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted for open space use as specified below:

1. Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas for preservation of plant and animal life, areas for ecologic study purposes, rivers, and watershed lands.
2. Open space for the managed production of resources, agricultural lands, recharge of groundwater basins, and mineral deposits.
3. Open space for outdoor recreation includes areas of historic and cultural value, park and recreation purposes, utility easements, corridors, trails, and pipeline and railroad corridors that serve dual purposes.
4. Open space for public, health, and safety includes areas for special management or regulation because of hazardous conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, fire protection, water reservoirs, and airport clear zones.

3. General Plan Open Space Designations

There are four open space classifications within the General Plan Land Use Element. They are: Conservation Open Space, Agricultural Open Space (Prime), Agricultural Open Space (Secondary), and Recreation Open Space. The City's Open Space areas are identified on the Land Use Policy Map in the Land Use Element.

The purpose of the Conservation Open Space (COS) classification is to preserve certain areas to protect natural resources, to provide scenic corridors along railroad rights-of-way and utility easements (e.g., pipelines, drainage basins), and to provide land use buffers to minimize or reduce land use conflicts. Areas designated COS include wildlife habitat areas, water resource areas, archaeological sensitive areas, urban forest, mineral resource areas, and hazardous open space. The Safety Element identifies hazardous open space areas which includes flood zones, airport clear zone, earthquake zones, fire risk areas and unstable soils. For additional discussion on the COS land use classification, please refer to the Land Use Element.

Agricultural Open Space consists of two classifications--Prime Agricultural Open Space (AOS-I) and Secondary Agricultural Open Space (AOS-II). AOS-I includes all land classified as prime agricultural (Class I and II soils) with intensive agricultural uses (such as crops). AOS-II involves land of lesser quality with less intensive agricultural uses and grazing. Refer to the Land Use Element for further discussion on these land use classifications.

The purpose of the Recreational Open Space (ROS) land use classification is to identify land to be used for future parks, preserve existing park and recreation facilities, and reserve open space corridors for recreational opportunities. As such, ROS includes existing and proposed recreational facilities, including neighborhood, community, and regional parks, multi-purpose trails (bicycle and pedestrian), and equestrian trails. Additionally, this land use classification is used to preserve public utility easements, railroad rights-of-way, drainage basins, and other areas that can be developed into recreational facilities without compromising the primary purpose of the right-of-way.

B. FINDINGS AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Under the provisions of California Planning Law, this Element of the Santa Maria General Plan provides for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, and provides for the preservation of archaeological and cultural resources of historical significance to the City of Santa Maria and its planning area. This section discusses the planning considerations and findings with respect to each resource.

1. Water Resources

Water is a limited resource and must be continuously monitored to identify changes in supply, demand, and quality. Water supply changes with rainfall, drought, and use. Water demand changes with land use, and changes in population. The quantity and quality of existing water resources is a primary concern of the City of Santa Maria.

The City of Santa Maria and its sphere of influence depend entirely on groundwater as the only source of water. Orcutt Creek and the Santa Maria River are the main surface resource areas, but serve only to recharge the groundwater basin.

The water supply of the City has historically been the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. Approximately one million acre feet of usable water is available in the Basin.¹ The Santa Maria Groundwater Basin has been in an overdraft state for about 70 years. The long-term average recharge of the Basin is 76,200 acre feet per year (AFY), and an annual overdraft of about 30,000 AFY.

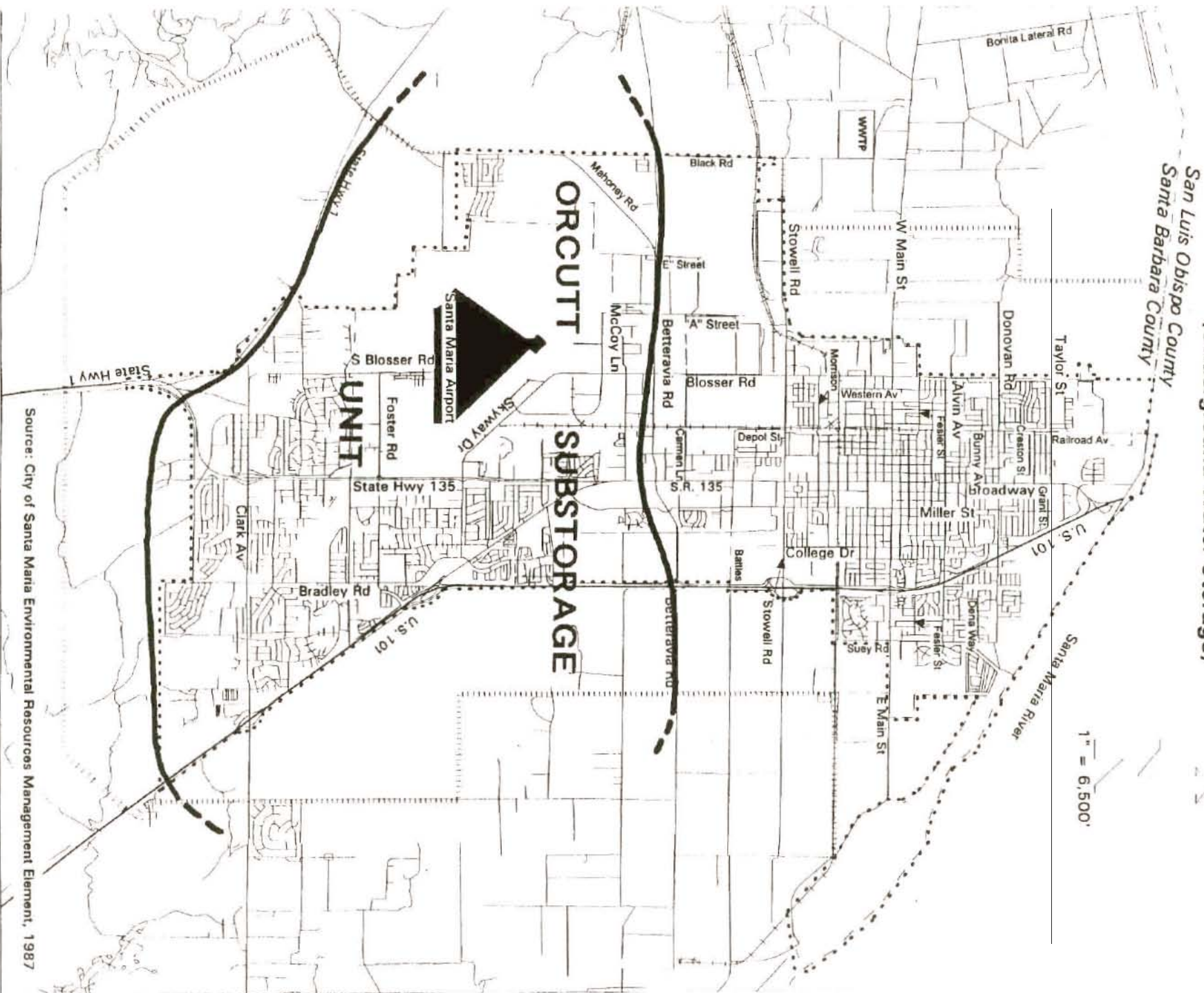
The City extracts water for municipal uses from the Orcutt Sub-basin of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin (Figure RME-1). Urban and agricultural uses pump about 28,240 AFY while the safe yield is 9,670 AFY resulting in an overdraft of about 18,570 AFY.² The City currently extracts 12,000 AFY from this sub-basin at a per capita water consumption rate of 0.21 AFY. The amount of overdraft attributed to the City of Santa Maria is approximately 2,016 AFY. The City's estimated share of the safe groundwater extraction yield is 4,270 AFY.³

¹ Water Advisory Committee. Long Term Water Management Plan. February 1991.

² Ibid.

³ City of Santa Maria. Growth Mitigation/Management Report. August 1992.

Figure RME-1
Orcutt Substorage Unit
(Underground Water Storage)



Source: City of Santa Maria Environmental Resources Management Element, 1987

This continuous overdrafting could damage the City's main water supply by reducing the total volume of the groundwater basin, and degrading the quality of water. Further, continued overdrafting will cause both the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin and Orcutt Sub-basin to become unreliable sources of water. Under these conditions, the existing water sources cannot supply the present and future water demands of the City and its sphere of influence.

To improve water resources, the City has taken several actions. These include groundwater recharge programs and the importation of water from the State Water Project (State Water). The City also encourages water conservation.

The City of Santa Maria and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and Water Agency (SBCFCD) have instituted several programs to improve and increase groundwater recharge to the Santa Maria Basin. The City and SBCFCD jointly developed regional recharge basins south of Blosser Road and south of Stowell Road (the LaBrea and Kovar Basins). These basins are designed to retain storm water, and to allow that water to percolate into the groundwater basin. Groundwater recharge programs currently replenish the Basin by recharging more than 20,000 acre-feet of water annually through the Santa Maria River, local retardation basins, and regional recharge basins.

For many years, the City of Santa Maria has been planning to import water from the State Water Project. The City has contracted for 16,200 acre-feet of water per year. Water from the State Water project is scheduled to arrive in 1996. This new source of water will decrease local overdrafting, and improve the City's water quality.

Water from City wells at the Santa Maria Public Airport contains more than 800 parts per million (ppm) total dissolved solids (TDS). Maximum federal limits for municipal water TDS is 500 ppm, and the State limit is 1,000 ppm. The Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) provides a more detailed discussion of water resources and infrastructure.

The Land Use Element projects that the City of Santa Maria will have a population of about 100,000 people by the year 2010. Implementation of groundwater recharge programs, water conservation measures, and the importation of State Water will assure a reliable water source that would support the existing and future water demands of the City. Sufficient water is available to support a City population of approximately 111,000 people.⁴

2. Air Quality

Clean air is an important resource to the people of Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County. Good air quality enhances a community's living and working environment. Conversely, poor air quality adversely affects public health. Typical pollutants come from automobiles, solvents, industrial processes, fuel combustion, petroleum processes, agriculture, and construction activity (dust and particulates). Agricultural pollutants include emissions from heavy equipment, the application of pesticides, cattle feed yards, and similar uses. These air pollutants are considered local, and are difficult to quantify.

Air quality and air emissions are regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). Air quality regulators are governed by the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) and the California Clean Air Act (CCAA). Santa Maria is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin which is administered by the Santa Barbara County APCD.

⁴ City of Santa Maria. Biennial Resource Infrastructure Standards and Capacity Update. January 1996.

Although air quality in Northern Santa Barbara County, including Santa Maria, has been generally improving during recent years, the EPA has designated all of Santa Barbara County as a moderate non-attainment area for the federal ozone standard. The CARB has designated the entire county as a moderate non-attainment area for the State ozone standard, and fine particulates (particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter - PM₁₀).

Several air quality improvement plans have been adopted for Santa Barbara County. These plans include the Air Quality Attainment Plan and the Rate of Progress Plan (ROPP). In 1993, the APCD approved the Rate of Progress Plan (ROPP) for Santa Barbara County. The ROPP is a report to the CARB, as required by the Federal Clean Act Amendments of 1990. The Rate of Progress Plan must demonstrate that the existing and proposed control measures will, by 1996, reduce emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG), an ozone precursor, to a level 15 percent below 1990 levels. These plans primarily address emissions from vehicles, commercial uses, industrial, and other urban activities. In 1994, the APCD Board of Directors approved the 1994 Clean Air Plan which implements the 1993 ROPP.

In Santa Maria, the state standard for ozone was exceeded one time in both 1992 and 1993. The federal ozone standard was not exceeded. The state standard for PM₁₀ has been exceeded at least one from 1989 through 1993.

Cities employ various measures to reduce air pollution. These measures range from the application of standard control measures to the promotion of alternative forms of transportation (carpools, vanpools, bicycling and public transit), and other measures to reduce air pollution at the primary source.

Biomass Pollution Shed Program

In addition to standard measures, trees can be used to reduce air pollution. Trees absorb and intercept harmful pollutants such as particulates and Carbon Dioxide. And by means of evapotranspiration, providing shade, and blocking solar radiation, trees cool the urban air.⁵

This cooling effect lowers air pollutant concentrations which rise when temperatures increase.

An urban forest can be classified as a "Biomass Pollution Shed" (BPS). A BPS is defined as an area of sufficient size to uptake or intercept a given amount of atmospheric pollutants. By absorbing and intercepting harmful pollutants, trees act as a "biomass pollution shed." While it is generally accepted that trees and vegetation help improve air quality, it has historically been difficult to quantify the value of vegetation. Data from the Chicago Urban Forest Climate Study found that the value of vegetation could be quantified.

Based on these findings of the Chicago Study, the City's Recreation and Parks Department (Parks Division) developed a BPS that converts the air pollution benefits from the urban forest into an "Emission Reduction Credit (ERC)". A ERC is defined as an emission reduction of specific type and quantity that is registered with the Air Pollution Control District.

The basic premise of the program is that publicly owned and managed vegetation could be used for emission reduction credit (the BPS program does not currently recognize private landscaping).

The Biomass Pollution Program in Santa Maria is in its preliminary stages, and will likely take a few more years before it can be implemented. The City has presented the BPS concept to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. APCD has shown little interest in the program thus far. To date, State officials have shown no interest in the program. Please see the Background Information Report for a complete discussion of the BPS concept.

⁵ USEPA, 1992.

3. Energy Resources

Energy is an essential resource because it is necessary to operate and maintain our way of life. Consequently, people have become dependent on the adequacy and reliability of energy sources.

Santa Maria relies primarily on electricity and natural gas for household energy, and petroleum (gasoline and diesel) for most modes of transportation.

As traditional energy sources become more scarce and expensive, the continued use of these energy resources raise availability, conservation and environmental issues.

The City of Santa Maria must achieve a balance between growth-induced increases in energy demand and availability. Energy shortages cause disruptions in daily life. In response to these concerns, energy conservation has become a prominent local, national and global issue. Over the years, many methods of conservation have been applied. These range from increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, appliances, and buildings to the use of alternative forms of energy. Efficient use of energy reduces energy related costs, improves air quality, and conserves valuable resources.

Measures applied in the City of Santa Maria include energy conserving building standards, recycling, and transportation system improvements. The City also encourages energy conservation through site and building orientation and landscaping. According to the EPA, proper placement of trees next to buildings can reduce summer air conditioning costs by as much as 15% to 35%. The City has also instituted an alternative fuel vehicle pilot program. Local and state energy efficiency standards have contributed in the efforts to conserve energy resources.

Alternative energy sources (solar and biomass), and uses continue to be studied but are not highly utilized.

