



Chapter 7 Public Services and Utilities

This chapter describes existing public services and utilities in San Benito County. Each type of public service has a unique set of constraints, and each service must adapt to growth and change differently. This chapter describes the capacities and levels of service for various public and private facilities, services, and utilities serving San Benito County.

This chapter is organized into the following sections:

- Water Supply and Delivery (Section 7.1)
- Wastewater Collection and Disposal (Section 7.2)
- Storm Drainage and Stormwater Quality (Section 7.3)
- Solid and Hazardous Waste (Section 7.4)
- Utilities (Section 7.5)
- Law Enforcement (Section 7.6)
- Fire Protection (Section 7.7)
- Emergency Medical Services (Section 7.8)
- Schools (Section 7.9)
- Other County Services (Section 7.10)





CHAPTER 7. PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

San Benito County General Plan

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SECTION 7.1 WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

Introduction

This section describes the existing water supply and delivery systems in San Benito County, focusing primarily on unincorporated areas within the county that are serviced by an existing water district or community water system. This includes a summary of existing water treatment, current (2010) demand, storage and distribution systems, and the condition of these facilities.

Key Terms

Acre-foot (AF). The volume of water required to cover one acre of land (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters. Historically, an acre-foot represents the amount of water typically used by one family during a year.

Aquifer. A geologic formation that is water bearing, and stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply.

Groundwater. Water that occurs beneath the land surface, specifically within pore spaces of saturated soil, sediment, or rock formations. Groundwater does not include moisture held by capillary action in the upper, unsaturated areas of aquifers.

Groundwater Basin. An aquifer or series of aquifers with defined lateral boundaries and bottom layer. In some cases the boundaries of successively deeper aquifers may differ and make it difficult to define the limits of the basin.

Water Year. A continuous twelve-month period for which hydrologic records are compiled and summarized. Months may vary by location and agency, but October 1st through September 30th is commonly used by USGS. A given water year is named for the year in which it ends, i.e., the water year from October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, is water year 2009.

Regulatory Setting

Water in California is managed by a complex network of Federal and State regulations. California administers rights to surface water at the State level, but not rights to groundwater, which are managed under a variety of authorities, including local governments. The following summarizes the major regulatory policies pertaining to domestic water management.

Federal Regulations

Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in coordination with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), is the main Federal law that ensures the quality of drinking water. Under SDWA, EPA sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards. In 1996 Congress



amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to emphasize sound science and risk-based standards, small water supply system flexibility and technical assistance, community-empowered source water assessment and protection, public right-to-know, and water system infrastructure assistance, through a multi-billion-dollar Federal revolving loan fund.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA is responsible for developing and enforcing regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by Congress. EPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for a variety of environmental programs, and delegates to states and tribes the responsibility for issuing permits, monitoring, and enforcing compliance.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

The BOR was established in 1902 as part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. It is best known for the dams, power plants, and canals it constructed in the 17 western states. These water projects led to homesteading and promoted the economic development of the West. BOR owns and operates the Central Valley Project, of which the San Felipe Project is a unit. The San Felipe Project consists of facilities that convey water from San Luis Reservoir in the Central Valley to Santa Clara Valley Water District, Pajaro Valley Water Management District, and San Benito County Water District. San Benito County Water District purchases San Felipe Project water from BOR.

State Regulations

California Water Code

The California Water Code, a section of the California Code of Regulations, is the governing law for all aspects of water management in California. Domestic water service in the unincorporated areas of San Benito County is generally provided by special districts or private groundwater supply wells. The special districts operate in accordance with the California Water Code.

Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Governmental Reorganization Act of 2000

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Governmental Reorganization Act of 2000 requires each California Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to conduct municipal service reviews for specified public agencies under their jurisdiction. One aspect of municipal service review is to evaluate an agency's ability to provide public services within its ultimate service area. A municipal service review is required before an agency can update its sphere of influence.

Urban Water Management Planning Act

In 1983 the California Legislature enacted the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code Section 10610–10656). The Act states that every urban water supplier that provides water to 3,000 or more customers, or that provides over 3,000 acre-feet (AF) annually, should make every effort to ensure the appropriate level of reliability in its water service sufficient to meet the needs of its various categories of customers during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The Act requires that urban water suppliers adopt an urban water management plan at least once every five years and submit them to the Department of Water

Resources. Noncompliant urban water suppliers are ineligible to receive funding pursuant to Division 24 (commencing with Section 78500) or Division 26 (commencing with Section 79000), or receive drought assistance from the State until the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is submitted and deemed complete pursuant to the Urban Water Management Planning Act.

Senate Bill (SB) 610 and SB 221 Water Supply Assessment and Verification

SB 610 and SB 221 amended State law, effective January 1, 2002, to improve the link between the information on water supply availability and certain land use decisions made by cities and counties. Both statutes require detailed information regarding water availability to be provided to city and county decision-makers prior to approval of specified large (greater than 500 dwelling units) development projects. Both statutes also require this detailed information to be included in the administrative record that serves as the evidentiary basis for an approval action by the city or county on such projects. Under SB 610 water assessments must be furnished to local governments for inclusion in any environmental documentation for certain projects as defined in Water Code 10912 subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under SB 221 approval by a city or county of certain residential subdivisions requires an affirmative written verification of sufficient water supply.

Senate Bill (SB) 7x7 Statewide Water Conservation

In November 2009 the California State legislature passed and the Governor approved a comprehensive package of water legislation, including Senate Bill (SB) 7x7 addressing water conservation. In general SB 7x7 requires a 20 percent reduction in per capita urban water use by 2020, with an interim 10 percent target in 2015. The legislation requires urban water users to develop consistent water use targets and to use those targets in their UWMPs. SB 7x7 also requires certain agricultural water supplies to implement a variety of water conservation and management practices and to submit Agricultural Water Management Plans in 2012.

California Department of Public Health

A major component of the California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management is the Drinking Water Program (DWP), which regulates public water systems. Regulatory responsibilities include enforcement of Federal and State Safe Drinking Water acts, regulatory oversight of approximately 8,700 public water systems, oversight of water recycling projects, issuance of water treatment permits, and certification of drinking water treatment and distribution operators. Other functions include supporting and promoting water systems security, providing support for small water systems and for improving technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity, and providing subsidized funding for water system improvements under the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Proposition 50.

California Department of Water Resources

The California Department of Water Resources is responsible for preparing and updating the California Water Plan, which is a policy document that guides the development and management of the State's water resources. The plan is updated every five years to reflect changes in resources and urban, agricultural, and environmental water demands. The California Water Plan suggests ways of managing demand and augmenting supply to balance water supply with demand.



Major Findings

- Groundwater is the largest source of the county's water supply. The second largest source is Central Valley Project (CVP) water that is delivered to the Zone 6 portions of the Hollister Valley. The relative proportions of groundwater and CVP water are affected primarily by the availability of CVP water from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).
- The total water use in Zone 6 has ranged between 35,000 and 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) for the last decade (2000-2010). Municipal water use has been relatively steady during the same period. Agricultural water use has declined because water allocations have become less available.
- Groundwater resources are actively monitored and managed by the San Benito County Water District, which is responsible for importation of water from outside the county and management of surface water resources within the county.