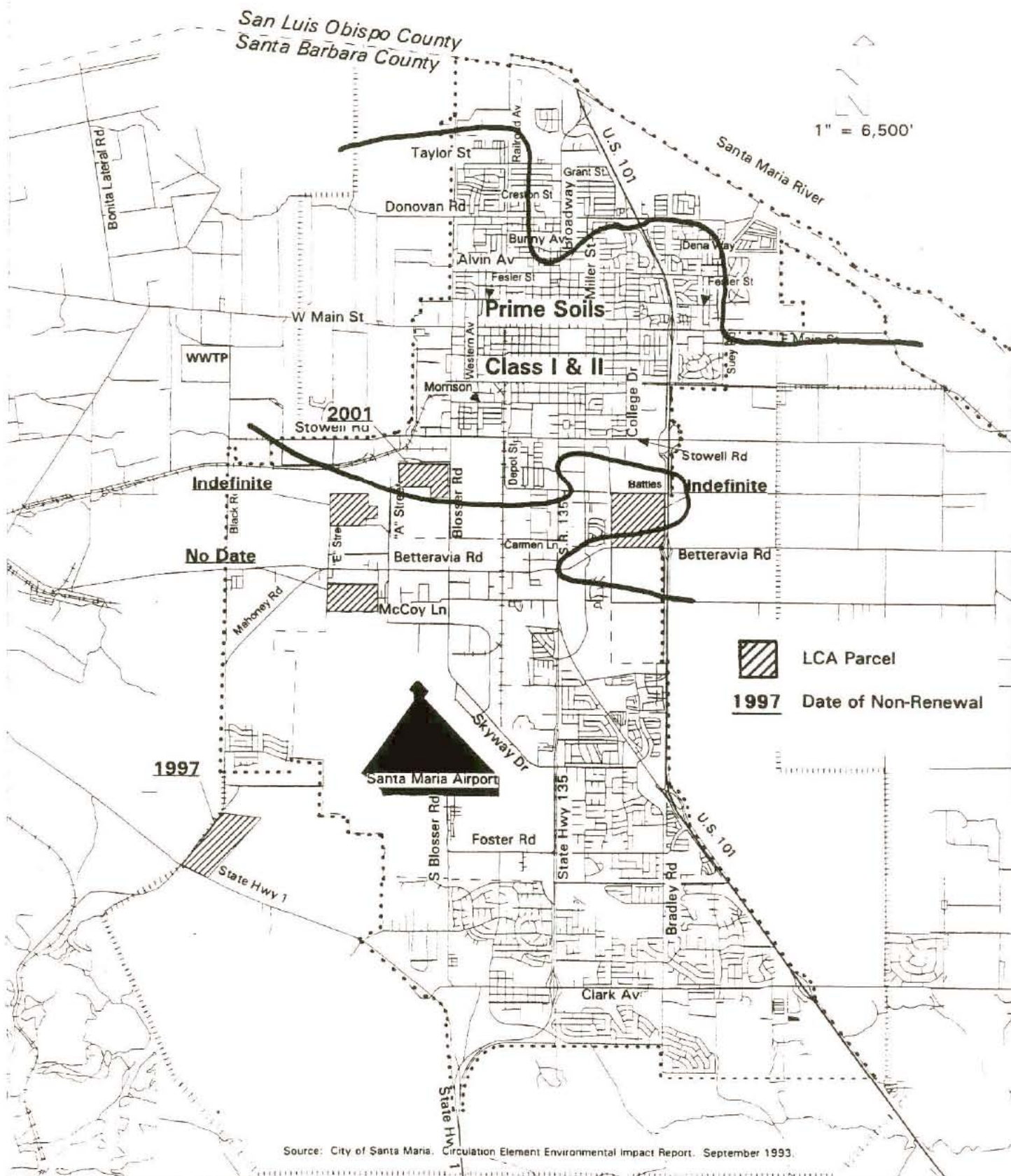
4. Agricultural Resources

Agriculture has historically played an important role in the economy and development of the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Valley. Soil quality, water supply, year-round growing season, and level topography have made the Santa Maria Valley one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country. The Valley possesses the soil and climatic conditions suitable for vegetable crops (i.e., broccoli, cauliflower and lettuce) and field crops (i.e., barley and corn) often yielding three to four crops per year. Strawberries are also grown in abundance.

Agricultural activity in the Santa Maria Valley has progressively increased in terms of both acreage counts and crop values. These increases are attributed to "double" and "triple" cropping as well as the utilization of marginal lands for labor intensive crops (i.e., strawberries). The Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) more fully discusses agriculture. Figure RME-2 delineates prime agricultural soils and areas under Williamson Act contracts within the Planning Area.

A majority of the land under agricultural production within the Planning Area is located in the unincorporated areas surrounding the City. Land under agricultural production within City Limits includes a small area near the City landfill, and several acres recently annexed to the City of Santa Maria.

**Figure RME-2
Prime Agricultural Soils and Preserves**



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While some of the recently annexed lands are planned for urban development, the City has taken actions to preserve agricultural land and to assure continued agricultural production. The Land Use Element shows the areas near Main Street, west of the City, and near Stowell Road, east of the City, as "Agricultural Land - No Urban Development." The City, along with Santa Barbara County and the Local Agency Formation Commission, adopted a greenbelt agreement to preserve land used for agriculture. The City also recognizes the California Land Conservation Act (the Williamson Act Contract Program) as a tool to preserve farmlands. The continued availability of prime agricultural land is important to the prosperity of the Santa Maria Area.

5. Soil Resources

High quality soils are a valuable resource to an area. Soils are rated and classified for their qualities which takes into account their suitability for agriculture or development, and their erosion potential. The Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) provides a complete description of the soil types, and their locations throughout the City and Planning Area.

There are two primary soil groupings within the City's planning area divided approximately by Betteravia Road. The southern soil group, Betteravia-Garey Association, are soils less suitable for agricultural use. The northern group, Sorrento-Mocho-Camarillo Association, are among the most productive in the Santa Maria Valley (refer to Figure RME-2).

6. Biological Resources (Vegetation and Wildlife)

Biological resources include plant and animal species, their habitats, and ecosystems.

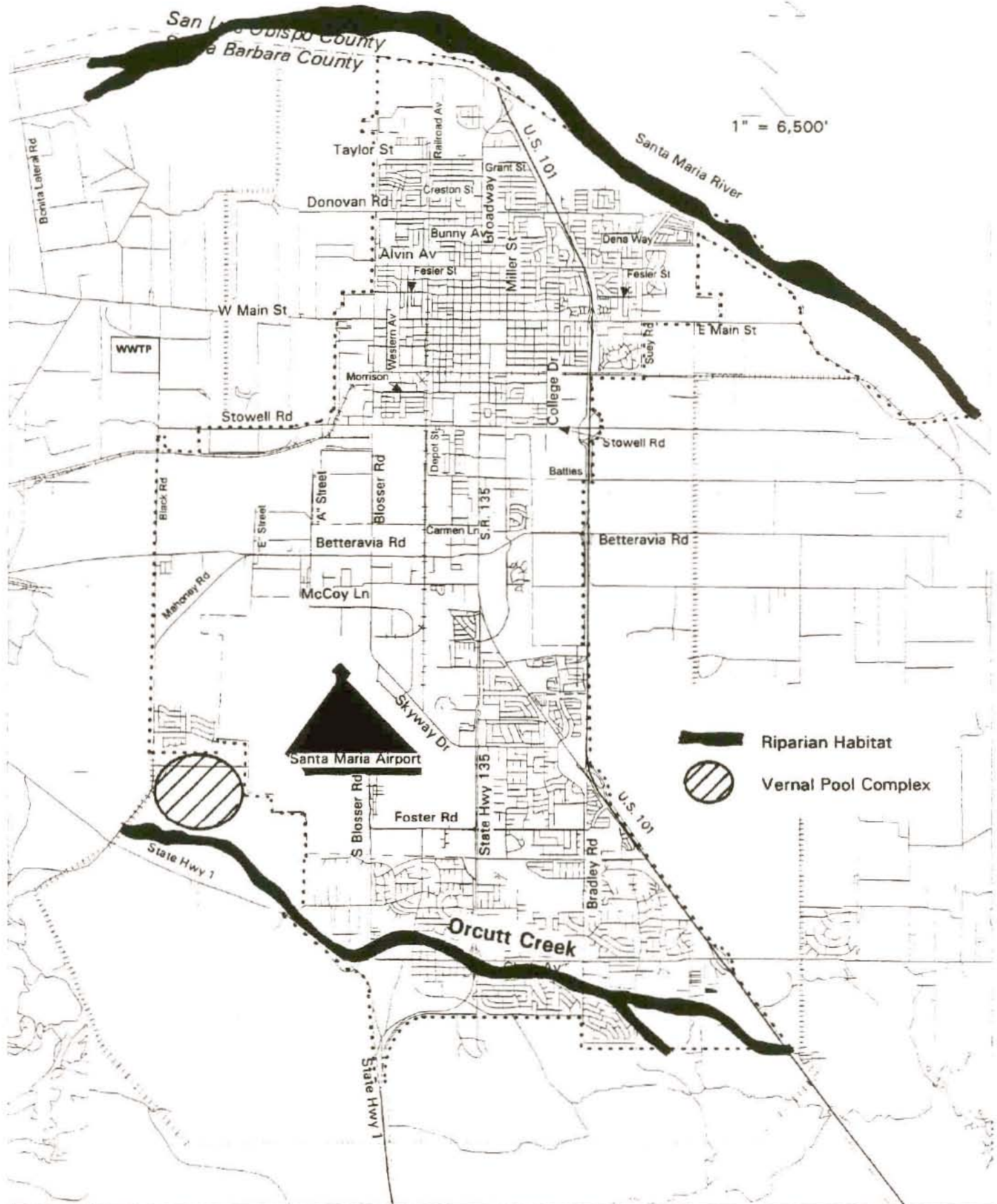
Major plant associations in the Northern Santa Barbara County region have developed over time in response to influences of a variety of environmental factors, including climate and topography. Major plant associations in the Santa Maria Valley include: Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Riparian scrub, Oak woodland, Annual grassland (including grazing lands), Sandyhill Chaparral and Agricultural. The only significant wildlife habitat areas within the Planning Area are the fields surrounding the airport, riparian vegetation within the Santa Maria River and Orcutt Creek, and the Vernal Pool complex located southwest of the airport (Figure RME-3).

Sensitive habitats known to occur within the Planning Area include the Central Coast Riparian Scrub and the Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh. The Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) identifies plant associations in the region. The variety of vegetation communities in the Santa Maria Valley provide for many diverse habitat types which enhance the regions biological value.

The plant communities in the region provide suitable habitat for various species of animals, including populations of some wide ranging and mobile species of raptorial birds, waterfowl and deer.

Wildlife corridors are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical or genetic exchange between isolated animal populations. These connections may serve a local purpose, such as foraging, and nesting or denning areas, or they may be regional in nature. There is limited information on the actual use of wildlife corridors in the region. However, there is a potential that the Santa Maria River, Cuyama River and Sisquoc River are used by wildlife to access habitats in the Sierra Madre and San Rafael Mountains. Wildlife corridors form a network that is essential to the regional ecology of an area.

**Figure RME-3
Biological Resources**



-  Riparian Habitat
-  Vernal Pool Complex

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Although wildlife are generally renewable resources, the rates of regeneration are often slow and impeded by disruptive forces such as urbanization, human harassment, predator control, and pollution. The species and ecosystems in the region are considered to be of ecological, educational, historic, scientific, and aesthetic value to the people of the Santa Maria Valley.

7. Mineral and Oil Resources

Within the City's planning area, the primary resources suitable for mining and conservation are sand, rock, and oil.

Minerals

A mineral is any naturally occurring chemical element or compound, or groups of elements and compounds, formed from inorganic processes and organic substances, including but not limited to coal, peat, bituminous rock, but excluding geothermal resources, natural gas, and petroleum.

The Santa Maria River channel is considered to be a valuable mineral resource. The River contains the largest resources of Portland Cement Concrete-grade aggregate and almost 90 percent of the available alluvial sand and gravel resources in the Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo County region. In addition, the State of California classifies portions of the Santa Maria River MRZ-2 (Figure RME-4). This classification means that there is adequate information to indicate that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists.

Mining has occurred along the Santa Maria and Sisquoc Rivers since the early 1900s. Presently, there are two companies mining sand and gravel from the river channel-Coast Rock Products, Inc. and Southern Pacific Milling Company. In addition, the City is also mining sand from the river for use at the City landfill. Coast Rock and Southern Pacific Milling are in the process to expand their commercial mining operations.

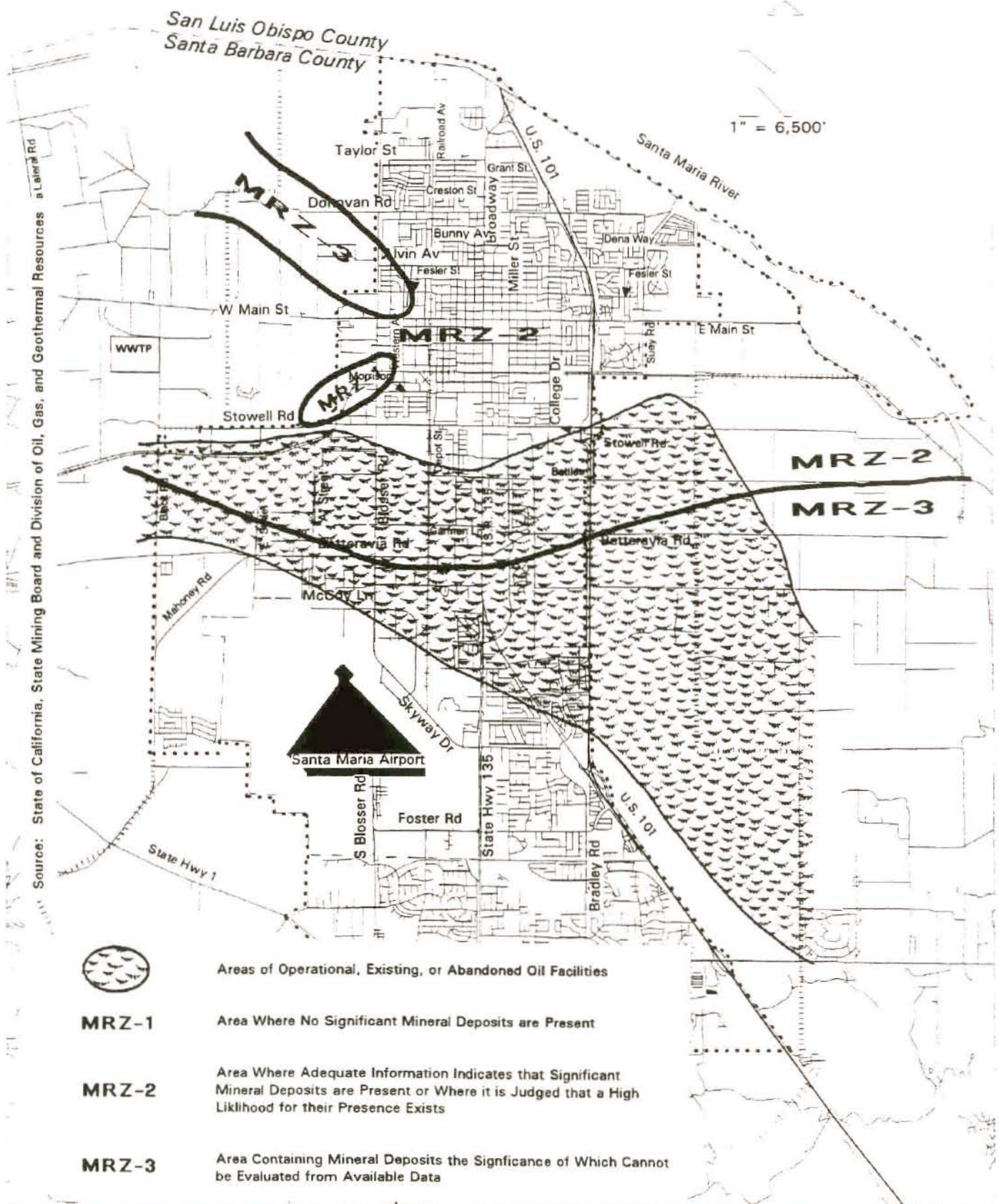
The State Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) is the principal state agency involved in the administration of mining operations. All surface mining operations in California must comply with the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). SMARA requires cities and counties containing areas classified as Mineral Resource Zone 2 or 3 (MRZ-2 or MRZ-3), Scientific Zone (SZ), or designated as mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance to include information on mineral deposits and policies in their General Plans (Public Resources Code Section 2762 and 2763). SMARA also requires cities and counties to regulate specific mining operations by local ordinance.

In accordance with State Law, the Santa Maria General Plan must develop policies that recognize, conserve and develop mineral resources; and provide for the reclamation of mined lands to prevent or minimize adverse impacts on the environment and to protect the public health and safety. The City of Santa Maria adopted Ordinance No. 93-23 establishing standards for mining and reclamation in compliance with the Surface Mining Act and Reclamation Act of 1975 (Chapter 47 of Title 12 of the Municipal Code). The Ordinance was revised in March of 1994 (Ordinance No. 94-4), and was certified by the State Mining and Geology Board in May 1994.

Oil Resources

Beginning in the early 1900s, the oil industry has played a key role in shaping the Santa Maria Valley. The search for oil led many oil prospectors to the Santa Maria-Orcutt Area. Productive oil operations have had a direct effect on the economy of the Valley.

**Figure RME-4
Mineral Resource and Mining Production Areas**



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In order to sustain oil as a valuable resource, several issues must be considered in the development of general plan policies. These issues include the preservation and conservation of active oil wells and the adverse impacts on the environment, including the safety and security of inactive wells and abandoned oil sumps.