Existing Conditions

There are currently (2010) three sources of water that supply municipal, rural, and agricultural land uses in San Benito County. These include water purchased and imported from the Central Valley Project (CVP) by the San Benito County Water District (SBCWD), local surface water stored in and released from SBCWD-owned and -operated Hernandez and Paicines reservoirs, and local groundwater pumped from wells.

While the SBCWD is the CVP wholesaler and has jurisdiction over water management throughout the county, much of the population is served by water purveyors, including the City of Hollister, Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD), and other small local purveyors. Some communities within the county are not served by water districts or do not have water systems that provide water service. These communities and rural residents must rely on private wells and groundwater.

For the last decade (2000-2010) total water use, including CVP water and groundwater, has ranged from between 35,000 and 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) in the CVP delivery area (termed Zone 6). Agricultural use has generally declined and municipal use has stayed relatively steady during this same time frame.

Water Projects

Water projects are large water development and conveyance systems which are typically built and operated by Federal, State, and local agencies. Water projects are typically developed to provide irrigation and drinking water to areas that lack adequate local water resources to provide for existing and projected growth. The county's population has historically relied on groundwater to serve water demands. However, over-production led to overdraft in the 1960s and 1970s. Water projects such as reservoirs on local streams and imported water are used in the county to supplement supply and provide sustainable groundwater management.

Central Valley Project

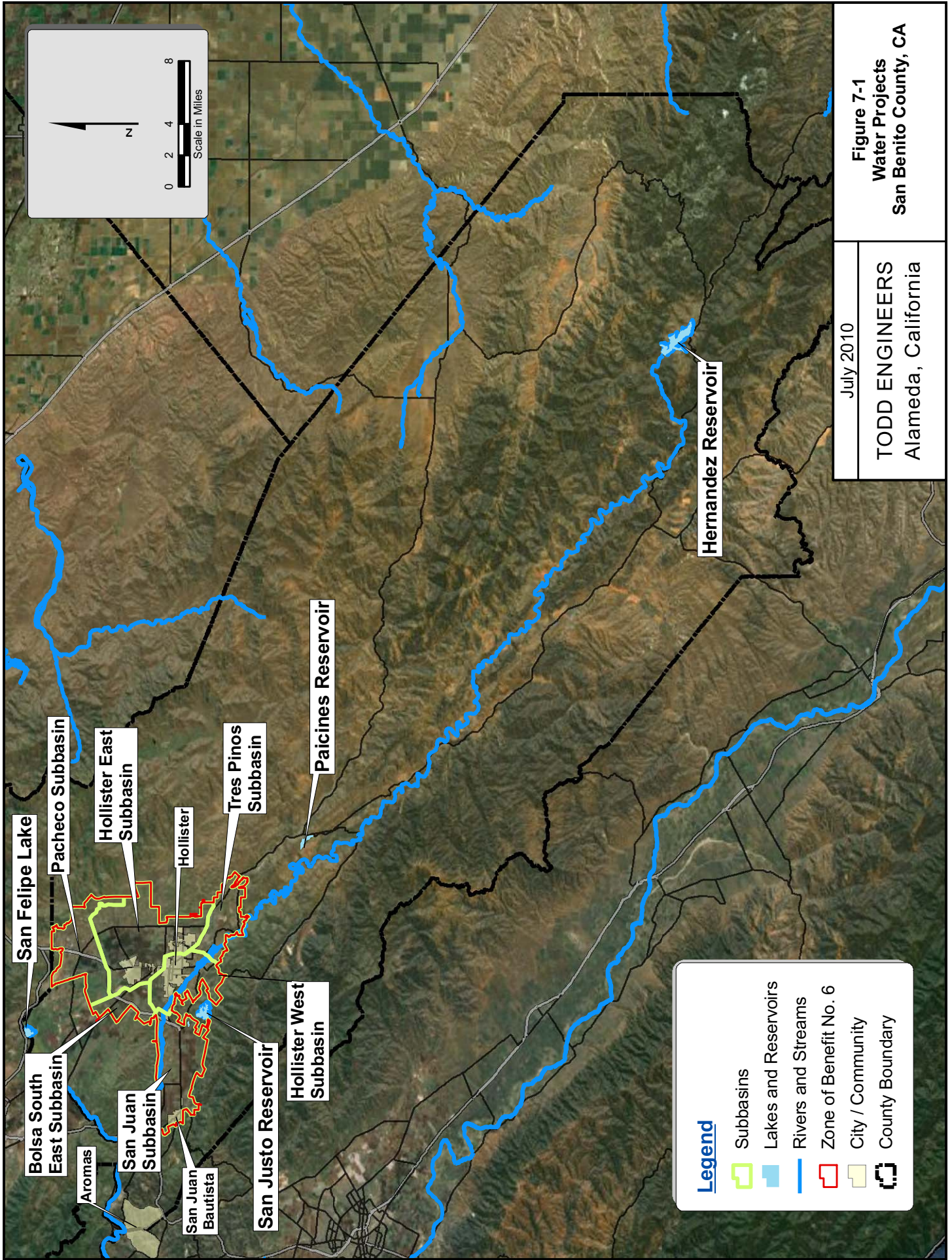
The Central Valley Project (CVP) is one of the nation's major water conservation developments, covering the entire Central Valley and portions of the Coastal Range and Sierra Nevada. The CVP is a Federal water system operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and was created to protect the Central Valley from water shortages and floods; improve navigation on the Sacramento River; ensure supplies of domestic and industrial water; enhance water quality; generate electric power; conserve fish and wildlife; and create opportunities for recreation. The CVP consists of 20 dams and reservoirs, 11 power plants, and 500 miles of major canals, conduits, and tunnels. About nine million acre-feet per year (AFY) of water is managed by CVP and about seven million AFY of water for agricultural, urban, and wildlife use is delivered annually. An average of five million AFY of CVP water is provided to farms to irrigate about three million acres of land, and about 600,000 AFY of water is provided for municipal and industrial uses. About 800,000 AFY are provided for fish and wildlife habitats and 410,000 AFY to Federal and State wildlife refuges and wetlands, pursuant to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). Finally, the CVP generates 5.6 billion kilowatt hours of electricity annually (Mintier Harnish 2009).