Over the years as the oil became more scarce and the price of oil declined, oil drilling and pumping operations were reduced significantly. A majority of the active oil drilling and pumping operations occur in the unincorporated areas surrounding the City, with only a few active wells within City limits. Although oil field production has decreased over the last ten years, active wells continue to produce more than one million barrels on an annual basis. Based on the current data, oil continues to be a valuable natural and economic resource for the Santa Maria Valley.

As Santa Maria continues to grow, development will most likely occur in areas located within the former Santa Maria Oil Field. This oil field is the oldest and largest in Santa Barbara County encompassing land from the coast (adjacent to the southern boundary of the Guadalupe field) and extending inland across the Santa Maria Valley. The Santa Maria Oil Field has a high number of abandoned wells (approximately 400) many of which have been covered by urban expansion (Figure RME-4).

A major concern for the City is the improper abandonment of oil wells and related oil sumps. Because of the timing of their abandonment, many of the inactive oil wells may not meet current State and County Standards for abandonment and cleanup. To insure compliance with these standards, the City follows Santa Barbara County Petroleum Ordinance No. 2795, Regulations for Drilling, Producing, Operating, and Abandoning Petroleum Wells.

The State of California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (CDOGGR) is the principal state agency involved in the administration of onshore oil and gas development. Pursuant to Section 3106 of Public Resources Code (PRC), CDOGGR oversees the drilling, operation, maintenance and abandonment of onshore oil and gas wells to prevent, as far as possible, damage to life, health, property and natural resources. The City coordinates with the CDOGGR when a project involves an oil well and sump. CDOGGR provides information such as the location of oil wells and the status of a well (inactive, active, or abandoned). In addition, CDOGGR must be present when an oil well is abandoned.

A complete description of safety impacts associated with oil related activities can be found in the City's Safety Element of the General Plan.

8. Urban Forest and Landscaping

An urban forest can be defined as the planted environment within a city. It includes both public and private open space areas planted with trees, shrubs, lawns and other forms of vegetation. Street trees, landscaped easements and medians, and parks are also part of the urban forest.

The urban forest is part of what makes a quality living environment. It enhances social, cultural, scenic, and economic dimensions of life.

The urban forest also has an ecological value. It modifies the environment in a positive manner by providing air filtering, shade, wind protection, noise, and soil protection. Trees are known to absorb and intercept harmful pollutants such as Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), the gas that is largely responsible for the "Greenhouse Effect" causing global warming. Well placed trees can prevent heat loss, provide wind breaks, and cool the environment by blocking solar radiation. Trees function as a buffer to stormwater runoff and reduce soil protection erosion problems. Trees also contribute to energy efficiency as discussed in the energy section.

The City of Santa Maria's urban forest is comprised primarily of introduced native and drought-tolerant plant materials. The actual tree population in Santa Maria can be characterized as fairly young when compared to most urban areas. Based on inventory data from 1989, the average tree canopy diameter (in Santa Maria) is 14.6+ feet, while the average canopy diameter is 24 feet for a tree in a mature urban forest. The City's tree population is still growing, and will have a significant positive effect on the environment. While Santa Maria's urban forest is younger and less complex than other cities, the City has the potential to become a major urban forest area.

To encourage development of the Santa Maria Urban Forest, the City adopted an "Urban Forest" component in the General Plan, adopted Landscape Standards (Chapter 44 of Title 12) for public and private development, and adopted a Street Tree Ordinance. The City also provides lists for drought tolerant plants and "non-polluting" trees and plants.

To insure the future of the Santa Maria urban forest, this document proposes general plan policies that address: (1) the preservation of the existing plant environment in the community, including landscape easements and street medians; (2) improvement of degraded landscape areas; (3) expansion of the tree canopy area and other landscaped areas; (4) the potential negative impacts (water and energy demands) associated with the urban forest, (5) the management and maintenance of landscaped areas, and 6) preservation of existing tree windrows throughout the City. The Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) provides a full discussion of these issues.

9. Historical and Cultural Resources

Historical and cultural resources refer to the material and nonmaterial expressions of human adaptation which characterizes a historic period. These resources include historic events or activity sites, architecture, and documents and other sources of historical information.

In 1955, the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society was established. The Historical Society plays a major role in documenting and preserving Santa Maria's history. The Society's activities include gathering and preserving materials related to the history of the Santa Maria Valley.

Historical resources in Santa Maria consist of several landmarks and structures. There are 10 structures and landmarks officially designated by the City and its landmark committee. Additional sites are designated by private organizations. The City has also established a Historic Overlay Zone which allows for the designation of certain structures and areas for preservation.

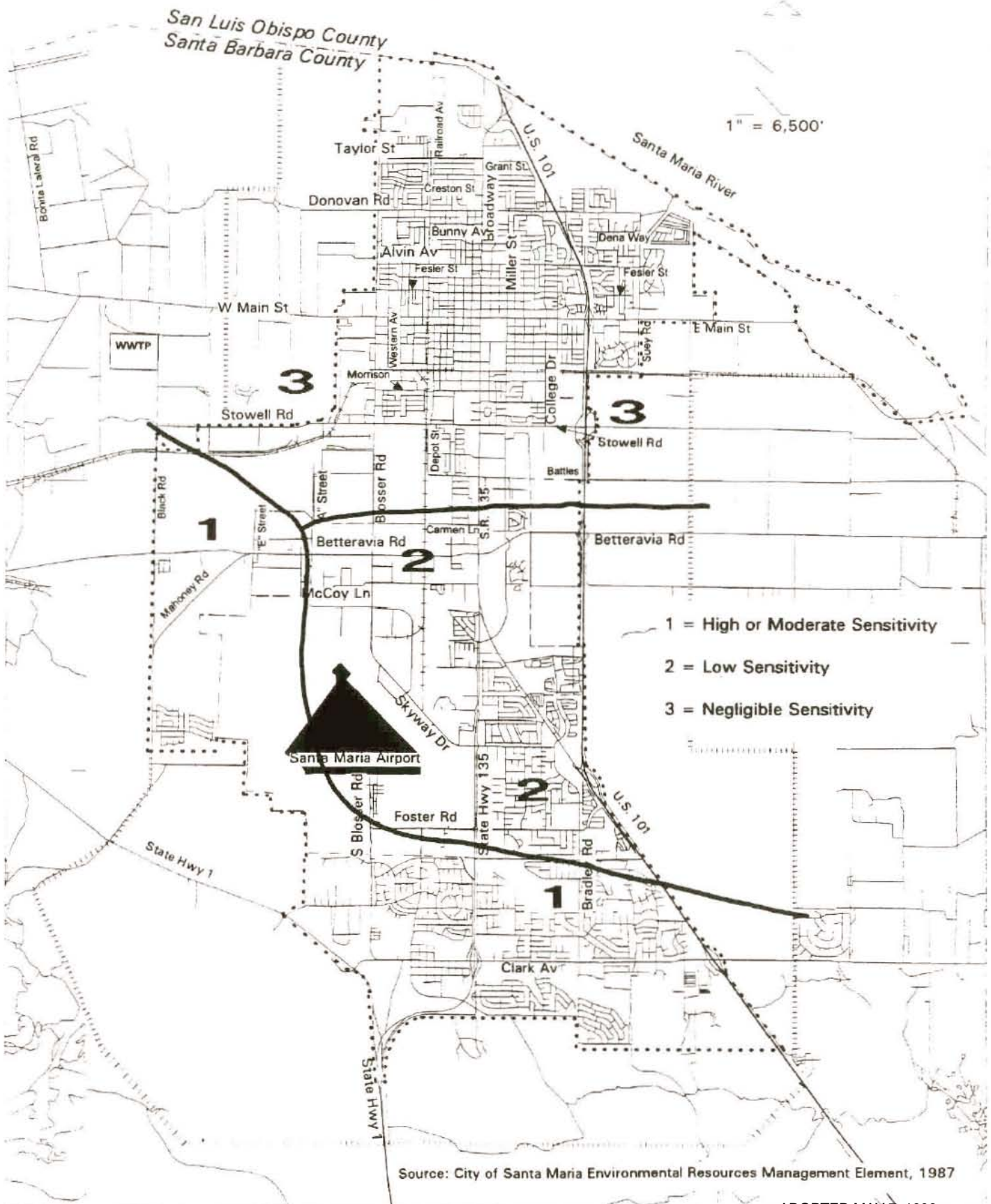
10. Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources refer to the material remains (artifacts, structures, refuse) produced purposely or accidentally by human beings. Archaeological remains identify the type of activities, types of adaptation to the environment, and changes in activities and organization that were experienced by people in the past. Furthermore, these remains often have special significance to ethnic groups, special interest groups and the general public.

The Santa Maria Valley is not considered to be a major archaeological or palaeontological resource area as only a few sites have been recorded or discovered. Archaeological Sensitivity Areas are defined in Figure RME-5.

State and local procedures require occasional site surveys and sensitivity measures if or when a archaeological site is suspected.

**Figure RME-5
Archaeological Sensitivity Areas**



Source: City of Santa Maria Environmental Resources Management Element, 1987

ADOPTED MAY 7, 1996
AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

C. GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND PROGRAMS

GOAL 1 - WATER RESOURCES

Provide high quality water resources to meet existing and future water demands.

POLICY 1

Conserve and improve water resources to ensure an adequate supply of high quality water for all existing and future inhabitants in the Santa Maria Valley.

Objective 1.1.a (1) - Groundwater

Insure that there are adequate water resources to supply the present needs of both agriculture and urban users as well planned future development as projected in the General Plan Land Use Element.

Objective 1.1.a (2) - Groundwater

Minimize overdraft of the Orcutt Sub-Storage Unit of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin through water conservation management practices, and the importation of State Water.

Objective 1.1.b - Surface Water

Improve long-term recharge of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin through the retention of natural watershed areas, the development of regional recharge basins, and by minimizing impervious surfaces in new development.

Objective 1.1.c - Regional Drainage Plan

Develop a regional storm drainage plan throughout the City to facilitate the recharge system.

Objective 1.1.d - Water Quality

Improve and maintain the quality of water in the City by reducing the levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in the water supply.

Objective 1.1.e - Conservation

Reduce the City of Santa Maria's present per capita water consumption rate through effective conservation measures and public awareness programs.

Objective 1.1.f - Efficient Water Use

Provide for the efficient use of water through the use of natural drainage, drought tolerant landscaping, and recycling.

Implementation Programs.

Water Resources

1. Continue to analyze project-specific and cumulative water impacts through the development review and CEQA processes. This would include an evaluation of the water quality impacts of agriculture and urban runoff, and the development of mitigation measures as necessary.
2. Continue to support the importation of State Water.
3. Continue to implement and maintain the City's water conservation programs (Public Awareness).

4. Prepare a biennial report on the status of resource and infrastructure capacities (See RME Goal 13 - Growth Management).
5. Continue to implement the City's A.B. 1600 Fee Program to pay for the associated costs of delivering State Water and funding water system improvements.
6. Continue to implement the City's Grading and Drainage Standards and prepare a detailed system of drainage districts each with independent retardation/recharge basin(s).
7. Review all development to be consistent with Chapter 44 of Title 12 of the Municipal Code, including drought-tolerant landscaping and water efficient irrigation systems.
8. Require developments to install water efficient plumbing fixtures in accordance with the Uniform Building Code and Uniform Plumbing Code. This includes the requirement that all car washes recycle not less than 60% of all water consumed.
9. Require new and renovated landscaping at all City buildings to be designed to maximize energy efficiency and minimize water use.
10. Work with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control Water Conservation District and Water Agency, and the California Cities Water Company to establish a data base on actual available supply and the projected use factors for types of land use and development.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The Public Works Department monitors and tests the City's water system on a regular basis to assure the quality of water is acceptable and is within the allowable limits for maximum contaminant levels (MCL) set by the California Department of Health Services.
2. The Community Development Department reviews all projects for consistency with Chapter 44 of Title 12 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code (Landscape Standards).
3. The Santa Maria City Council adopted the A.B. 1600 Fee Program in 1993, as amended in 1996.
4. State Water infrastructure is under construction.
5. A revised street tree ordinance was adopted in 1995.

Anticipated Results:

1. Improved water quality.
2. Reduced water demand per capita.
3. Prolonged life of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.

GOAL 2 - AIR QUALITY

Improve and maintain healthful air quality in Santa Maria and Northern Santa Barbara County.

POLICY 2

Improve and maintain the quality of air to insure the health of all residents in the Santa Maria Valley by reducing mobile and stationary source air pollutant emissions through the use of efficient land use patterns, the implementation and promotion of alternative transportation modes and other transportation system management programs. (Refer to the Circulation Element for related policies and programs.)

Objective 2.1.a - Mobile Sources

Facilitate the development and use of alternative transportation to the private automobile by implementing trip reduction and traffic mitigation measures, when appropriate.

Objective 2.1.b - Stationary Sources

Reduce air emissions associated with stationary sources through the implementation of source control measures, when appropriate.

Objective 2.1.c - Biomass Pollution Shed Program

Implement the City Biomass Pollution Shed Program by the year 2000.

Objective 2.1.d - Innovative Pollution Control

Research and develop innovative solutions to address the reduction of air pollutants in the City and region.

Objective 2.1.e - Alternative Fuels

Reduce air pollutant emissions by converting City owned and/or operated high mileage fleet (e.g. Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT) buses and service vehicles) to alternative "clean" fuel sources.

Objective 2.1.f - Land Use

Maintain the area west of the City (upwind) free from industrial uses that have high emissions such as: oil processing facilities, gas plants, and refineries.

Objective 2.1.g - Land Use

Reduce mobile air pollutant emissions through the use of pedestrian and transit oriented design principles and minimize the impacts of stationary sources by locating these uses away from sensitive receptors (e.g. schools and hospitals).

Objective 2.1.h - Community Design

Design communities/neighborhoods so that housing, jobs, daily needs and other activities are within easy walking distance of each other.

Objective 2.1.i - Urban Activities

Locate urban activities within easy walking distance of existing and planned transit stops.

Objective 2.1.j - Streets, pedestrian paths and bikeways

Encourage the design of streets, pedestrian paths, and bike paths so that they are small and spatially defined by buildings, trees and lighting and discourages high speed traffic.

Objective 2.1.k - Compliance with State and Federal Regulations

Coordinate efforts with the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District to implement regional air quality strategies and tactics in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

Implementation Programs

Air Quality

1. Review projects for impacts to air quality in the development review and CEQA processes using APCD threshold standards as guidelines.
2. Review projects for compliance with the Santa Barbara County Congestion Management Program (CMP), Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP), 1993 Rate of Progress Plan (ROPP), and the 1994 Clean Air Plan.
3. Review projects such as industrial uses, dry cleaners, and paint booths for compliance with APCD regulations.
4. Establish a formal bus replacement program that calls for the conversion of SMAT buses to clean fuel vehicles.
5. Amend the City's Capital Improvement Plan to incorporate replacement of high mileage fleet vehicles with clean fuel vehicles.
6. Pursue local, state and federal grants that can be used to convert City vehicles to clean fuel vehicles.
7. Promote the use of alternative fuel sources and continue to acquire and use "clean fuel" vehicles and SMAT buses.
8. Continue researching and implement a Biomass Pollution Shed Program which may be utilized for air pollution reductions and air emission credits.
9. Create a vegetation inventory that will serve as the basis for a "bank" of publicly owned and maintained vegetation.
10. Gain regulatory recognition for a City-controlled program in which City-owned and maintained vegetation may be used to buy out of air pollution control requirements for individual applicants.
11. Publicize the City's Biomass Pollution Shed Program and gain recognition for innovation allowing pollution control to coexist with economic growth and beautification.
12. Continue to pursue outside funding for additional research and seek changes in policies and regulations to facilitate implementation of the Biomass Pollution Shed Program.
13. Continue to implement the standard City of Santa Maria dust control mitigation measures for all development projects.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The City has gathered and organized a definitive library of literature on Biomass Pollution Sheds, including regular computer searches; and set up a database with names, addresses and specific concerns of those interested in the program.

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2. The City has implemented a clean fuel pilot program.
3. A TDM Resolution of Commitment for the Congestion Management Program was adopted.
4. The City has converted eleven City vehicles to CNG fuel.
5. The City has purchased two (2) clean fuel SMAT buses and is planning to order one (1) more.
6. The City is planning to order one (1) electric bus.