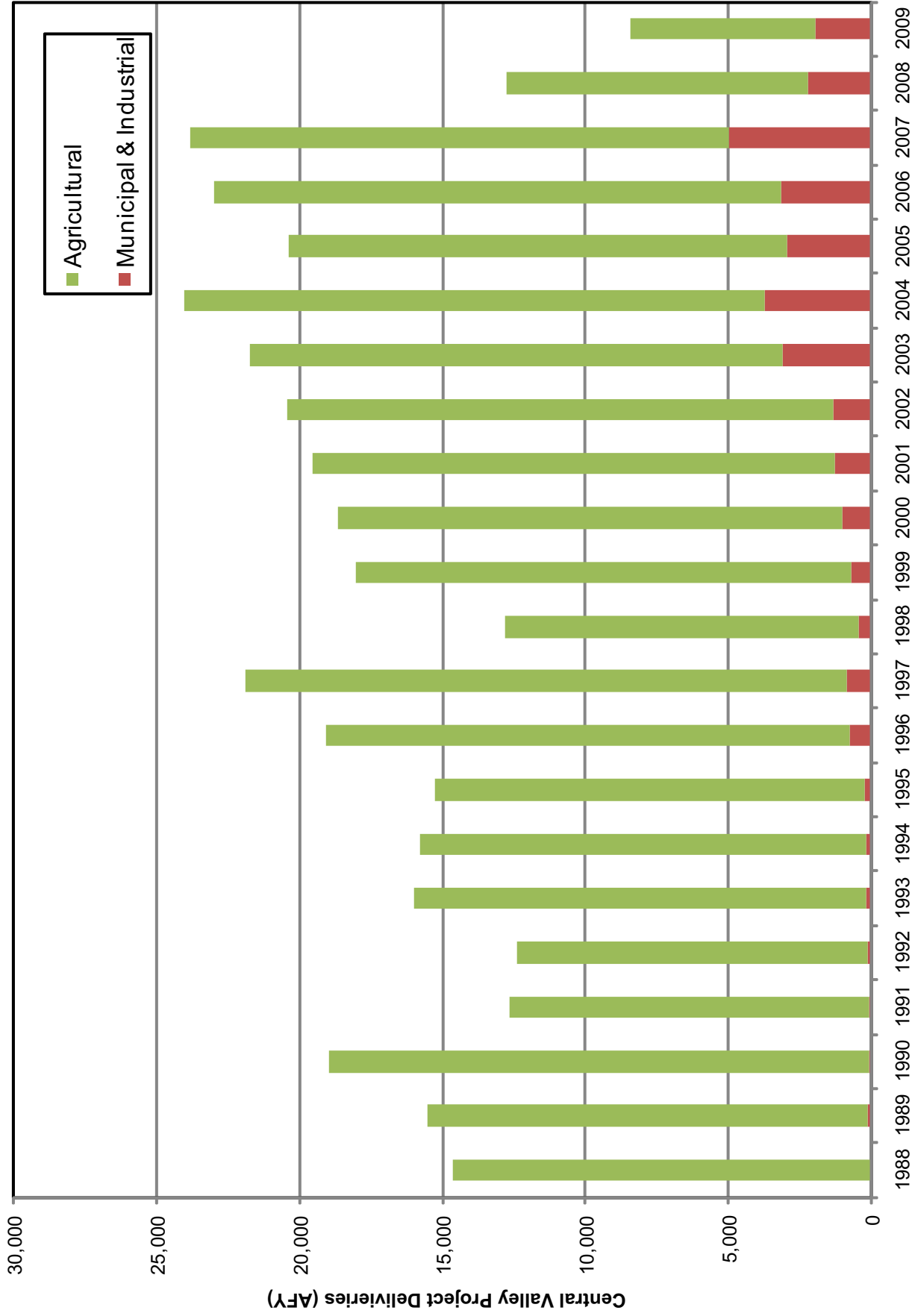
The Sacramento River carries water to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta where the Tracy Pumping Plant at the southern end of the Delta lifts the water into the Delta Mendota Canal, a 117-mile canal with a capacity of about 4,600 AF. A portion of the CVP water is conveyed to the San Luis Reservoir and through the Pacheco Tunnel to CVP contractors in the San Felipe division, which includes portions of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.

CVP water brought into San Benito County is stored in San Justo Reservoir (see Figure 7-1), which is used exclusively to store and regulate imported CVP water. The SBCWD has a 40-year contract (extending to 2027) for a maximum of 8,250 AFY of municipal and industrial (M&I) water and 35,550 AFY of agricultural water. SBCWD negotiated the renewal of this contract in May 2007. The imported water is delivered to agricultural, municipal, and industrial customers in Zone 6, the District's zone of benefit for CVP water. Zone 6 overlies the Pacheco, Bolsa Southeast, San Juan, Hollister East, Hollister West, and Tres Pinos subbasins (Figure 7-1) through 12 subsystems containing approximately 120 miles of pressurized pipeline laterals (SBCWD 2010).

SBCWD distributes CVP water to both agricultural and M&I customers in the county. Figure 7-2 shows the actual annual deliveries by use since imported water was brought to the basin in 1988. Actual CVP deliveries are modified on an annual basis by USBR, reflecting hydrologic conditions (e.g., drought) and the environmental status of the Delta. In 2009 allocations were decreased to 10 percent of the contracted amount for agriculture and to 60 percent for M&I. Reductions in recent years are a combined result of sustained drought and recent Federal Court decisions on the status of endangered Delta fish species.

The direct use of CVP water for M&I purposes is limited by the available treatment capacity of the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant, which provides treatment for local municipal uses. Other M&I uses of CVP water include urban irrigation, golf courses, and potable supply for the Stonegate community. SBCWD was previously held to a minimum payment of M&I CVP water, which was reduced to one AF in the renegotiated contract that became effective May 2008. The current alternative use for CVP water is groundwater replenishment, which is currently (2010) limited by USBR annual allocation and the available storage capacity of the groundwater basin.





Water Year

July 2010
 TODD ENGINEERS
 Alameda, California

Figure 7-2
 Annual CVP Delivery
 San Benito County, CA



Water Treatment

Water treatment for potable M&I supplies within the county is provided by the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant (WTP), a jointly-owned facility of the City of Hollister and SSCWD. The Lessalt WTP was placed into operation in January 2003 and is designed to treat imported CVP water using microfiltration and chlorine disinfection. The treated water is distributed to both City of Hollister and SSCWD customers. The Lessalt WTP was constructed to provide a source of water to replace groundwater use and improve water quality by supplementing the existing groundwater supply with higher quality surface water. The plant was designed with a rated treatment capacity of 3,360 AFY of imported CVP supply. However, since the plant was placed in service in 2003, it has been unable to achieve its design capacity due to hydraulic constraints and treated water capacity issues. In 2009 Lessalt produced 1,338 AF for municipal supply, amounting to 40 percent of the design capacity.

Local Surface Water Projects

SBCWD owns and operates two reservoirs along the San Benito River, shown on Figure 7-1. Hernandez Reservoir (capacity 17,200 AF) is located on the upper San Benito River in southern San Benito County. Paicines Reservoir (capacity 2,870 AF) is an offstream reservoir between the San Benito River and Tres Pinos Creek, and is filled by water either diverted from the San Benito River, natural runoff, or water released from Hernandez Reservoir. Water stored in the two reservoirs is released for percolation in Tres Pinos Creek and the San Benito River to augment groundwater recharge during the dry season.

Groundwater

Groundwater is currently (2010) the main source of water supply in San Benito County. Most groundwater is extracted from wells in the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin by agricultural users and domestic water providers. The other major source is CVP water that is delivered to the Zone 6 portions of the Hollister Valley. The relative proportions of groundwater and CVP water are affected primarily by the availability of CVP water from USBR.