Anticipated Results:

1. Conversion of all SMAT buses to clean fuel vehicles.
2. Conversion of 42 City owned vehicles to CNG fuel.
3. Federal and state attainment status for ozone, and state attainment status for PM₁₀.
4. Implementation of a Biomass Pollution Shed Program.

GOAL 3 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Preserve natural biological resources and expand the Santa Maria Urban Forest.

POLICY 3

Protect and preserve biological resources, and expand the urban forest within the Planning Area in order to enhance the quality of life in the Santa Maria Valley.

Objective 3.1.a - Plant and Animal Taxa and Habitats

Ensure that all development near sensitive habitats avoids significant impacts to these areas.

Objective 3.1.b - Urban Forest

Expand the area of the Urban Forest by increasing the City's tree canopy from eight (8) percent to fifteen (15) percent by the year 2010.

Objective 3.1.c (1) - Landscape Maintenance

Finance the maintenance of public improvements and landscaping that can be equitably distributed among all individuals that benefit.

Objective 3.1.c (2) - Landscape Maintenance

Improve private landscaping by requiring commercial and industrial developments to maintain their property in accordance with City Landscaping Standards.

Objective 3.1.d - Greenbelt

Provide a greenbelt around the corporate City Limits to function as a buffer between agriculture and urban uses. The greenbelt would vary in width, be landscaped (forested) and provide a multiple use trail throughout.

Implementation Programs.

Biological Resources

1. Draft and adopt an ordinance establishing the means to preserve "locally important" trees and identified plant and animal habitats.
2. Designate portions of the Santa Maria River, Orcutt Creek and other waterways as greenbelt areas whereby riparian habitats may be preserved.
3. Provide adequate buffer zones and other appropriate mitigation measures through the land use and CEQA processes.
4. Require biological assessments by a qualified biologist in areas where the existence of rare or endangered plants or animals are known or can be reasonably expected to exist.
5. Require street trees to be incorporated into the design and plans of new developments.
6. Preserve and maintain existing trees along and in public streets and parking lots.
7. Enforce the tree replacement standards contained in Chapter 44 of Title 12 of the Municipal Code.
8. Provide incentives to residents and businesses to plant "clean" trees which support the Biomass Pollution Shed Program.

9. Enforce the existing ordinance that requires developers of new buildings to plant trees and shrubs to improve energy efficiency and to preserve existing trees on building sites.
10. Require all new residential development to be annexed into a City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District to ensure the continued maintenance of landscaping that benefits the public and the environment.
11. Require as conditions of development, where appropriate, the dedication and improvement of greenbelt rights-of-way.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. In 1993, the City revised its landscape standards contained in Chapter 44 of Title 12 of the Municipal Code.
2. In 1995, a revised street tree ordinance was adopted.

Anticipated Results:

1. Adoption of a preservation ordinance for locally important trees and habitats.
2. Expansion of the Santa Maria Urban Forest.
3. Establishment of greenbelt areas in the City, and in the unincorporated areas surrounding the City.

GOAL 4 - HISTORICAL

Preserve cultural and archaeological resources to assure that future generations maintain a strong sense of value.

POLICY 4

Preserve and identify cultural and archaeological resources that define the historical significance of the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Valley.

Objective 4.1.a - Archaeological

Ensure that development does not impact archaeologically sensitive areas by applying appropriate mitigation measures as required by State Law.

Objective 4.1.b - Historical

Maintain the architectural integrity of historic structures within the City through the preservation of sites and structures located within the "H" overlay zone and other sites designated as local and State landmarks.

Objective 4.1.c - Community Design

Integrate a center focus that combines commercial, civic, cultural and recreational uses in planning the community. Implement the City of Santa Maria's "Architectural Tower Identity Program" as conditions of project approval. As a continuous program, strongly encourage large commercial and industrial projects and residential subdivisions to incorporate architecturally designed tower elements into the project design. (Resolution 2001-06)

Objective 4.1.d - Public Spaces

Design public open spaces to encourage the attention and presence of people at all hours of the day and night.

Objective 4.1.e - Centralized Institutions and Services

Locate regional and local institutions and services (government, stadiums, museums, etc.) within the downtown urban core so that they are accessible to the entire community in the urban core.

Objective 4.1.f- Improved Community Identity

Encourage builders to use materials and methods of construction specific to the region, exhibiting continuity of history, and culture and compatibility with, to foster the development of local character and community identity.

Implementation Programs.

Historical Resources

1. If cultural resources are discovered during construction of a project, all work in the area of the find shall cease, and a qualified archaeologist shall be retained by the project applicant to investigate the find and to make appropriate recommendations. If human remains are encountered, all work shall cease and the Coroner's Office shall be contacted.
2. Compile and retain a list of qualified archaeological, historical and palaeontological consultants to provide information to complete initial studies and environmental analysis.
3. As new information regarding archaeological resources is received from authoritative sources, the City will update the archaeological and historical resources section of the General Plan, where appropriate.

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4. Adopt a resolution that recognizes sites and events that are deemed to be historically or culturally significant to the City of Santa Maria.
5. Identify areas considered to be of historical significance and place these areas under an "Historical" overlay zone. Examine methods and incentives to implement the "H" Overlay.
6. Pursue funding sources for the recognition, preservation, restoration or acquisition of historically designated sites.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to include an "Historic" Overlay District.

Anticipated Results:

1. Identification and preservation of "historic" structures within the "H" overlay zone.
2. Adoption of a resolution recognizing historic events.
3. Designation of sites and buildings as historic landmarks where appropriate.
4. Government services and cultural facilities will remain downtown, and be accessible to all segments of the community.
5. Materials and methods of construction that are specific to the region, exhibiting continuity of history and culture and compatibility with the climate to encourage the development of local character and community identity.
6. The Architectural Tower Identity Program will help establish a positive City identity, provide for a positive community and neighborhood identity, encourage a pride of ownership and the resultant higher levels of property maintenance, and for commercial projects, provide for a high design quality of business identification. (Resolution 2001-06)

GOAL 5 - AGRICULTURE AND SOILS

Preserve high quality soils to assure that agriculture remains the primary basic industry in the Santa Maria Valley.

POLICY 5

Preserve agricultural lands for continued agricultural activities in the Santa Maria Valley.

Objective 5.1.a - Agriculture

Encourage the provision and maintenance of incentives to owners of undeveloped prime agricultural land to preserve their land for agricultural production.

Objective 5.1.b - Agricultural Soils

Retain prime soils which are presently in agricultural production and discourage development on these soils.

Objective 5.1.c - Agricultural Services

Continue to encourage agricultural support services to locate and operate within the Planning Area and City limits.

Objective 5.1.d - Farmworker Housing

Continue to encourage Santa Barbara County to provide farmworker housing.

(For additional agricultural goals, policies, objectives and programs, refer to the Land Use Element.)

Implementation Programs

Agriculture Resources

1. As part of the development review and CEQA processes, review projects for potential impacts to prime soils and agricultural operations. If a project conflicts with agricultural resources, incorporate land use buffers, greenbelts and other measures, as needed.
2. Continue to use the Williamson Act as a means of preserving lands for long-term agricultural use. (See related policies in the Land Use Element.)
3. Seek incentives for property owners to take advantage of state programs, such as the Williamson Act and the Open Space Easement Act, which will reduce property taxes in return for preserving the land for agricultural purposes.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The City of Santa Maria guides urban development away from areas with prime agricultural soils.
2. The General Plan Land Use Element designates areas used for agricultural production as Agricultural Open Space.

3. The General Plan Land Use Element shows the following areas as prime agriculture and "No Urban Development."
 - a. North and south of Main Street, west of Hanson Way; and
 - b. North and south of Stowell Road, east of U.S. Highway 101.
4. City, County and LAFCO adopted a Greenbelt Policy to encourage infill development and discourage urban sprawl.

Anticipated Results:

1. Preservation of prime agricultural soils to continue to support agricultural production in the Santa Maria Valley as a basic industry.

GOAL 6 - MINERALS AND ENERGY

Conserve non-renewable resources and wisely use renewable sources of energy.

POLICY 6.1 - Mineral Resources and Surface Mining

Provide for the responsible mining of mineral resources which includes the reclamation of mined lands to minimize adverse impacts on the environment, and protect the public health and safety.

POLICY 6.2 - Energy Resources

Promote the reduction of overall consumption of limited, non-renewable energy sources, the increase in the efficient use of energy, and the utilization of cost-effective, renewable sources of energy.

Objective 6.1.a(1) - Surface Mining

Encourage the use of the Santa Maria River channel for its sand and gravel resources.

Objective 6.1.a(2) - Reclamation

Provide for the reclamation of mined lands pursuant to SMARA and Chapter 47 of Title 12 of the City's Municipal Code (Santa Maria Surface Mining Ordinance).

Objective 6.1.a(3) - Oil Production

Support the continued and responsible exploration and extraction of oil resources within the Santa Maria Valley.

Objective 6.1.a(4) - Land Use Oil Activities

Actively encourage the provision of, and expansion of, all oil related industry to the east (downwind) of the City of Santa Maria.

Objective 6.1.b(1) - Energy Resources

Conserve non-renewable and renewable resources through managed extraction and utilization of the best available technology to insure an adequate supply of energy to meet existing and future demands.

Objective 6.1.b(2) - Energy Resources

Encourage innovative building and site design which maximizes energy efficiency in private and public facilities.

Objective 6.1.b(3) - Fuel Efficiency

Support State and federal energy efficiency legislation that would increase energy efficiency and eliminate wasteful energy consumption.

Objective 6.1.b(4) - Energy Efficiency Through Street and Building Orientation

Contribute to the energy efficiency of the community through street orientation, the placement of buildings and the use of shading.

Objective 6.1.b(5) - Public Awareness

Promote energy conservation through public awareness programs.

Objective 6.1.b(6) - Preservation of Scarce Resources

Preserve scarce resources through energy conservation, and the development and use of alternative energy sources.

Implementation Programs

Mineral Resources

1. Amend the Santa Maria General Plan (Land Use Element) in accordance with the requirements of State laws which govern mining (State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975) to designate the Santa Maria River as Conservation Open Space (COS).
2. Review applications for mining operations for consistency with the Santa Maria General Plan, and compliance with the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 and the City of Santa Maria Surface Mining Ordinance (Chapter 47 of Title 12 of the Municipal Code).
3. Continue to follow County Petroleum Ordinance No. 2793, State Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources regulations, and the City's Safety Element in reviewing existing and abandoned oil facilities, as needed.
4. As new information regarding mineral resources is received from authoritative sources, the City will update the General Plan, where appropriate.

Energy Resources

5. Require multi-family projects to install solar energy systems for heating swimming pools, laundry hot water, and to pre-plumb and pre-wire single family homes for solar panels.
6. Establish a strategy to acquire clean fuel vehicles and buses for use by the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT).
7. As part of discretionary project approvals, encourage and require alternative means of transportation (e.g., vanpools, bus stops) for commercial and industrial uses that have the potential to generate a high volume of traffic.
8. Support the development and use of renewable sources of energy, including the use of solar, biomass, wind, and waste conversion.
9. Continue to work on programs which increase the public's awareness of the benefits of conserving energy and using alternative transportation modes and clean fuel vehicles.
10. Develop an urban forest plan which promotes the use of trees for summer heat reduction and winter warming.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. In July 1993, the Santa Maria City Council adopted the Santa Maria Mining and Reclamation Ordinance (Ord. No. 93-23 , Chapter 47 of Title 12) pursuant to the SMARA. The Ordinance was revised in March of 1994 (Ord. No. 94-4), and certified by the State Mining and Geology Board on May 13, 1994.
2. The City has retrofitted eleven (11) vehicles to CNG fuel.
3. SMAT buses are replaced with clean fuel vehicles at the end of a minimum normal service life, which depending on the size of the vehicle, service life could range from 7 years and 200,000 miles to 12 years and 500,000 miles.
4. The City has purchased two (2) clean fuel SMAT buses and plans to purchase one (1) more by the end of 1996.

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AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

Anticipated Results:

1. Conservation and preservation of non-renewal resources, proper management of renewable resources, and utilization of alternative energy resources to insure the availability of resources for existing and future generations.
2. Compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.
3. Conversion of City vehicles and SMAT buses to clean fuel vehicles.
4. Cleaner environment, more healthy citizens, and less cost to heat and cool structures.

GOAL 7 - OPEN SPACE

Provide and preserve open space areas for conservation, recreation and agriculture.

POLICY 7

Maintain areas designated for open space purposes, and provide new open space areas to preserve and protect scarce resources, wildlife habitats, and primary agricultural lands.

Objective 7.1.a - Agricultural Open Space

Maintain agricultural open space designations for agricultural lands within the City's Planning Area.

Objective 7.1.b - Recreation Open Space

Maintain existing recreational open space designations and provide new recreational open space areas as the demand increases.

Objective 7.1.c - Conservation Open Space

Provide adequate conservation open space areas for natural resource protection, wildlife habitat, water resource areas, urban forest, and mineral resources.

Objective 7.1.d - Preservation of Open Space

Provide open space areas to preserve and buffer environmentally sensitive areas from urban uses.

Objective 7.1.e - Open Space in Community Design

Provide for an ample supply of specialized open space in the form of squares, greens and parks whose frequent use is encouraged through placement and design.

Objective 7.1.f - Open Space and City Boundaries

Provide for well defined edges, such as agricultural buffers and greenbelts, permanently protected from development.

Objective 7.1.g - Preservation of Lands Through Buffers

Provide for the natural terrain, drainage, and vegetation of the community to be preserved with parks or greenbelts.

Objective 7.1.h - Regional Greenbelts and Corridors

Coordinate planning efforts with Santa Barbara County to establish a region that is bounded by and provides a continuous system of greenbelts and corridors.

Implementation Programs

Open Space

1. Review projects for consistency with open space designations in the General Plan Land Use Element.
2. Collect park fees through the development and review process including the Residential Development Tax, the Subdivision In-lieu fee (Quimby Act), and the A.B.1600 Mitigation Fee Program.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The General Plan (Land Use Element) designates certain lands as open space for conservation, recreational, and agricultural uses.

ADOPTED MAY 7, 1996
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2. An AB1600 Fee Ordinance has been adopted that includes a Recreation and Parks Growth Mitigation Fee.
3. The Residential Development Tax and Subdivision In-Lieu Fees are in place which provides a funding and dedication source for parks.

Anticipated Results.

1. Preservation and acquisition of open space areas for conservation, recreation and agriculture.
2. A planning area that is bounded by, and provides for, a continuous system of greenbelt corridors.

III. RECREATION AND PARKS ELEMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

Park and recreation facilities and services are vital components of a city's existence as they directly influence a community's quality of life. The development of a comprehensive park and recreation systems involves integrating public open space, public recreation areas, private recreational installations, and a wide variety of public, commercial, and industrial support facilities. The Recreation and Parks Element addresses the existing conditions, and resources affecting the delivery of park and recreation services, and sets forth goals, policies, objectives, and programs to guide the planning, development, and operation of the park and recreation systems serving residents of the Santa Maria Area.

B. FINDINGS AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Public Park and Recreation Facilities

The City of Santa Maria's recreation system is comprised of several local parks and recreational facilities. Figure RME-6 illustrates the City's Recreation System. Facilities in the Orcutt area include four small parks and a regional facility (Waller Park). Both the City and County have been able to expand their park and recreational inventory through joint-use agreements with the school districts. In addition, there are several regional parks and recreation sites which include beaches, golf courses, and lakes located within 30 miles of the City.

Over the past five years (1989-1994), the City of Santa Maria has opened three new recreation facilities -- Hagerman Softball Center, Robert Grogan Park, and Michael Maramonte Park. The City also encourages private land developers to include open space areas, that can be used for picnic areas and playground equipment, within development projects.

In June 1992, the City Council adopted the City of Santa Maria Bikeway Plan. The Plan provides for an extensive network of bike lanes and multiple use (bicycle and pedestrian) trails throughout the City. The primary multi-purpose trails are the Santa Maria/Guadalupe Dunes Bikeway, the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Trail (north-south), and the Battles Road (east-west) Bikeway (within the Unocal Oil Pipeline right-of-way). These trails along with the other planned bike facilities will increase recreational opportunities for the residents of Santa Maria.