Domestic Water Providers

There are approximately 116 water purveyors in San Benito County. The majority of these purveyors (73 percent) have only one or two groundwater wells. These systems provide water to communities such as mobile home parks and homeowner associations and to transient populations at schools, parks, and businesses. The purveyors, the approximate area they serve, and the numbers of groundwater wells they operate are shown on Table 7-1. These purveyors are required periodically to report periodic water quality data to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The approximate locations of these purveyors are shown on Figure 7-3 (CDPH 2010). The following is a summary of the five largest water systems in the county.

San Benito County Water District (SBCWD). San Benito County Water District manages the water resources for the 47,000 acres of San Benito County. SBCWD is a California Special District that was formed in 1953 by the San Benito County Water Conservation and Flood Control Act. SBCWD has jurisdiction throughout San Benito County and has formed three zones of benefit to obtain funds to support surface water management and groundwater replenishment activities. Zone 1 covers the entire

county and provides the funding base for certain SBCWD administrative expenses. Zone 3 generally covers the San Benito River Valley to the confluence with the Pajaro River, from the SR 25 Bridge nine miles south of the town of Paicines to San Juan Bautista, and the Tres Pinos Creek Valley from Paicines to the San Benito River. Zone 3 provides the funding base for operation of Hernandez and Paicines Reservoirs and related percolation and groundwater management activities. Zone 6 includes the six major delineated subbasins in the northern portion of the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin and provides the funding base for importation and distribution of CVP water and related groundwater management activities (HDR 2008).

SBCWD has an annual requirement to prepare a groundwater report. This annual report describes the groundwater conditions in the San Benito County, part of the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin, and provides a “state of the basin” summary of groundwater levels and storage, water supplies and demands, and management actions for the groundwater basin.

City of Hollister. The City of Hollister is the largest incorporated city in San Benito County. Its service area includes much of the city and serves a population of over 23,000. The City has eight groundwater wells: Wells 1 through 6 are located in the Northern Hollister East and Hollister West subbasins and Cullum Wells 1 and 2 are in Cienega Valley (located outside of the subbasins). In 2009 the City of Hollister produced 2,626 AF from their groundwater wells. The City, along with SSCWD, delivered 1,338 AF of treated imported CVP water (through Lessalt WTP). The City is currently (2010) working on plans to increase the use of CVP imported water.

Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD). Sunnyslope County Water District is a water purveyor whose service area includes part of Hollister and unincorporated areas of the county near the city. SSCWD serves over 5,200 connections. It operates four active wells located in the Hollister West and Tres Pinos subbasins. In 2009 SSCWD produced 2,251 AF of groundwater and supplied additional imported CVP water from the Lessalt WTP (SSCWD 2010).

Aromas Water District. Aromas Water District supplies water to approximately 2,700 residents in and around the community of Aromas (east of Chittenden Gap). In 2009 the Aromas Water District extracted 350 AF of groundwater from three wells located outside the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin. The water system includes an iron and manganese removal plant that came on line in 2009.

City of San Juan Bautista. The City of San Juan Bautista is located in the San Juan subbasin and serves water to a population of around 1,700 residents. The City operates two active wells and maintains an additional inactive well, all of which are located within city limits. In 2009 the City supplied 372 AF of water from groundwater to its residents.



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San Benito County General Plan

**TABLE 7-1
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS**

**San Benito County
2010**

Water System Name	Number of Connections	Population Served	Number of Wells	Notes
City of Hollister	5910	23,110	17	
Sunnyslope County Water District	5223	16,713	16	
Aromas Water District	894	2,700	10	
City of San Juan Bautista	694	1,720	6	
Thousand Trails San Benito Preserve	600	1,000	4	
Mission Oaks Mobile Home Park	239	500	5	
Mission Farm RV Park	173	110	4	
Betabel RV Resort	155	200	1	
Tres Pinos Community Water District	113	350	2	
Monterey Vacation RV Park	88	43	3	
Community Service Area Number 31 Stonegate Water System	74	252	1	
San Justo Mutual Water Company	59	160	2	
McAlpine Lake and Park	55	80	2	
Pinnacles National Monument Campground	54	250	4	
Ashford Highlands Mutual Water Company	52	85	3	
Best Road Mutual Water Company	48	133	4	
Hollister Ranch Estates	37	150	2	
Comstock Mutual Water Company	33	100	2	
McMahon Road Mutual Water Company	33	102	2	
Rancho San Joaquin Mutual Water Company	33	254	2	
Hepesdam Mutual Water Company	32	54	2	
Dunneville Estates Community Services Area Number 50	30	120	3	
Union Heights Mutual Water Company	29	98	5	
CSP Hollister Hills SVRA	28	2,500	6	
Casa de Fruta Orchards	26	81	7	
Vineyard Estates Mutual Water Company	26	150	2	
CSP Fremont Peak	22	250	2	
Rosa Morada Mutual Water Company	22	60	6	
Creekbridge Mutual Water Company	20	65	2	
Harmony Hills Water System	20	70	2	
33rd District Agricultural Association	18	8,875	2	
San Benito High School	18	2,800	3	
Venture Estates Mutual Water Company	18	60	2	
Paicines Ranch	17	35	3	
Valenzuela Water System	17	55	2	
Riverside Water Company	15	35	1	
Springwood Estates Mutual Water Company	15	50	2	
Arnold Park / O'Bannon Mobile Home Park	14	28	2	
Los Madrones Mutual Water Company	13	40	2	
Aromas Hills Mutual Water Association	12	44	4	
Arroyo Seco Irrigation Association	12	25	1	
Pinnacles National Monument - East District	12	1,800	2	
B & R Farms	11	25	2	
Costa Farm Water System	11	15	1	

**TABLE 7-1
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS**

San Benito County
2010

Water System Name	Number of Connections	Population Served	Number of Wells	Notes
Herbert Ranch	11	50	1	
Live Oak Water Association	11	29	1	
Quintero Labor Camp Number 1 (Wright Road)	11	50	3	
St. Francis Retreat Center	11	145	4	
Cole Road Mutual Water Company	10	26	2	
Fairview Road Water System	10	40	2	
Pinnacles National Monument - West District	10	700	2	
Salinas Labor Camp	10	30	1	
Fernandez Water System	9	14	1	
LICO Labor Camp	9	30	4	
River Oaks RV Park	9	30	2	
Hernandez Labor Camp	8	35	2	
McCloskey Road Partnership	8	24	1	
McCloskey Shared Water System	7	28	1	
Quintero Labor Camp Number 2	7	15	2	
Chamberlain Water System	6	30	1	
Cienega Acres Water System	6	18	1	
Hayhurst Water System	6	17	1	
Tri-Cal Incorporated	6	35	2	
Ausaymas Estates Mutual Water Company	5	0	1	
Bonnie Brae Company	5	20	2	
Filice Farms	5	25	2	
Orchard Acres	5	20	2	
Pacheco Creek Estates Mutual Water Company	5	23	4	
Paicines Water System	5	50	2	
San Juan Oaks Golf Club	5	226	3	
Stella Vista Estates Mutual Water Company	5	65	2	
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Bear Valley Station	4	10	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Denice & Filice, LLC	4	200	2	
El Modeno Nursery Inc.	4	120	3	
Foothill Rd Water System	4	12	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Loma Verde Estates Water System	4	0	1	LSWS
Paicines Water Company	4	15	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Willis Construction Water System	4	80	2	
Willow Grove Union Elementary School	4	45	3	
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Beaver Dam Station	3	5	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Blossom Hill Winery	3	60	3	
M. Adamson Water System	3	16	1	INAC
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Antelope Station	2	3	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Bitterwater-Tully School Water System	2	55	2	
Cedar House Restaurant	2	500	1	
Dunneville Café & Market	2	200	2	



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San Benito County General Plan

**TABLE 7-1
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS**

San Benito County
2010

Water System Name	Number of Connections	Population Served	Number of Wells	Notes
Earthbound Farms	2	900	5	
Fairview Child Development Center	2	70	2	
First Presbyterian Church of Hollister	2	45	1	
Pacific Scientific Energetic Mats. Company	2	400	3	
Salinas Ramblers	2	24	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Spring Grove Elementary School	2	650	1	
Whispering Pines Inn	2	100	3	
Anzar High School	1	450	1	
Blackburn Entertainment, LLC DBA Pietra Santa Winery	1	30	1	
Cienega Union Elem School	1	0	1	
Denice & Filice, LLC Shipping & Cooling	1	150	2	
Haydon Family Farm and Park	1	600	1	
Jefferson Elementary School	1	15	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Jehovah's Witness Church	1	250	1	
Paicines C-5-J Park	1	5	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Pride of San Juan, Inc.	1	372	3	
Progreso Tamale Factory	1	5	1	Not PWS/SSWS
San Benito County Historical Park	1	25	1	
Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Inc.	1	30	1	
Southside Elementary School	1	284	1	
Toro Ranches	1	25	1	
Whittaker Ordinance	1	100	1	
Bessor's Mobile Home Park	0	0	1	
Brooktree Homeowners Association	0	0	1	LSWS
Greathead Labor Camp	0	0	1	LSWS
Hollister RW Project	0	0	1	
Panoche Elementary School	0	18	1	Not PWS/SSWS
Pinnacles Campground	0	0	1	
San Juan Bautista Recycled Water Project	0	0	1	
Thomas Orchards	0	0	1	LSWS

Sources: Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Management Plan, November 2008; Long-term Water and Wastewater Management Plan for the DWTP and IWTP, December 2005; and Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) Long-Term Wastewater Management Plan, January 2006.

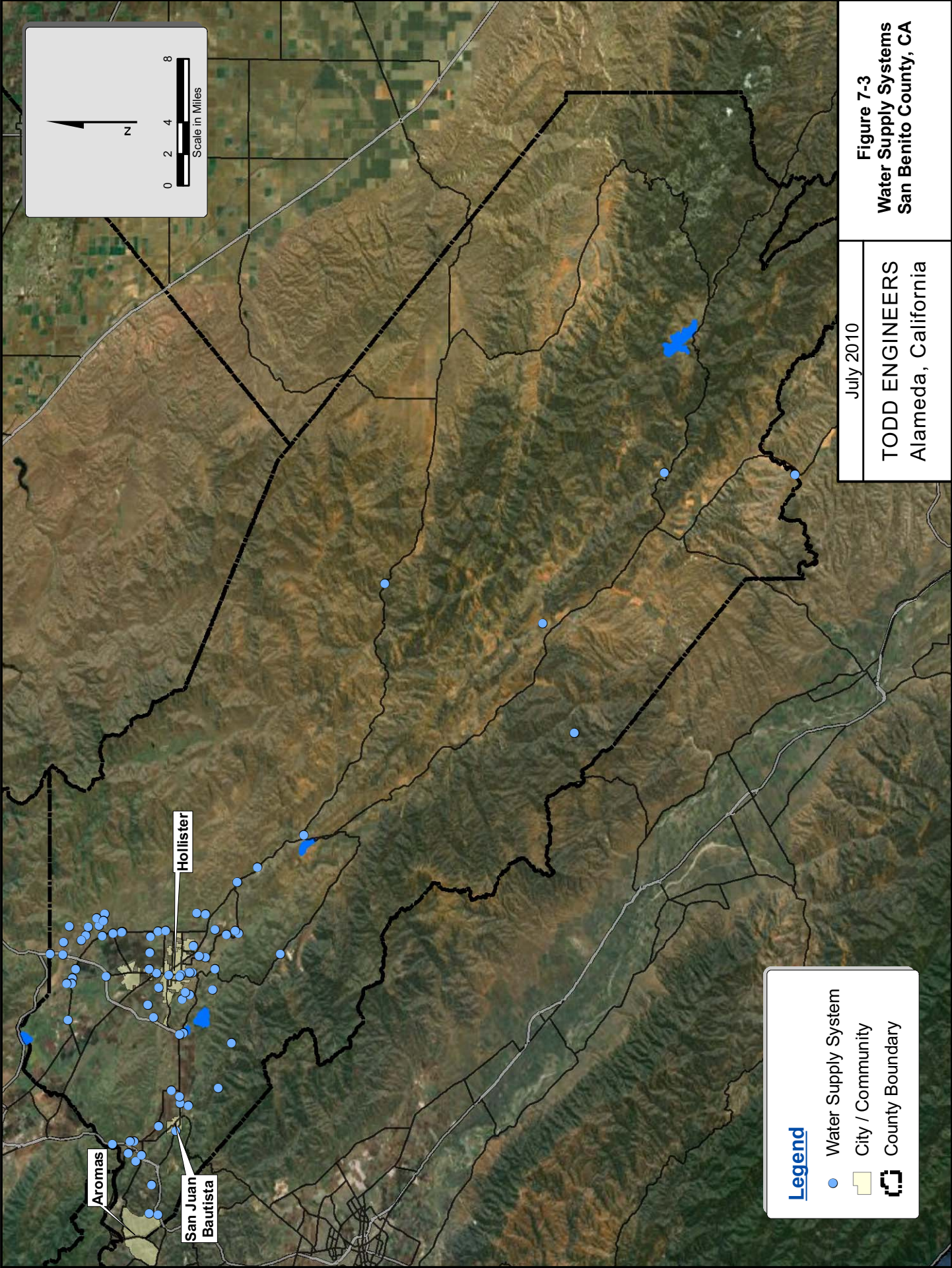


Figure 7-3
 Water Supply Systems
 San Benito County, CA

July 2010
 TODD ENGINEERS
 Alameda, California

Legend

- Water Supply System
- City / Community
- County Boundary

Scale in Miles

0 2 4 8

N

Aromas

San Juan Bautista

Hollister



SECTION 7.2 WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Introduction

This section summarizes existing (2010) information related to wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities in San Benito County. This includes an overview of current wastewater collection and treatment capacities, flow history, treatment processes, reclamation policies, current number of connections to the systems, and the general condition of the infrastructure. Sanitary sewer information is generally reported in terms of each individual district providing the service. This section also discusses the areas within the county that rely on septic systems.