One of the City's primary concerns is providing sufficient facilities to meet the recreational demands of the community. The City uses several standards to determine if there are adequate parks and recreation facilities to serve the City's residents. These standards are usually based on the City's population, and the type of facility. According to the Background Information Report (Technical Appendix), there is a need for additional recreation facilities to support the City's existing and projected population. These major facilities include an aquatic center, a gymnasium in the northern portion of the City, several public racquetball and tennis courts, and soccer fields.

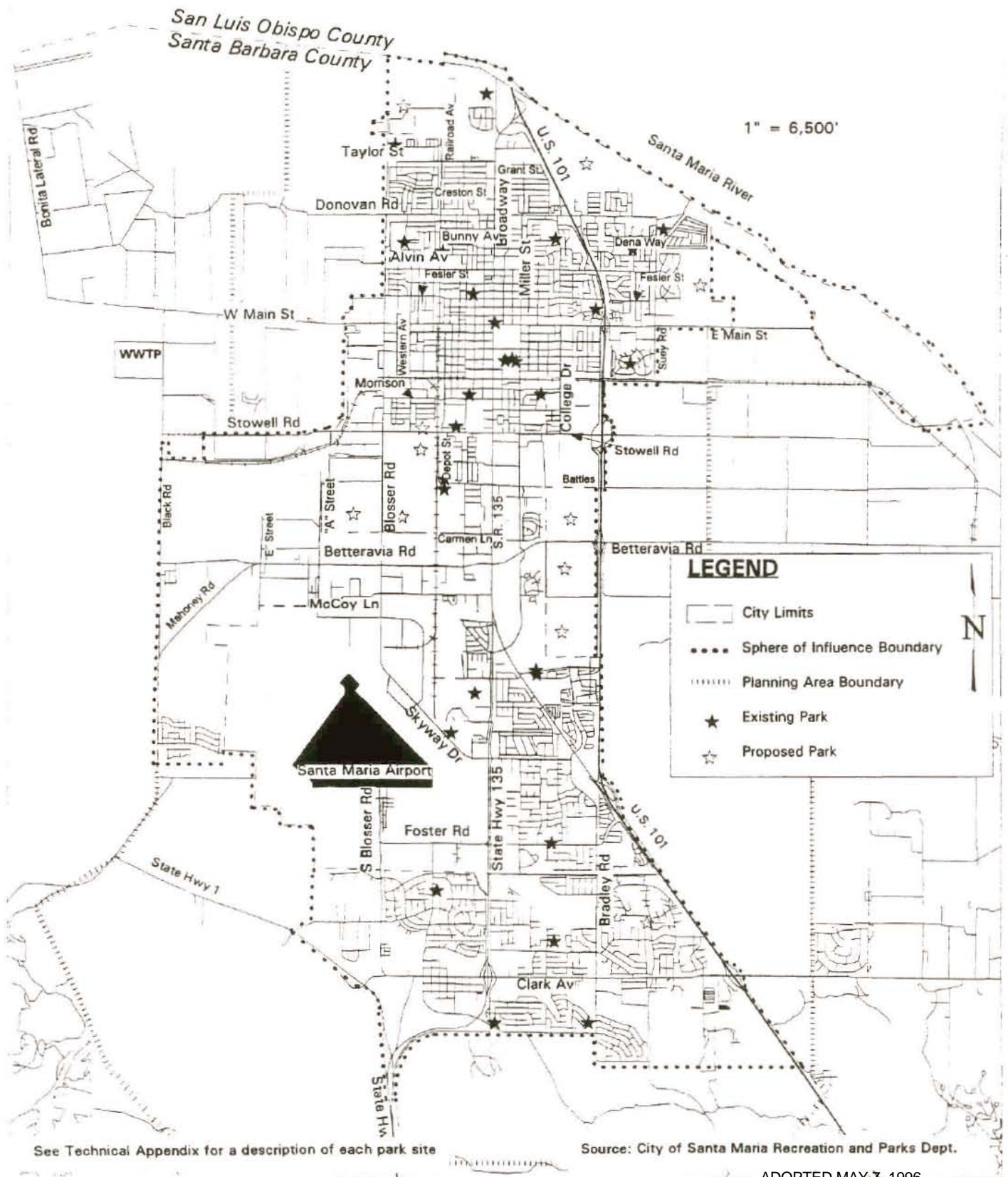
2. Recreational Activities

Recreation activities and programs are the other key component in producing an effective recreational system. As such, it is very important that a recreation system offer a wide range of recreational activities for all citizens.

The Recreation and Parks Department (Recreation Division) provides a broad scope of programs and services to the community. Activities range from arts and crafts to softball. These activities are available for all ages. Santa Maria also provides Orcutt residents with organized recreational activities through the City's Recreation and Parks Department.

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**Figure RME-6
Recreation System Map**



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AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

3. Level of Service Standards

The number of park and recreational facilities needed are determined by level of service standards. The City uses the standards listed in Table RME-1.

A second standard in determining necessary parks is the City's Subdivision Ordinance standard, as stated below:

"The dedication of land, or the payment of fees, or both, shall not exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide three (3) acres of park area per one thousand (1,000) persons residing within a subdivision, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area, as calculated pursuant to this Section, exceeds that limit, in which case the City Council may adopt the calculated amount as a higher standard not to exceed five (5) acres per one thousand (1,000) persons residing within a subdivision." (Section 11-09.05(d))

The subdivision standard is used for new residential subdivisions and based on the projected population of the project. The level of service standard of one neighborhood park (4 to 6 acres in size) per 5,000 residents is a citywide standard or citywide goal. The subdivision requirement assists the city in meeting this goal.

Table RME-2 displays current and future recreational facility demands for Santa Maria. They are based on the facility standards contained in Table RME-1. The figure of 69,000 is the estimated 1995 population. The 100,000 figure is an arbitrary population and used as an example.

Park Acreage

The level of service standard, or Subdivision Ordinance standard, of three to five acres per 1,000 residents would currently require 207 to 345 acres for the City's 1995 population of 69,000. When the City's population reaches 100,000 people, 300 to 500 acres of parkland would be required to meet the standard. The City's current acreage count of 154.70 would not meet current requirements. At least 145 additional acres would be needed to meet the minimal standards when the population reaches 100,000.

The Sphere of Influence Specific Plans, the Santa Maria Airport Research Park Specific Plan, and the Rivergate-Roemer Specific Plan propose a total of 515 additional Recreational Open Space (ROS) acres. If this acreage is utilized for parks, combined with the existing 154.70 acres, the total acreage of 669.70 would support 223,233 residents at minimal standards (3 acres/1,000) and 133,940 residents at maximum standards (5 acres/1,000).

Table RME-1 Existing Recreational Facility Standards

Facility Standards	
Classification	Standard Unit/People
1. Neighborhood Parks	1 unit/5,000
2. Playfields	
a. Youth Baseball/Softball	1 unit/6,000
b. Adult Softball	1 unit/10,000
c. Regulation Baseball (lighted)	1 unit/30,000
d. Soccer Fields	1 unit/5,000
e. Football Fields	1 unit/50,000
f. Tennis (lighted)	1 unit/2,000
g. Handball/Racquetball	1 unit/3,000
3. Community Center Building (4,000-8,000 sq ft)	1 unit/25,000
4. Social-Cultural Center (15,000-20,000 sq ft)	1 unit/75,000
5. Performing Arts Center (20,000-30,000 sq ft)	1 unit/75,000
6. Senior Center (10,000-15,000 sq ft)	1 unit/50,000
7. Visual Arts Workshop	1 unit/50,000
8. Gymnasium (12,000-14,000 sq ft)	1 unit/25,000
9. Community Swimming Pool	1 unit/20,000
10. Aquatic Center (extended season; handicapped)	1 unit/50,000

Table RME-2 Recreational Facility Demands

Facility		Now Have at 69,000	Should Have at 69,000	Should Have at 100,000
1.	Neighborhood Parks	13	14	20
2.	Playfields			
a.	Youth Baseball/Softball	12	11	16
b.	Adult Softball	8	7	10
c.	Regulation Baseball (lighted)	1 10	2 14	3 20
d.	Soccer Fields	1	1	2
e.	Football Fields	12	34	50
f.	Tennis (lighted)	4	23	33
g.	Handball/Racquetball			
3.	Community Center Building	5	3	4
4.	Social-Cultural Center	1	0	1
5.	Performing Arts Center	0	0	1
6.	Senior Center	1	1	2
7.	Visual Arts Workshop	0	1	2
8.	Gymnasium	1	3	4
9.	Community Swimming Pool	1	3	5
10.	Aquatic Center	0	1	2
<p>Note: Some Playfield activities include those located at area schools.</p> <p>Sources: City of Santa Maria. <u>Amendment to the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Sphere of Influence Boundary Expansion and Concurrent Annexation.</u> April 1992.</p> <p>City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, 1995.</p>				

C. GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL 8 - RECREATION

Maintain a high quality and comprehensive recreational system for the residents of Santa Maria.

POLICY 8.1

Provide a comprehensive public and private recreation system with diverse recreational opportunities for all residents.

Objective 8.1.a - Diverse Recreational Activities

Provide and maintain, in conjunction with school districts, civic organizations, and other private entities, diverse and organized recreational activities that benefit all residents in the community.

Objective 8.1.b - Recreational Facility Demands

Provide a balanced recreational facility system that meets recreation demands associated with the projected population in the Land Use Element.

Objective 8.1.c - Recreational Facilities Standards

Adopt the recreational facilities and development standards outlined in the Resources Management Element and the Background Information Report.

Objective 8.1.d - Child Care

Consider the direct and indirect impact of actions on the current status of child care in the community.

Implementation Programs

1. Develop new recreation facilities and programs in areas where facilities and programs are deficient.
2. Construction recreation facilities which meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. Continue to offer a variety of recreational programs and activities for the residents of Santa Maria.
4. Continue to encourage Santa Barbara County to provide additional recreation facilities and programs for their residents.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The Recreation and Parks Department continues to provide a broad scope of programming and services to the community, with some adjustments that reflect the reductions in budget allocations and staff levels.
2. The City currently employs a child care coordinator.

Anticipated Results:

1. Increased recreational opportunities for residents of all ages in Santa Maria.

GOAL 9 - PARKS AND FACILITIES

Provide and maintain a balanced park system meeting the needs of the residents of Santa Maria as the community continues to grow.

POLICY 9

Provide and maintain a balanced system of parks and recreation facilities that are distributed throughout the City which are accessible to all residents.

Objective 9.1.a(1) - Adequate Park Facilities

Maintain a high quality, diverse park system which enhances and builds on the variety of community values and provide adequate park acreage and recreation facilities to serve the needs of present and future residents.

Objective 9.1.a(2) - Joint Use Agreements

Increase recreational resources through continued coordination with the Santa Maria Area's school districts, Allan Hancock Community College, and Santa Barbara County.

Objective 9.1.b - Balanced Distribution of Parks

Develop new public parks and facilities in all sectors of the City.

Objective 9.1.c - Maintenance of Park Facilities

Improve maintenance of existing park facilities, and establishment of a reliable source of funding for the ongoing maintenance of parks and facilities.

Objective 9.1.d - Dual Use Retardation Basins

Require, where appropriate, new and existing retardation basins, drainage easements, utility easements, and open space corridors to be improved by adjacent developers for recreational purposes as conditions to development.

Objective 9.1.e - Multiple Use of Public Lands

Continue to promote the multiple use of existing public lands (school playgrounds, flood control retardation basins and easements) for recreational purposes.

Objective 9.1.f - Protection of Recreation Open Space

Protect open space areas designated for recreation and parks against conversion to non-recreation purposes.

Objective 9.1.g - Neighborhood Restoration Program

Promote public understanding of the Neighborhood Restoration Program to better serve an involved community.

Objective 9.1.h - Nuisance Mitigation

Construct park facilities in a manner that mitigates user annoyances to surrounding residential areas and are readily accessible to the general public.

Objective 9.1.i - Natural Preservation Areas

Provide natural preservation areas which can be used for environmental education, development of nature appreciation, and the demonstration of water conserving landscape.

Implementation Programs

Recreation and Parks Department Facilities

1. The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Commission will undertake an update to the City's Comprehensive Recreation and Parks Plan.

The focus of this update will be five fold:

- a. Evaluate existing Recreation and Park Department facilities, programs, services.
 - b. Evaluate Santa Maria City residents' leisure interest/needs, demographic analysis of customer base and customer satisfaction.
 - c. Analysis of data in #(a) and (b), and creation of a priority-based service delivery system.
 - d. Development of a tri-annual review and update process for the City's Comprehensive Recreation and Park Plan.
 - e. Creating a summary of the City's Recreation and Park Plan to be included in Resources Management Element's (Recreation and Park Section) of the City of Santa Maria General Plan.
2. Acquire or designate land ahead of development in order to gain better future control over the location and distribution of park sites.
 3. Require that private retardation basins for residential projects also be designed and improved as passive and/or active parks.
 4. Implementation of the Santa Maria Bikeway Plan which calls for the development of multi-purpose trails along the Bradley Drainage Channel, the Santa Maria River Levee, SMVRR and Battles Road, and other open space corridors.
 5. Maintain the City's joint use agreement with the Santa Maria area school districts, Allan Hancock Community College, and Santa Barbara County to provide maximum use of publicly-owned recreation resources.
 6. Initiate joint studies with the County of Santa Barbara and the school districts serving the Santa Maria area to find the most feasible arrangements for improving coordinative and cooperative planning, development operation and funding of recreation services and facilities in the planning area.
 7. Collect the established park mitigation fees with all project approvals per adopted ordinances.
 8. The Parks and Recreation Commission, as part of the biennial report to City Council (RME Goal B), shall prepare a status report to City Council concerning recreation facilities and programs.
 9. Develop jointly with all public school agencies of the area and the County of Santa Barbara, cooperative agreements for shared use of facilities.
 10. Enter into cooperative ventures with private interests as an alternative to satisfy community demand for recreation facilities or programs.
 11. Adopt a park preservation ordinance.
 12. Develop measures to reduce operation and maintenance costs.
 13. Develop or rebuild facilities to make them more vandal-resistant, safer and attractive.

14. Establish a volunteer program for the operations and maintenance of parks and programs starting with neighborhood parks.
15. Use marketing techniques to pinpoint changes recreation interests of the community and to publicize information about available recreation opportunities.
16. Apply for grants to supplement the provision of park facilities.
17. Provide athletic fields, picnic areas and other recreation facilities in accordance with current City standards to keep pace with the City's growing population.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The Recreation and Parks Department uses the space standards, facility standards and development standards specified in the RME of the General Plan and within the Subdivision Ordinance (Title 11).
2. The City of Santa Maria has opened three new facilities within the last five years. Hagerman Softball Center located in the southern portion of the City, Robert Grogan Park serving the northwest section of the City, and Michael Maramonte Park serving the southeast section of the City.

Anticipated Results:

1. Adoption of a Master Park and Recreation Development Plan. Implementation of this Recreation and Park Master Plan will assure the residents of Santa Maria are provided with the minimum necessary park facilities and recreation programs.
2. Construction of the planned bike lanes, bike routes and multi-purpose trails identified in the Santa Maria Bikeway Plan.

IV. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

Growth in Santa Maria will not only depend on environmental factors but also on the availability of public facilities and services. As growth occurs, city facilities and infrastructure reach a point where major expansion is necessary. These public facilities include, but are not limited to, water transmission mains, water reservoirs, drainage facilities, trunk sewer mains, the wastewater treatment plant, and solid waste collection and treatment. In addition, there would be an increase in the demand for municipal services such as police and fire protection and libraries. If adequate public facilities and services are not planned and constructed, the residents of Santa Maria will experience reduced levels of service.

In 1992, the Community Development Department prepared a Growth Mitigation/Management Report that looked at the potential impacts of growth on City services and infrastructure. The report also presented growth management options (see Section VI - Growth Management, Goal 13). A biennial update to the report was prepared in January 1996.

This section discusses the services available to the City and its residents. Discussed are fire services, police protection, libraries, water services, drainage, wastewater, and solid waste.

B. FINDINGS AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Fire Protection

The City and its planning area is served by six fire stations--three City stations, two county stations, and the Orcutt Volunteer station. Primary service areas for the City and County are depicted in Figure RME-7.