Key Terms

ADWF. Average dry weather flow, or flow during dry months (June-August), with limited or no inflow and infiltration.

Backup. Wastewater that enters into basements and other low-lying areas during a moderate to intense rainfall event. Similar to overflow, backup is normally a result of excess stormwater and groundwater entering into the sanitary sewer, or a blockage in the public or private sewer system.

Base Flow. The component of wastewater that originates from domestic users, such as residential, commercial, and institutional discharges.

Disinfection. A process following secondary or tertiary treatment that typically involves the use of chlorine or ultraviolet (UV) radiation to destroy bacteria and other pathogens.

Dry Weather Infiltration. Groundwater that enters into the sanitary sewer system during the driest period of the year when the groundwater table is lowest in elevation.

Effluent. Treated wastewater that is discharged from a wastewater treatment facility.

Excessive I/I. Measured inflow and infiltration within a sanitary sewer system that is considered to be more expensive to transport and treat at the municipality's wastewater treatment plant than to eliminate through rehabilitation.

Inflow. Surface stormwater that enters into the sanitary sewer through direct sources, such as vented manhole covers, downspouts, area drains, and uncapped cleanout.

Interceptor. Sanitary sewer interceptors are those lines that convey sewage from neighborhood to neighborhood en route to the wastewater treatment plant. Pipe diameters are generally larger than lines placed within residential developments.

I/I. An abbreviation for inflow and infiltration into a sanitary sewer system.

Lift Station. A pumping facility that conveys wastewater flow from an area that would not naturally drain to the wastewater treatment plant, or into the gravity sewer system for delivery and treatment.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The regulatory document that defines the discharge requirements, monitoring requirements, and operational requirements for a particular wastewater treatment facility or other discharger to a surface water.

Peak Dry Weather Flow (PDWF). Peak dry weather flow or peak flow during dry months is determined by multiplying the ADWF by a diurnal daily peaking factor.

Peak Wet Weather Flow (PWWF). Peak wet weather flow is PDWF plus infiltration and inflow during wet weather.

Primary Treatment. Treatment of wastewater prior to secondary treatment involving screening, settling, and removal of suspended solids.

Sanitary Sewer. Pipes, pump stations, manholes, and other facilities that convey untreated (raw) wastewater from various sources to wastewater treatment facilities.

Secondary Treatment. Treatment of wastewater that typically follows primary treatment, and involves biological processes and settling tanks to remove organic material.

Service Line. Facilities owned and maintained by property owners that convey waste from a structure to the public system.

Surcharge. A condition in which the wastewater flow rate in a sewer system exceeds the capacity of the sewer lines to the extent that raw sewage begins to rise within manholes.

Tertiary Treatment. Treatment of wastewater that follows secondary treatment, and involves filtration or membrane processes to remove fine suspended and colloidal material, providing a more advanced level of treatment than secondary treatment alone.

Title 22. A section of the California Water Code that establishes water quality requirements for wastewater reclamation. As an example, Title 22 requires filtration of any reclaimed effluent used for full-body contact recreation or fresh food crop irrigation. Title 22 requires lesser levels of treatment for other uses of reclaimed effluent.

Wastewater. Sewage (either treated or untreated) from residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sources.

Wastewater Collection System. The totality of the pipes, pump station, manholes, and other facilities that convey untreated (raw) wastewater from the various sources to a wastewater treatment facility.

WDR. Waste discharge requirements are issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to govern wastewater discharges to land.

Wet-weather Infiltration. Peak infiltration that is measured 6 to 12 hours after a measured storm event, excluding base flow and dry weather infiltration.

WWTF. Wastewater treatment facility.



Regulatory Setting

Key organizations that regulate wastewater treatment and disposal in California include the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). These agencies are responsible for carrying out and enforcing environmental laws enacted by Congress. Local government agencies, including the San Benito County Public Health Division, which is part of the Health and Human Services Agency (H&HSA), are responsible for establishing and implementing specific design criteria related to on-site septic systems and processing septic system permits. The San Benito Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is also described since they oversee public agency boundary changes, as well as the establishment, update, and amendment of spheres of influence, often related to wastewater service districts. Major regulatory policies pertaining to sanitary sewer management are also summarized below.

Federal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) supports the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) by promoting effective and responsible water use, treatment, disposal, and management, and by encouraging the protection and restoration of watersheds. The OWM is responsible for directing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, pretreatment, and municipal bio-solids management (including beneficial use) programs under the Clean Water Act. The OWM is also home to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the largest water quality funding source, focused on funding wastewater treatment systems, non-point source projects, and estuary protection.

Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA is the cornerstone of surface water quality protection in the United States. The statute employs a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory tools to sharply reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff.

Section 303 of the CWA requires states to adopt water quality standards for all surface water of the United States. Where multiple uses exist, water quality standards must protect the most sensitive use. Water quality standards are typically numeric, although narrative criteria based on biomonitoring methods may be employed where numerical standards cannot be established or where they are needed to supplement numerical standards. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are responsible for ensuring implementation and compliance with the provisions of the Federal CWA.

State

State Water Resources Control Board. The SWRCB, in coordination with nine RWQCBs, performs functions related to water quality, including issuance of wastewater discharge permits (NPDES and WDR) and other programs regulating stormwater runoff, and underground and above-ground storage tanks. San Benito County falls within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB).

The CCRWQCB requires all wastewater collection and disposal providers to prepare both a Long-Term Wastewater Management Plan (LTWMP) according to wastewater requirements, and a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) according to the Statewide General Order Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (WQO No. 2006-003-DWQ), which was adopted in 2006 and requires wastewater collection and service providers to report all sanitary sewer overflows and management plans for all sanitary sewer systems.

Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Governmental Reorganization Act of 2000. The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Governmental Reorganization Act of 2000 requires California Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO) to conduct municipal service reviews for specified public agencies under their jurisdiction. One aspect of municipal service review is to evaluate an agency's ability to provide public services within its ultimate service area. A municipal service review is required before an agency can update its sphere of influence. The San Benito LAFCO last conducted a Countywide Municipal Services Review in November 2007.

Small Community Wastewater Grant Program. The small community wastewater grant program (SCWG), funded by Propositions 40 and 50, provides grant assistance for the construction of publicly-owned wastewater treatment and collection facilities. Grants are available for small communities with financial hardships. Communities must comply with population restrictions (maximum population of 20,000 people) and annual median household income provisions (maximum of \$37,994) to qualify for funding under the SCWG Program.

Title 22 of California Code of Regulations. Title 22 regulates the use of reclaimed wastewater. In most cases, only disinfected tertiary water may be used on food crops where the recycled water would come into contact with the edible portion of the crop. Disinfected secondary treatment may be used for food crops where the edible portion is produced above ground and will not come into contact with the secondary effluent. Lesser levels of treatment are required for other types of crops, such as orchards, vineyards, and fiber crops. Standards are also prescribed for the use of treated wastewater for irrigation of parks, playgrounds, landscaping and other non-agricultural irrigation. Regulation of reclaimed water is governed by the nine RWQCBs and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Local

San Benito County General Plan (Existing)

The existing General Plan includes following objectives and policy statements with regard to wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal. They are included in the Open Space and Conservation Element and the Land Use Element.

Open Space and Conservation Element (1995)

Policy 31. Wastewater treatment

Wastewater treatment systems shall be designed to ensure the long-term protection of groundwater resources in San Benito County. Septic systems shall be limited to areas where sewer services are not available and where it can be demonstrated that septic systems will not contaminate groundwater.



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San Benito County General Plan

Every effort should be made in developing and existing developed areas to reduce the use of septic systems in favor of domestic wastewater treatment. Domestic wastewater treatment systems shall be required to use tertiary wastewater treatment as defined by Title 22.

Land Use Element (1992)

Policy 10. Septic systems may be allowed on parcels one acre or greater if percolation tests demonstrate to the County Health Department Division of Environmental Health that soil is suitable for septic use. Sewage disposal on parcels less than one acre shall not be by the use of septic systems, but shall be through a public utility service district.

Actions

- a) Determine the septic system suitability for parcels one acre or greater in size.
- b) Require that all new development on parcels less than one acre be served by a utility service district.
- c) Where a utility service district is proposed to be used for a new development, evidence shall be provided prior to project approval that said district has adequate capacity for the new development. If a district requires expansion, the design, construction, maintenance standards, and financial mechanism to support the improvements shall be resolved prior to project approval. New developments shall be encouraged to tie into existing sewer systems that are within proximity to existing sewer systems.

Policy 11. Septic systems shall be properly designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid degradation of ground and surface water quality.

Actions

- a) A soils analysis and letter from the County Health Department approving the design of septic systems shall be submitted prior to approval of tentative maps with parcels less than 10 acres.
- b) Require the establishment of community service districts or other financing mechanisms to oversee the maintenance of septic tanks for major subdivisions and/or areas of residential development.
- c) Require septic systems to meet County design and construction standards.

San Benito County Public Health Division, Environmental Health Department

San Benito County Public Health Division, Health & Human Services Agency (H&HSA). The San Benito County Public Health Division Environmental Health Department (EHD) regulates the construction and operation of individual septic systems within San Benito County.

San Benito County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

The San Benito County LAFCO oversees public agency boundary changes, as well as the establishment, update, and amendment of spheres of influence (Government Code Sections 56001, 56375 and 56425).

The overarching goal of LAFCO is to encourage the orderly formation and extension of governmental agencies. The primary purposes of LAFCO are to facilitate orderly growth and development by determining logical local boundary changes; to preserve prime agricultural lands by guiding development away from presently undeveloped prime agricultural preserves; and to discourage urban sprawl and encourage the preservation of open space by promoting the development of vacant land within cities before annexation of vacant land adjacent to cities.

San Benito LAFCO's approval is required for proposed changes of organization or reorganization of service districts, or proposed annexations or detachments of services districts. As mentioned above, the San Benito LAFCO last updated the Countywide Municipal Service Review in 2007.

San Benito Countywide Municipal Services Review (2007). The *San Benito Countywide Municipal Services Review* addresses the services provided by the two cities, Hollister and San Juan Bautista, and special districts within the county. California state law authorizes the LAFCO within each county to establish boundaries and spheres of influence (SOI) for cities and special districts under their purview, and to authorize the provision of services within the approved service areas. As part of this responsibility, LAFCO is required to conduct periodic reviews of each service provider, and to adopt determinations with respect to the need for, and adequacy of, current services and each agency's ability to continue to provide adequate services in the future.

San Benito County has several service providers, including the two cities, five water districts, and several other services providers, such as County Service Areas (CSA). For example, both the City of Hollister and San Juan Bautista are full service cities, providing water, wastewater, fire, police, recreation, roads, drainage, and other general government services. The San Benito County Water District was formed by a special act of the State Legislature, which gives the District broad powers for the conservation and management of water throughout San Benito County, including flood, surface, drainage, and groundwater. The Aromas Water District is a tri-county district (Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito) that serves four separate service areas within the unincorporated community of Aromas and its vicinity. The Sunnyslope County Water District and Tres Pinos Water District provide both water and wastewater services. The numerous CSAs in the county provide enhanced municipal services, mainly wastewater collection and disposal, for communities within unincorporated areas of the county.

City of Hollister Engineering Department

Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan. The Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan is a cooperative effort of the City of Hollister, San Benito County, and the San Benito County Water District, to determine a long-term vision to guide water resource improvements in the Hollister Urban Area. The plan's goals are to improve water quality, increase the reliability of the water supply, and integrate the goals from long-range wastewater and groundwater management programs.



Major Findings

- The majority of all wastewater treatment in San Benito County is provided by four service providers: Sunnyslope Water District, Tres Pinos Water and Sewer District, City of San Juan Bautista, and the City of Hollister. All other wastewater treatment is provided by individual property owners who operate septic systems with either leachfield or sprayfield disposal areas.
- Four of the 54 registered Community Service Areas in the county provide sewer services and treatment. These CSA facilities are considered small community systems, regulated under the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board with oversight by the County. CSA systems include: Cielo Vista, Comstock Estates, Pacheco Creek Estates, and Rancho Larios. The Rancho Larios development is the only CSA that operates a treatment plant with disposal. The other three CSAs have either batch or community leachfield disposal systems.
- Based on the LAFCO Municipal Services Review (2007), the Tres Pinos Water and Sewer District has 113 household connections. The District maintains one treatment plant with four ponds and a disposal field that total 1.8-acres.
- The majority of the unincorporated county is not connected to a public sanitary sewer system. Unincorporated areas served by sanitary sewers include residential subdivisions and areas proposed for urban development on the outskirts of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. Most existing residences use individual septic tanks and leachfield systems.
- There are several thousand individual septic systems throughout the county. Between 1990 and 2010 approximately 1,410 new septic tank installation permits were issued and approximately 962 septic replacements. On average the County reviews and issues 67 new septic system permits and 45 septic replacements per year.

Existing Conditions

Wastewater and Sewer Service

Most of the unincorporated areas of San Benito County lack public sewer infrastructure and instead are serviced by either community septic systems or individual septic systems and leachfield disposal. The incorporated areas, including Hollister and San Juan Bautista, are serviced by each city's wastewater and sewer services. Unincorporated areas in the county that have public wastewater service are served by the Sunnyslope Water District, the Tres Pinos Water and Sewer District, or by one of the four CSAs. The four CSAs with sewer collection and treatment facilities in the county include: CSA #22 Cielo Vista, CSA #51 Comstock Estates, CSA #54 Pacheco Creek Estates, and CSA #45 Rancho Larios. Table 7-2 lists these wastewater collection and disposal providers. The majority of the sewer districts that provide wastewater service in the unincorporated county have service areas that also cover the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, and planned developments within several subdivisions outside city limits. Most communities south of Hollister, near Tres Pinos and in the far western and southern portion of the county, are on septic systems.