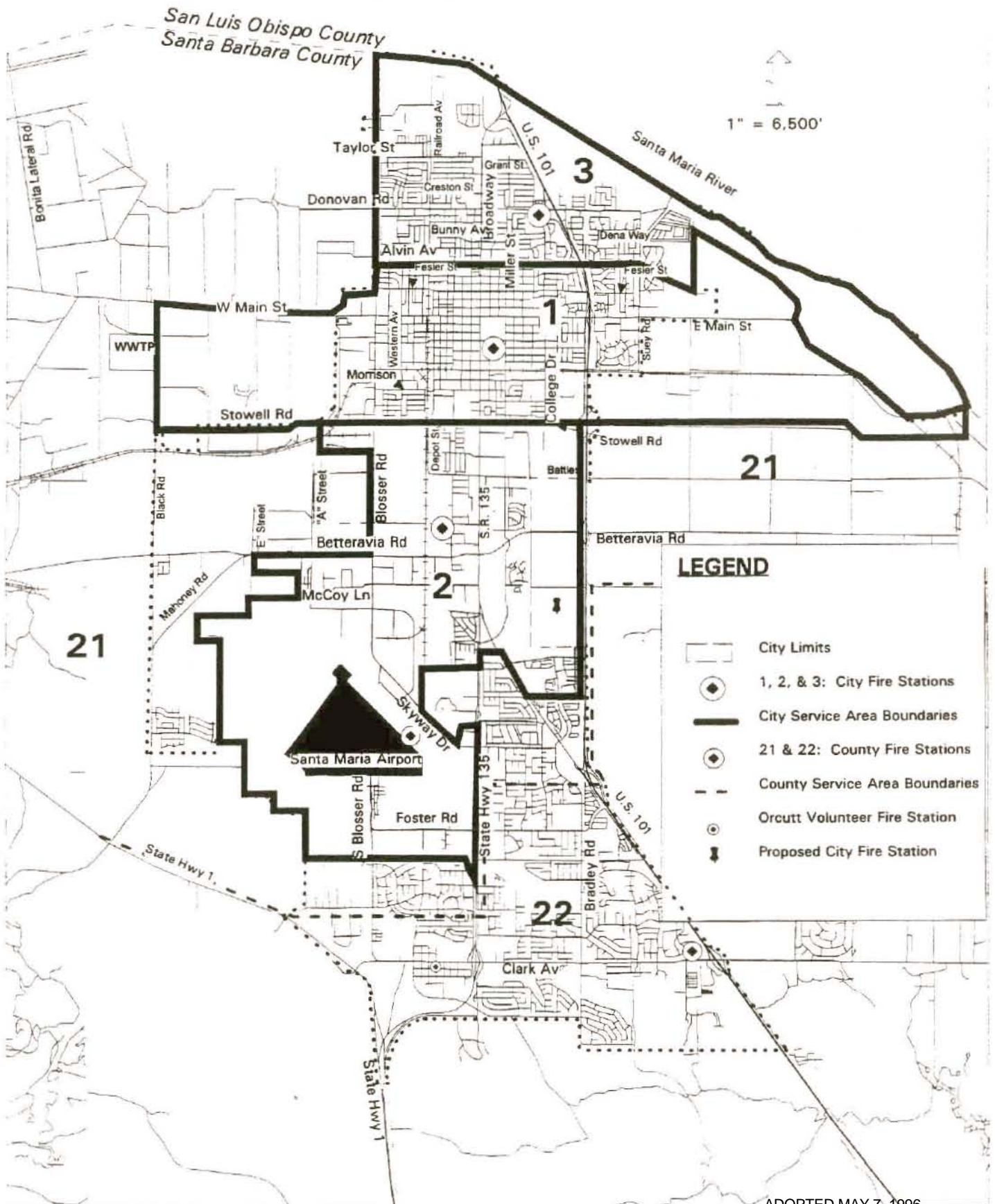
The City of Santa Maria also participates in mutual and automatic aid programs. Mutual aid is requested by neighboring fire departments for immediate assistance. Automatic aid is a program where the City Fire Department will respond to another jurisdiction, based on proximity to the emergency, as identified by the dispatcher. The City's automatic aid boundaries are Bonita School Road to the west, the Santa Maria Way area to the south, and Tefft Street in Nipomo to the north. The eastern boundary is 29 miles to the east of Santa Maria.

In addition to the actual firefighting, the City Fire Department spends a great deal of time on preventive measures and preparation for combating fires. Fire prevention consists of making routine inspections of buildings, schools, and homes, making recommendations for fire safety, and enforcing the Uniform Fire Code (UFC).

Paramedic services for the City are provided by American Medical Response (AMR), a private company. AMR provides two ambulances which provide 24-hour service, and one ambulance which provides 12-hour service.

According to the City of Santa Maria Fire Department, the City of Santa Maria Fire Department serves a population of 69,000 persons with 29 firefighting employees and 30 reserve personnel. Based on the departmental standard of one full time fire employee per 1,820 persons and one reserve firefighter per 1,500 persons, a total of 38 full time fire employees and 46 reserve firefighters would be necessary to provide adequate fire protection services. Thus, the existing staff of 29 firefighters is short of meeting the department's staffing goals. There is also a need for additional fire facilities to serve developing areas of the City, and its sphere of influence (including recently annexed areas).

**Figure RME-7
Fire Protection Service Areas**



LEGEND

- City Limits
- 1, 2, & 3: City Fire Stations
- City Service Area Boundaries
- 21 & 22: County Fire Stations
- County Service Area Boundaries
- Orcutt Volunteer Fire Station
- Proposed City Fire Station

ADOPTED MAY 7, 1996
AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

2. Police Protection

The City of Santa Maria Police Department provides law enforcement services for the City. Orcutt and the other unincorporated areas of the County are served by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The California Highway Patrol patrols State highways.

The City Police Department provides three basic type of services: field services including patrolling and investigation, staff services including training, and auxiliary services including record keeping. The City is patrolled on a 24-hour basis.

The City Police Department has a staff of 77 sworn officers and 25 civilian full-time employees (a total of 102 employees). Based on the departmental standard of 1.3 sworn employees per 1,000 residents, the existing police personnel is not adequately staffed to serve the City of Santa Maria with a current population of 69,000. The City has also received funding for the hiring of additional officers. Based upon a projected City population of 100,000 people, the Santa Maria Police Department would need to employ 130 sworn officers to provide adequate police protection.

3. Library Services

There are four libraries associated with the Santa Maria Public Library System. The main library is located in the City of Santa Maria with branch libraries located in Orcutt, Cuyama and the City of Guadalupe. The Santa Maria cooperative library system has approximately 154,000 volumes available for public use and reference. Specifically, the Santa Maria Library has approximately 116,000 volumes, the Orcutt branch has 23,440 volumes, the Guadalupe branch has 7,600 volumes, and the Cuyama branch has 6,500 volumes.

To determine the adequacy of the public library, the City uses the standard planning ratio of 0.5 square feet of library space per capita. Another measure of library service is volumes per capita (1.5 to 2.0 books per capita). Based on these standards, it was determined that the main library facility does not meet the library space standard and requires expansion to accommodate the existing and projected populations. It was, however, determined that the Santa Maria Library does meet the volumes per capita standard.

4. Water Facilities and Services

Water Supply (Production and Storage)

The City of Santa Maria and the California-Cities Water Company (Cal-Cities) provide water services to the City and Planning Area. The City of Santa Maria operates its own municipal water system. Water production facilities consist of eight active production wells and three inactive wells. The active wells have a combined pumping capacity of approximately 14,000 gallons per minute (GPM). The City's water production in Fiscal Year 1993-1994 was 12,124 AFY. Four water reservoirs in the City provide a water storage capacity of 15.5 million gallons.

Cal-Cities water production was 7,662 AFY in 1993. Cal-Cities Water uses 15 wells and has a 3.24 million gallon storage capacity.

To meet future demands, the City plans to add three new wells and a new storage reservoir. The City has also contracted for delivery of 16,200 AFY of water from the State Water project. Delivery of water is scheduled to start in late 1996. Cal-Cities is designing new water storage reservoir and had contracted for 500 AFY of State Water.

Water treatment in Santa Maria is minimal as groundwater pumped from wells is only disinfected. However, if overdrafting of the groundwater basin continues, additional treatment may be necessary due to increased total dissolved solids (TDS) levels in the water. State Water will, however, receive chlorine and ammonia treatment.

Water Distribution

The City's water distribution system consists of approximately 244 miles of water line. There are about 30 miles of transmission lines in the City, which range from 10 to 30 inches in diameter. The system is designed to deliver water from the production point (Airport Well Field) to the storage units and to various points in the distribution system. Figure RME-8 depicts the City's water transmission system.

In 1993, the Public Works Department began preparing a Water, Wastewater and Drainage (WWD) study for the City of Santa Maria. This study projects demand on water distribution system, and identifies inadequacies in the system based on the anticipated growth in the General Plan. According to the WWD study, the current water distribution system is adequate for the existing City development. However, additional storage and distribution facilities will be required to accommodate planned development within the City's sphere of influence. The planned improvements are shown on Figure RME-8.

The delivery of State Water in 1996 will require the construction of a water treatment facility as well as distribution lines which are currently under construction.

5. Drainage Facilities

Drainage facilities for the city consist of storm drains, storm drainage channels, and storm water retardation and detention basins. Many of the facilities interface with Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District maintained channels. The standard design criteria for storm drainage systems within the County are 25-year capacity for storm drain pipes and culverts and 100-year capacity for major channels. Major storm drains have been assumed to be pipes 36 inches in diameter and greater. Major basins have been assumed to be those 50 acre-feet and larger.

The drainage information is summarized from the 1995 Drainage Report prepared by Penfield and Smith.

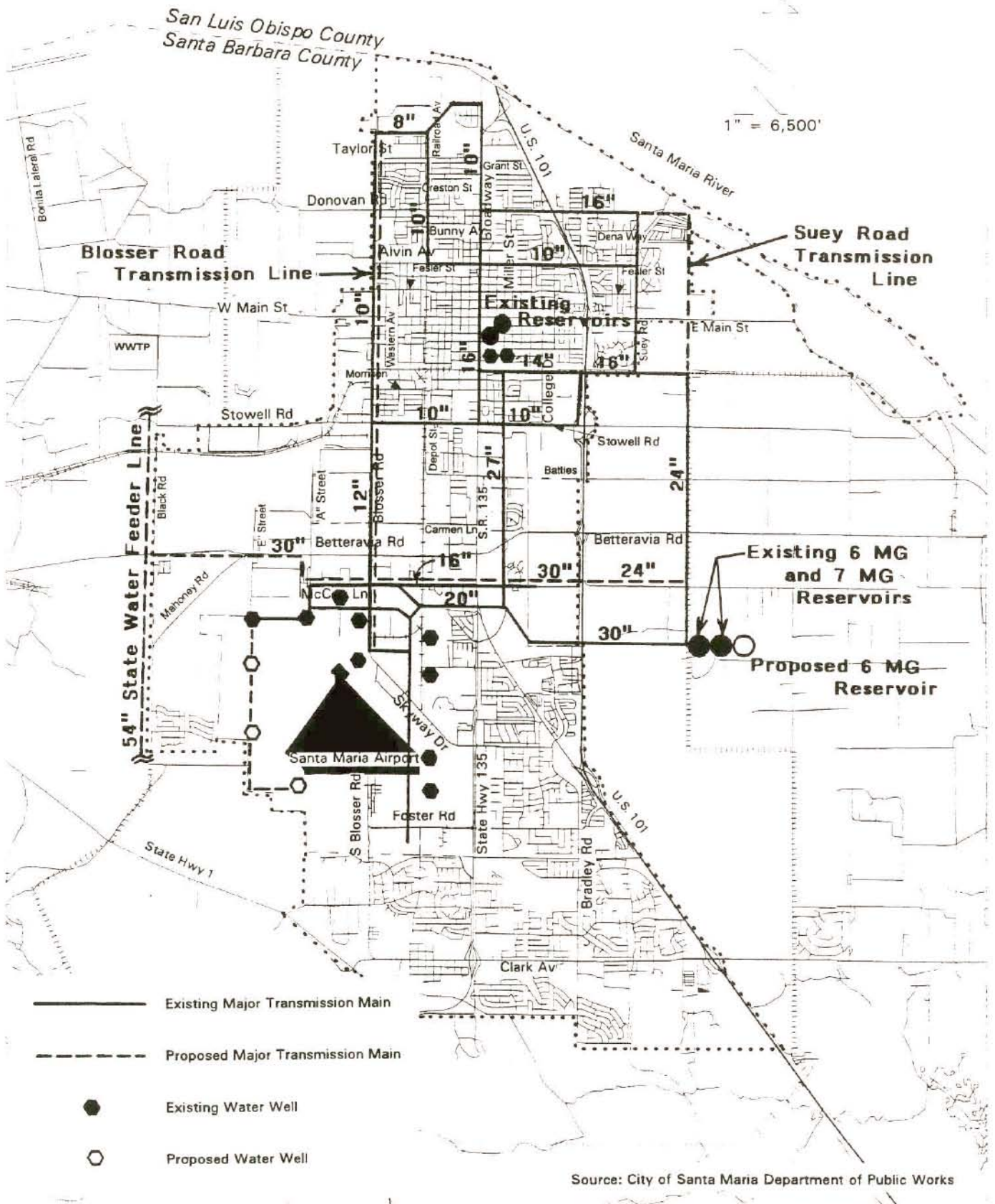
Regional Hydrology

The Santa Maria/Orcutt area is drained by four major watershed areas: Bradley/Blosser; West Main; Green Canyon; and Betteravia. Due to concern for the flooding of downstream agricultural lands and efforts to increase groundwater recharge, detention/recharge basins have been constructed, when possible, to capture storm water runoff from the watersheds.

Storm Drainage Systems

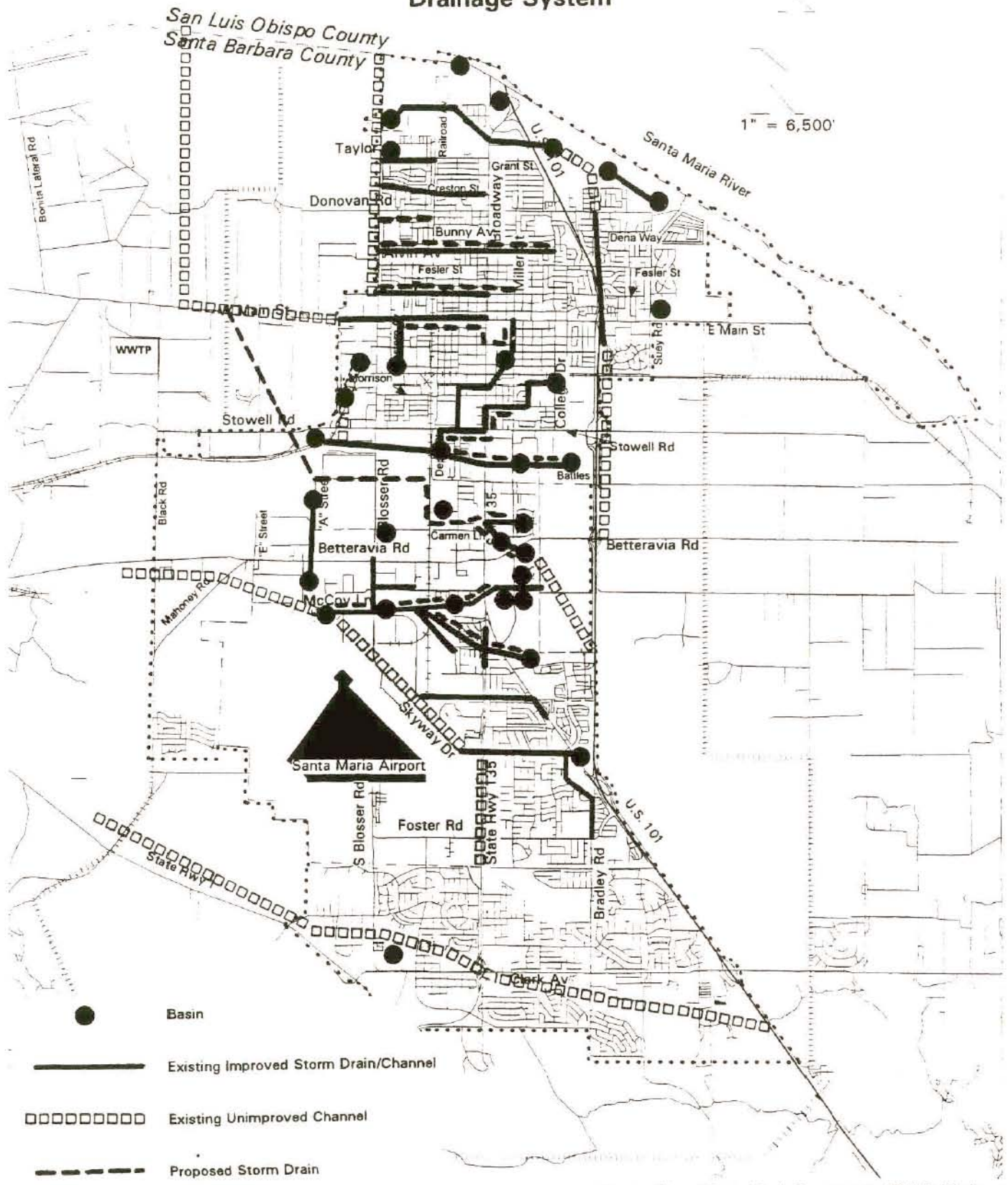
Roughly 5.3 miles of storm drain collector lines exist in the City. These lines range in size from 36 inches to 72 inches in diameter. A number of smaller storm drain lines also exist and are not included in the 5.3 mile total. Figure RME-9 shows the existing storm drainage system.

**Figure RME-8
Water Transmission System**



ADOPTED MAY 7, 1996
AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

**Figure RME-9
Drainage System**



Source: City of Santa Maria Department of Public Works

ADOPTED MAY 7, 1996
AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

Major Drainage Channels

Approximately 6.4 miles of major storm drainage channels exist within the City. Each of these extends westerly from the City Limits to discharge into either the Santa Maria River or a tributary of the Santa Maria River. Typically, the channels are under the exclusive maintenance of the SBCFCWCD or shared maintenance between the City and SBCFCWCD. The locations of major drainage channels are shown on Figure RME-9.

Major Detention Basins

Detention basins serving the City provide various beneficial functions. These include the reduction of peak storm flowrates, recharge of groundwater basins, and the reduction of stormwater pollutants. Five major or regional detention basins receive storm waters from the Planning Area. The locations of major Detention Basins are shown on Figure RME-9.

Minor Retardation Basins

Smaller retardation basins are utilized throughout the City to retard the flow from storm events discharging to drainage facilities. This delay in flow allows a longer period of time for storm water to recharge into the groundwater basins. Figure RME-9 maps major City retardation basins.

Planned Improvements

In order to bring the City up to the current standard of 25-year capacity in the storm drain system and 100-year capacity in open channels, the improvements shown in Figure RME-9 are required.

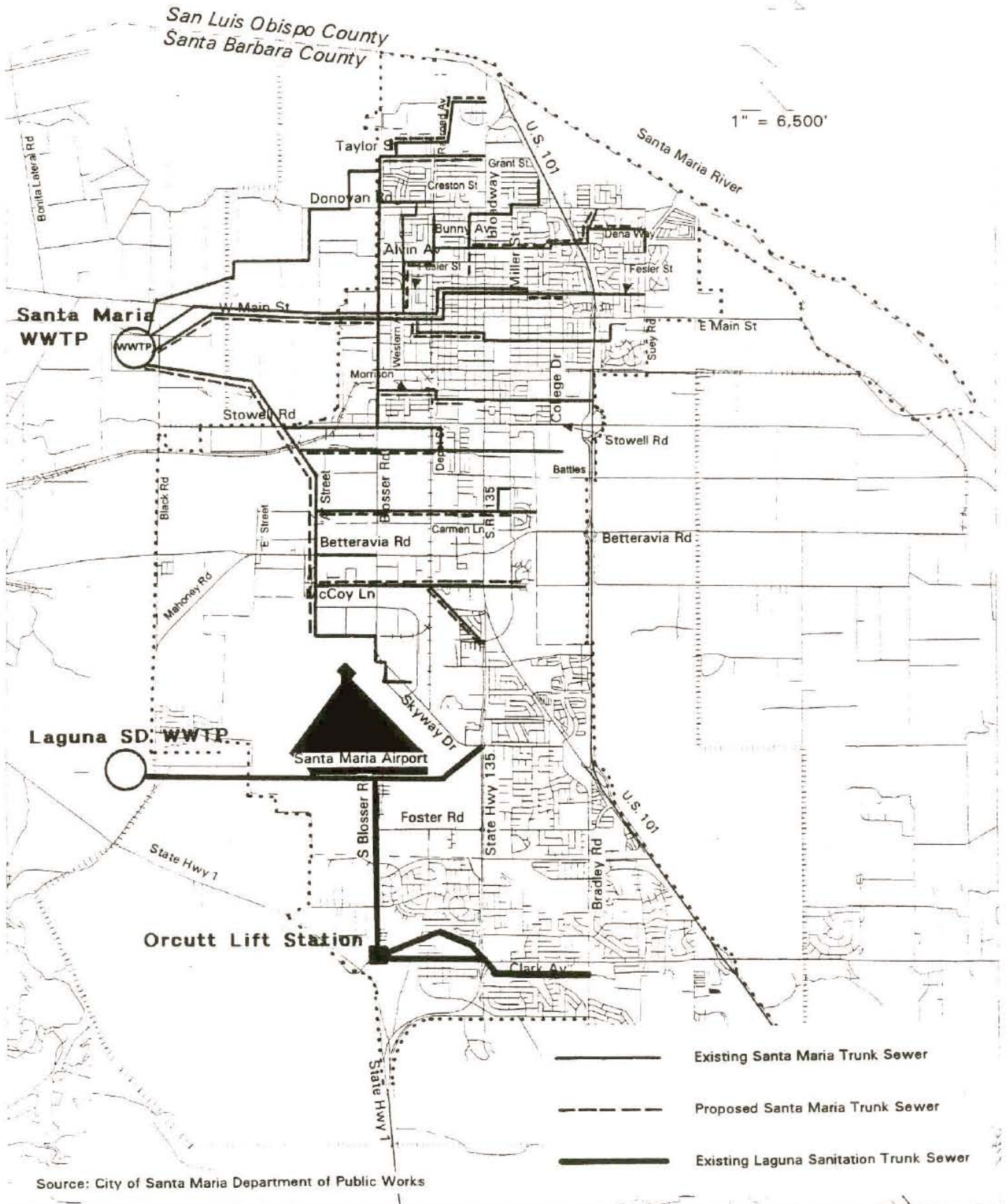
6. Wastewater Facilities

The City of Santa Maria operates its own wastewater collection and treatment system. The City's wastewater collection system consists of eight wastewater basins with associated trunk sewers and one treatment plant. The basins generally drain east to west to trunk line facilities that run to the treatment plant. There are some portions of the City that are serviced by the Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD), which primarily serves the Orcutt area. The City also serves a portion of Orcutt. The existing and proposed wastewater collection system is shown in Figure RME-10.

The Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located on Black Road, approximately 2.5 miles east of the City. The Treatment Plant has an existing capacity of 7.8 million gallons per day (mgd). The Fiscal Year 1993-1994 average daily flow was 6.4 mgd, or 82 percent capacity. The plant is planned to be expanded to 10 mgd by 1996. The LCSD treatment plant has a 3.2 mgd capacity with a 1991 average daily flow of 2.2 mgd. With the planned improvements, the Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant will have the capacity to support existing and future growth in the City. Capacity of the City's wastewater treatment facility was also examined in the 1993 Water, Wastewater and Drainage Study.

Another area of concern with wastewater collection and treatment is the type and concentration of chemicals discharged from a wastewater treatment plant. The State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) has established limits on the concentrations of solids, sodium and chlorides that can be allowed to percolate into the soil. These limits vary with the nature of the existing soils and groundwater. The City's wastewater treatment plant currently meets discharge requirements for total dissolved solids and sodium. The City is also closer to meeting limits for chloride. The Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) provides a more detailed discussion of wastewater threshold limits.

**Figure RME-10
Wastewater System**



Source: City of Santa Maria Department of Public Works

ADOPTED MAY 7, 1996
AS AMENDED THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2001

7. Solid Waste Facilities and Services

The Santa Maria Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Santa Maria. It serves the solid waste disposal needs of the Cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, and the surrounding unincorporated portions of Santa Barbara County (Orcutt, Sisquoc, Gary, Los Alamos, and Casmalia).

Operated as a Class III solid waste disposal site, the Santa Maria Landfill accepts nonhazardous solid and inert wastes from residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses in the planning area. Hazardous materials accepted are limited to household hazardous waste. Hazardous and designated waste must be disposed of outside of Santa Barbara County. Waste management programs conducted at the Santa Maria Landfill include the collection of recyclable materials, wood and yard waste grinding, non-friable asbestos disposal, and the operation of the household hazardous waste facility (opened in 1992). The City is also currently considering locating a transfer station at the landfill.

The Santa Maria Landfill consists of 290 acres which includes a 68-acre inactive area, a 134-acre active area, and an 88-acre future disposal area. According to the City of Santa Maria Resource Availability and Limitations Report - July 1991 (RALR), the active landfill area has a disposal volume (capacity) of approximately 6.0 million cubic yards. The future area will have a capacity of about 7.9 cubic yards for an overall total capacity of about 13.9 million cubic yards.

The landfill currently receives approximately 390 tons of waste per day. Solid waste projections have the wastestream increasing up to 740 tons per day (including recycling) by the year 2017. In order to accommodate the projected wastestream, the City's Site Facility permit will be amended to accept up to 740 tons of solid waste per day. Based on the landfill's estimated capacity and the solid waste projections, the Santa Maria Landfill could accommodate waste disposal area in 2018. Closure of the landfill disposal area will be accomplished in compliance with federal and state regulations.

Landfill operations are governed by the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR numbers 90-038 and 93-084) for Class III landfills as per the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The City must comply with the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, Assembly Bill 939 and Senate Bill 1322 (Chapters 1095 and 1096, Statutes of 1989) which requires all cities and counties to reduce their solid waste stream 25% by January 1, 1995, and 50% by January 1, 2000.

To comply with these solid waste diversion mandates, the City adopted a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE). The SRRE identifies how the City can meet the state mandated diversion requirements through curbside recycling, composting, and other waste reduction programs. Additionally, the enactment of Assembly Bill 2707 requires local jurisdictions to prepare, adopt, and submit a Household Hazardous Waste Element to the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The City of Santa Maria adopted the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE) prepared for Santa Barbara County. The HHWE identifies programs to divert hazardous materials from landfills, safe collection programs, and educational programs.

Implementation of solid waste management and reduction programs will insure that the City's existing and future solid waste demands are met until 2017. The Solid Waste Section of the Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) discusses landfill capacity and operation.

C. GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL 10 - PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Provide comprehensive public safety and public services.

POLICY 10.1.a(1)

Provide police and fire protection, library resources, solid waste disposal, and other municipal services which meet or exceed the existing and future needs of the residents in the service area.

Objective 10.1.a(1) - Police

Provide sufficient law enforcement facilities and services to maintain a high level of service to keep pace with the needs of the City's growing population. Maintain a city police force with a ratio of 1.3 sworn officer for each 1,000 residents.

Objective 10.1.a(2) - Police and Fire Complex

Construct a new police and fire complex at a centralized downtown location (i.e., Cook Street and Pine Street) to enhance police/fire coordination and response.

Objective 10.1.a(3) - Police

Improve public safety through the location of police facilities, support of crime prevention and increased community awareness.

Objective 10.1.b - Fire

Provide sufficient fire protection services to maintain a high level of service, and to keep pace with the needs of the City. Achieve and maintain a five minute response capability to all areas within the City Limits.

Objective 10.1.c - Library Services

Maintain centralized library facilities and ensure expansion of library facilities to keep pace with the growing population at a ratio of 0.5 square feet of library space per capita and 1.5 to 2 books per capita.

Objective 10.1.d(1) - Comprehensive Solid Waste System

Provide a comprehensive solid waste collection/disposal system to meet the existing and future solid waste demands in the service area.

Objective 10.1.d(2) - Waste Diversion Requirements

Locate a material recovery facility (MRF), transfer station and/or compost facility at the landfill to facilitate waste and disposal operations during and after landfill closure, and to facilitate the attainment of waste diversion requirements specified in AB 939.

Objective 10.1.d(3) - Reduction of Waste through Community Design

Improve resources and minimize waste through community design.

Objective 10.1.d(4) - Solid Waste Disposal

Support the regional efforts of Santa Barbara County to site a new landfill or other solid waste facility in northern Santa Barbara County by the end of the planning period (2010).

Implementation Programs

Police and Fire Protection

1. Police and fire departments shall review and comment on developments which have a direct effect on their ability to provide services. Developments should be reviewed for response times, fire sprinkler requirements, and other safety issues.
2. The Police Department shall continue its efforts to establish and implement community awareness programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Oriented Policing (COPS), and DARE, and community oriented policing.
3. Prepare an assessment of the City's existing and projected fire protection needs.
4. Enforce fire safety standards in accordance with state law.
5. Collect fees as required under the AB1600 Fee Program to pay for capital facilities.
6. Pursue funding for the construction of a public safety facility (Police and Fire) at the Cook Street and Pine Street site.

Library

7. Collect fees as required under the AB 1600 Fee Program to pay for Library expansion.

Solid Waste Disposal

8. Continue the disposal of solid waste in accordance with regulatory permits.
9. Support efforts of Santa Barbara County in siting a new regional landfill facility.
10. Apply appropriate incentives to encourage recycling firms to locate within the City of Santa Maria in accordance with the County's Recycling Market Development Zones status.
11. Continue to implement the programs outlined in the City of Santa Maria Source Reduction and Recycling Element. This includes curbside recycling and other programs aimed at reducing the solid waste stream by 50% by January 1, 2000. Finalize plans to develop a transfer station at the City landfill. The transfer station would be to facilitate disposal operations after landfill closure and attainment of waste diversion requirements specified by AB939.
12. Require recycling storage areas for large commercial and industrial projects.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. The City implemented a curbside recycling program in 1992.
2. Establishment of two police substations and a community oriented policing program.
3. Adopted most recent UFC and revised sprinkler requirements.
4. The County was designated as a recycling market development zone.
5. The continuation of the DARE and Neighborhood Watch Programs.

Anticipated Results:

1. Reduction of landfill waste stream by 50% by January 1, 2000.
2. Closure of the City's Landfill.
3. Expansion of the Public Library.
4. Construction of a new Police/Fire complex.
5. Siting of a new regional landfill in North County.

GOAL 11 - PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop a comprehensive system of public infrastructure that maintains a high level of service.

POLICY 11

Provide necessary public infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of water, the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater, and the conveyance, retardation, and recharge of surface drainage.

Objective 11.1.a(1) - Water System

Maintain and improve the existing water system so that it is capable of meeting the daily and peak demands of existing and future City residents and businesses.

Objective 11.1.a(2) - Water System

Maintain City-required water storage standards for emergency water service and fire flow pressure requirements.

Objective 11.1.a(3) - State Water Infrastructure

Provide the infrastructure necessary to ensure the adequate delivery and treatment of State Water by 1996.

Objective 11.1.b - Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal

Maintain a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system which is capable of meeting the daily and peak demand of existing and future City residents and businesses.

Objective 11.1.c(1) - Conveyance of Surface Drainage

Ensure that all surface drainage is safely conveyed through the use of retardation basins, storm drains, recharge basins, and other infrastructure.

Objective 11.1.c(2) - Retardation Basins

Require all new development projects which modify or increase the surface water flow off the site to construct retardation basins designed to accommodate a 25 year storm event or to develop and pay into a regional system.

Objective 11.1.c(3) - Retardation Basin Districts

Increase drainage efficiency by developing large district wide retardation basins throughout the City.

Objective 11.1.c(4) - Flooding

Require all new structures located within the 100 year flood plain to comply with flooding standards which require the finish floor levels to be constructed a minimum of 2 feet above the 100 year floodplain elevation.

Implementation Programs

Public Infrastructure

1. Adopt, by resolution, Citywide Grading and Drainage Standards.
2. Infrastructure shall be designed in accordance with the Public Works Department's Standard Drawings and Specifications.
3. Review and approve infrastructure through the development review and CEQA processes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps shall be used when reviewing new development.

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4. Review and approve infrastructure to be used for the delivery of State Water for compliance with standards.
5. Retardation basin sizing shall be in accordance with the City's Grading and Drainage Standards.
6. Prepare a Biennial Status Report (RME Goal 13) to assess the status of the City's public infrastructure which includes the water transmission system, and wastewater collection/treatment system.
7. Operation of the wastewater treatment plant shall meet the effluent discharge standards of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
8. Incorporate the planned improvements identified in the Water, Wastewater and Drainage Study into the Resources Management Element.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. In 1992, the City Council adopted the Growth Mitigation/Monitoring Plan. A biennial update was prepared in January 1996.
2. In July 1991, the Public Works Department (Engineering Division) prepared the Resource Availability and Limitations Report for the City of Santa Maria.
3. In 1995, under the supervision of the Public Works Department, John Carollo Engineers prepared a report that analyzed the City's water distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, and drainage facilities. The report identified inadequacies and recommended improvements based on anticipated growth set forth by the General Plan.
4. In 1993, John Carollo Engineers, under the supervision of the Public Works Department, prepared the Wastewater Master Plan that identified necessary improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant to accommodate anticipated growth set forth by the General Plan.
5. The City's Flood Insurance Rate Maps were revised by FEMA in 1995 and eliminated many areas from the 100-year flood plain.

Anticipated Results:

1. Completion of the Water, Wastewater and Drainage Report by John Carollo Engineers and implementation of the recommendations contained therein.
2. Wastewater treatment plant compliance with RWQCB effluent standards.
3. Importation of State Water by 1996.
4. Expansion of the wastewater treatment plant to 10 MGD.

V. PRIVATE COMMUNITY SERVICES

A. INTRODUCTION

The intent of this chapter of the Resources Management Element is to recognize health care and education services as important resources in the development of the community. This chapter briefly discusses the education and health care facilities serving the Santa Maria/Orcutt area.

It should be noted that education and health care facilities and services are not directly provided by the City of Santa Maria, and are not defined as municipal services (please see Section IV - Public Facilities and Services Element). Additionally, the City's role and responsibility in the direct provision of these services are limited. However, it is recognized that in order to grow properly, adequate school sites must be planned for to allow the school district(s) to build needed schools.

In accordance with Section 65300 et seq. of the Government Code, the General Plan Land Use Element (LUE) contains discussion on the general location and distribution of educational facilities. The LUE insures that adequate land is reserved for schools to support future growth. This chapter of the RME serves to reinforce the goals, policies, objectives, and implementation programs identified in the Land Use Element.

B. FINDINGS AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. School Facilities

The Santa Maria/Orcutt Area is served by various public and private schools. Figure RME-11 shows the existing and proposed location of schools.

Public Schools

There are three public school districts and one community college serving the educational needs of the City of Santa Maria and surrounding unincorporated areas. These school districts are: the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD), the Orcutt Union School District (OUSD), and the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHS). Allan Hancock College (AHC) provides college opportunities to the area's residents.

The SMBSD operates 14 elementary and junior high schools in the City of Santa Maria. The OUSD operates six elementary schools and two junior high schools in the Orcutt area.

The SMJUHS operates three public schools--Santa Maria High School, Ernest Righetti High School and Delta Continuation High School.

Allan Hancock College operates three campuses. The main college campus is located at 800 South College Drive, Santa Maria. Two additional campuses are located in the City of Lompoc and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Private Schools

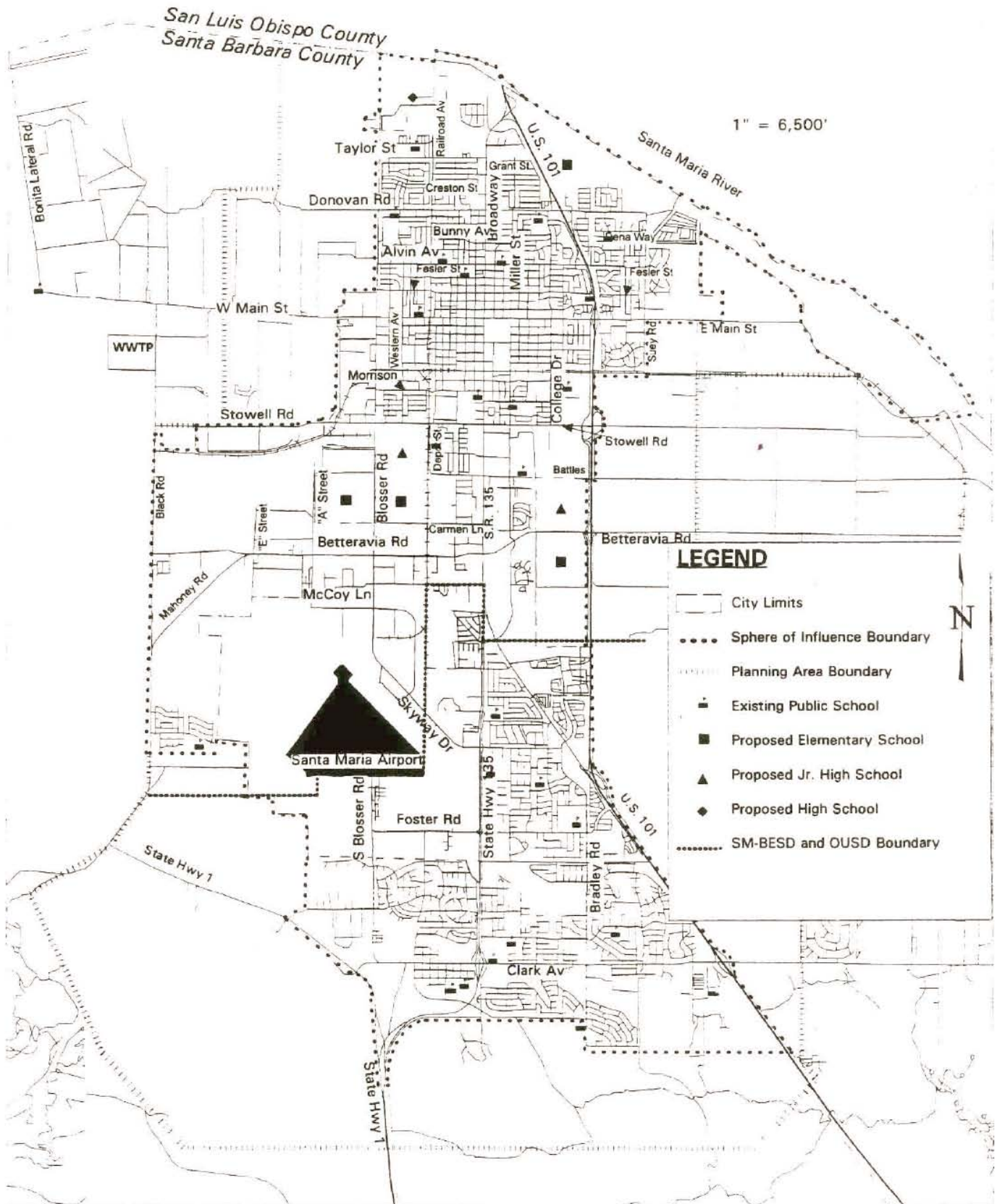
The Santa Maria Valley has several private schools (including church operated). The largest are Valley Christian Academy, Saint Joseph High School, Saint Louis De Montfort, and Saint Mary of Assumption.

2. Health Facilities

The residents of the City of Santa Maria are served by Marian Medical Center, Valley Community Hospital, the County health care clinic, and dozens of private medical practices.

These health care facilities provide area residents with a variety of emergency, inpatient, and outpatient health care services. Hospital facilities adequately meet level of service standards and will meet these standards in the future. Please see the Background Information Report (Technical Appendix) for more discussion on health facilities.

**Figure RME-11
Existing and Proposed Public Schools**



1" = 6,500'

LEGEND

- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence Boundary
- Planning Area Boundary
- Existing Public School
- Proposed Elementary School
- Proposed Jr. High School
- Proposed High School
- SM-BESD and OUSD Boundary

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C. GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL 12 - HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Plan for adequate land area for health care and education facilities to service the existing and projected population.

POLICY 12.1

Support health care providers and the school districts in their efforts to provide health and education services to the community.

Objective 12.1.a - Coordination with Local School Districts

Coordinate planning for school sites with the School Districts and developers to accommodate the existing and projected student population based on the planned growth of the Land Use Element.

Objective 12.1.b - Support of Health Care Providers

Support the efforts of public and private health care providers to insure that there is an adequate level of health care for all segments of the community.

Implementation Programs

1. Coordinate planning efforts with the Santa Maria-Bonita Elementary School District, the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, the Orcutt Union High School District and Allan Hancock College.
2. Support health care providers by making demographics and other information available to them upon request.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. In July 1994, the Santa Maria Bonita School District and property owners approved development agreements for those areas planned for annexation to the City. The agreements established a school fee, and the terms under which the fee would be paid by developers of residential property within the annexation areas.
2. Land area for the location of schools by the school district(s) was designated in several of the specific plans prepared as part of the Santa Maria Sphere of Influence and Annexation Study.
3. The City Council approved the Rivergate/Roemer Specific Plan under the condition that the Plan designate 10 acres for the location of an elementary school by the school district in the northern portion of the City.
4. Upon request, the Community Development Department provides demographic information to Marian Hospital, Valley Community Hospital, and the School Districts.
5. The City continues to work with the community hospitals to accommodate their growth demands.

Anticipated Results:

1. Adequate health care facilities to support the community.
2. Planning for school sites to accommodate growth demands.

VI. GROWTH MANAGEMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

Growth management can provide a community a steady growth rate to promote a consistent and healthy local economy, rather than leaving the community vulnerable to extreme boom and bust rates. In 1992, the Community Development Department prepared the Santa Maria Growth Mitigation/Management Report to address concerns with the growth of Santa Maria. The report addresses the potential impacts of growth on City infrastructure and services to the community, and discusses growth management options. The report was updated in January 1996.

B. FINDINGS AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Based on the Growth Mitigation/Management Report (August 1992), the City Council amended the Environment Resources Management Element to include a growth management goal, policy, and implementation program which requires that a status report of City resources and infrastructure capacity be prepared biennially and presented to the City Council. In addition, the City Council adopted AB1600 Growth Mitigation fees to build City capital projects and facilities. For a more detailed discussion on growth management, refer to the Growth Mitigation/Management Report (August 1992), as amended in January 1996.

C. GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMS

GOAL 13 - GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Provide sufficient resources and infrastructure to support existing population and planned growth.

POLICY 13

Ensure that the capacity of resources and infrastructure are not overburdened by growth.

Objective 13.1.a - Resource and Infrastructure Capacities

Establish and maintain resource and infrastructure standards and capacities that are reviewed and updated biennially.

Objective 13.1.b - Sustainable Population

Establish the City's sustainable population and adjust resources and infrastructure as the capacity changes based on the biennial report.

Implementation Programs

1. Prepare a biennial report to City Council by January 1, 1998, on the status of resource and infrastructure capacity. The report shall examine water resources, wastewater collection and treatment, recreation, parks, landfill, and other city services.

The report should show historical consumption, existing capacity, projected demand, and planned and funded expansion.

2. Update report every 2 years after January 1, 1998.

Accomplishments to Date:

1. In July 1991, the Public Works Department (Engineering Division) prepared the Resource Availability and Limitations Report for the City of Santa Maria.

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2. In August 1992, the Community Development Department prepared the Growth Mitigation/Management Report (August 4, 1992) for a joint meeting between the City Council and Planning Commission.
3. In November 1993, the City Council amended the Environmental Resources Management Element to include a growth management goal, policy, and implementation program.
4. In January 1996, the City Council received and reviewed the biennial growth management report update.

Anticipated Results:

1. A sustainable population of approximately 111,000 based on the availability of resources, the capacity of public infrastructure, and adequate level of public services.

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, DIRECTING THE FILING OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WITH THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CLERK AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE ELEMENTS OF THE GENERAL PLAN, GP-2000-01, E-2000-70

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Santa Maria held a regularly scheduled public hearing on January 16, 2001, for the purpose of considering the adoption of a negative declaration of environmental impact and approval of a General Plan (Land Use and Resource Management Element) amendments; and

WHEREAS, notices of said public hearing were made at the time and in the manner required by law; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the proposed amendments are to encourage quality design elements (architecturally designed towers) in various development projects, and to create a positive neighborhood identity, pride of ownership as well as a positive City identity; and

WHEREAS, at the completion of said hearing, the City Council duly considered all evidence presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments constitute enabling legislation which will allow the Planning Commission and City Council to require architecturally designed tower elements as part of a development project which will be required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Santa Maria hereby amends the Land Use and Resource Management Elements of the General Plan per Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Santa Maria, held on January 16, 2001.



Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: 

CITY ATTORNEY

CONTENTS:


BY: 

DEPARTMENT HEAD

BY: 

CITY MANAGER

ATTEST



City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Proposed Amendments: (additions shaded and deletions are strikeouts)

LAND USE ELEMENT

C. Goal L.U. 3. -- URBAN DESIGN

The City will promote quality urban design enhancing Santa Maria's character.

POLICY L.U. 3 -- Rehabilitation of older structures and new development.

Emphasize quality urban design features in rehabilitation and new development efforts (similar policies are in the Resources Management Element (RME)).

OBJECTIVE L.U. 3 a

Update and expand the Entrada Specific Plan to identify areas which can benefit from a design theme and establish urban design standards for selected areas of the City.

Add: Amend the adopted Entrada Specific Plan to include provisions to encourage implementation of the City of Santa Maria's architecture tower program for commercial, industrial and residential projects adjacent to City entrances and located on major transportation corridors to include architecturally designed tower elements in the design of new buildings and additions to existing buildings. Landscape medians should include kiosk/tower block markers as special design/entry features.

OBJECTIVE L.U.3 b

Continue ongoing code enforcement efforts to ensure that property is safely maintained and attractive.

OBJECTIVE L.U.3 c

Deteriorating neighborhoods shall be identified and targeted for increased police patrols, public improvements (drainage, street lighting, traffic and road, parks, landscaping, etc.), zoning enforcement, and rezoning to encourage private sector redevelopment.

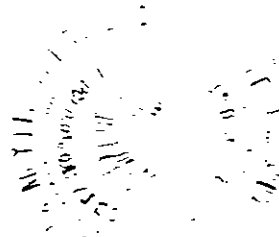
ANTICIPATED RESULT: The architecturally designed towers are intended to create a focal point and help establish an identity for a given area or neighborhood. This program will assist in instilling "pride of ownership" for persons working or residing in a given area or neighborhood.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

Goal 4 – HISTORICAL

Objective 4.1.c - Community Design

Integrate a center focus that combines commercial, civic, cultural and recreational uses in planning the community.



Add: Implement the City of Santa Maria's "Architectural Tower Identity Program" as conditions of project approval. As a continuous program, strongly encourage large commercial and industrial projects and residential subdivisions to incorporate architecturally designed tower elements into the project design.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS:

1. through 4. no change.

5. Materials and methods of construction that are specific to the region, exhibiting continuity of history and culture and compatibility with the climate to encourage the development of local character and community identity. (no change)

Add: 6. The Architectural Tower Identity Program will help establish a positive City identity, provide for a positive community and neighborhood identity, encourage a pride of ownership and the resultant higher levels of property maintenance, and for commercial projects, provide for a high design quality of business identification.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
CITY OF SANTA MARIA)

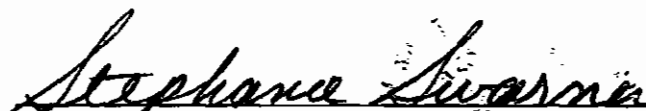
I, STEPHANIE SWARNER, City Clerk of the City of Santa Maria and ex officio Clerk of the City Council DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2001-06 which was duly and regularly introduced and adopted by said City Council at a regular meeting held January 16, 2001, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Larry Lavagnino, Bob Orach, Alice Patino,
 Leo Trujillo, and Mayor Joe Centeno.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.



City Clerk of the City of Santa Maria
and ex officio Clerk of the City Council