**TABLE 7-2
SEWER DISTRICTS**

San Benito County
2010

Wastewater Service Provider/District	Hollister/Surrounding Area	San Juan Bautista	Tres Pinos	Paicines	Bitterwater	San Benito	New Idria	Aromas
City of Hollister	X							
City of San Juan Bautista		X						
Sunnyslope County Water and Sewer District (SSWD)								
Tres Pinos Water and Sewer District			X					
CSA #22 - Cielo Vista	X							
CSA #51 - Comstock Estates	X							
CSA #54 - Pacheco Creek Estates	X							
CSA #45 - Rancho Larios	X							

Source: San Benito County LAFCO, San Benito County Municipal Services Review, 2007.

City of Hollister

The City of Hollister collects and transmits all domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater to one of two wastewater treatment plants. The sewer service area for the city is known as the Hollister Urban Area, which includes the entire incorporated city and some parcels outside the city limits that are designated for urban development. The unincorporated area designated for urban development includes parcels located east of Fairview Road, South of Airline Road, and small parcels west of SR 156.

Five wastewater treatment plants treat domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater flows generated in the Hollister Urban Area. However, only two of the five wastewater treatment plants are owned and operated by the City. The other existing wastewater facilities are owned and operated by two separate entities, the Sunnyslope County Water District (SSWD) and San Benito County, which operates the Cielo Vista Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant (discussed below under CSAs). The five wastewater facilities all include collection systems, pipelines, interceptors, and lift stations. All disposal within these districts is primarily accomplished through evaporation and percolation.

All domestic and commercial wastewater within Hollister is collected through gravity pipelines and force mains, then transmitted through six lift stations, depending on the transfer location. Once collected, the wastewater is transferred to the City’s Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant (DWTP). The DWTP is located west of the city at the intersection of San Juan Road and SR 156 along the San Benito River. All



excess flows and industrial water uses are diverted to the City's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) located at the west end of South Street in the city adjacent to the San Benito River, less than one mile east of the DWTP. Compared to the DWTP, the IWTP is designed to treat high-strength organic loading, mostly from canneries. While the facility treats mainly cannery wastewater, it also treats excess municipal wastewater and stormwater. Both the DWTP and the IWTP facilities operate under permits from the CCRWQCB.

City of Hollister Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant (DWTP)

The DWTP was originally built in 1979 and became operational in 1980. At that time the DWTP consisted of a primary and secondary pond system with 1.6 acres of percolation beds. Currently (2010) the DWTP disposes treated effluent in 15 percolation beds located on the eastern and western sides of SR 156, and additional beds located at the City's IWTP. The City has made a series of improvements that have addressed various treatment and discharge deficiencies since the DWTP became operational.

In 1992 the City renovated the facility to add a new operations building equipped with an influent screen and flow measurement equipment. The change was implemented to increase the permitted capacity of the facility to 2.69 million gallons per day (mgd). In 1994 the City renovated the eastern percolation beds to increase effluent discharge capacity, and in 1996 the western percolation beds were added. In 2002 the City developed a 50 million gallon emergency storage pond, and in 2003 the City started a biosolids removal project to dispose of biosolids that had accumulated since the storage pond became operational.

The series of improvements and upgrades to the DWTP has continued since funding was available under the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Additional upgrades to the DWTP were initiated in 2006, which included the design and construction of additional seasonal storage facilities. The series of upgrades introduced significant changes to the treatment process by converting the facility to a dual-powered multi-cellular process to improve efficiency. A new influent lift station was also constructed to control odors and improve flow measurement. As a result of many of the ongoing improvements and storage increases, the wastewater services now include over 19 miles of wastewater pipeline, and three lift stations that are able to provide approximately 5,564 connections for collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal service. On average the plant treats approximately 2.7 million gallons per day of dry flows.

Recent upgrades to the DWTP were initiated in 2006 when environmental documentation was approved to further improve the plant by increasing the quality of effluent produced and to increase the treatment capacity of the plant. The DWTP project also included proposed recycled water facility improvements, proposed to reduce the amount of water currently disposed of by percolation at the DWTP through sprayfields.

Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP)

The IWTP was originally built in 1971 to process wastewater from two canneries. At that time the facility included influent screening, two sedimentation ponds, aeration ponds, and approximately 36 acres of percolation ponds. The IWTP continued to provide wastewater service to the canneries through 1992 when one of the canneries discontinued its operations. As a result, San Benito Foods is currently (2010)

the only remaining industrial discharger to the IWTP. It mainly discharges tomato cannery wastewater during the summer and early Fall of each year.

The City has implemented a series of improvements at the IWTP and has received permission from the CCRWQCB to temporarily divert excess domestic wastewater from the DWTP to the IWTP to leverage additional treatment and disposal capacity available when the cannery is not discharging wastewater. Many of these improvements began in 1973 when the IWTP added a lagoon to store sludge. Other improvements occurred in 1981 when the facility constructed another percolation bed for increased capacity, and in 1988 when the facility modified its operation strategy to improve the screening processes for discharge, which reduced the loading of large solids.

The IWTP operated under its new strategy until 2000 when the City requested that the CCRWQCB allow the City to divert peak domestic wastewater flows from the DWTP to the IWTP for treatment on a temporary basis. At that time the City upgraded the IWTP once again to remove solids and modify a secondary lift station to allow effluent from one of the aeration ponds to be pumped to all the operating discharge beds. These design modifications allowed the IWTP to treat a monthly average of 6.10 mgd during the canning season and 2.60 mgd during the remainder of the year to secondary treatment standards using an aerated pond treatment system. The IWTP currently (2010) combines its operations with the DWTP and treats on average approximately 0.66 mgd of dry weather flows. The permitted capacity of the IWTP facility varies by season between 0.18 mgd) to 3.5 mgd. Once treated, the effluent is treated and discharged to evaporation ponds that now cover approximately 39 acres.

Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Management Plan

In 2004 the City of Hollister, the County Water District, and San Benito County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the development of the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Management Plan (also known as a Master Plan). The Master Plan addresses water quality, water supply reliability, and water and wastewater system improvements within the Hollister Service Area, which includes all of Hollister and portions of San Benito County. Wastewater system improvements identified in the Master Plan have been implemented, resulting in the expansion of the DWTP capacity from 2.7 mgd to 5 mgd, or 0.5 mgd greater than the 2023 wastewater flow projection of 4.5 mgd. However, as population increases, major infrastructure improvements identified in the plan would need to be implemented, including further increases for treatment and disposal capacity and reductions in effluent concentrations.

City of Hollister Reclaimed Water Project (RWI)

The City has initiated recycling efforts for reclaimed water that intend to test land application scenarios at six sites scattered throughout the San Juan Valley and Hollister-Gilroy (Bolsa) Valley of the larger Pajaro River Watershed. The project is broken into two phases. The first phase involves the implementation of the Long-term Wastewater Management Program (LTWMP) described below. The LTWMP describes the implementation plan and schedule for the land application scenarios. These scenarios include recycling treated wastewater from the DWTP by developing 200-350 acres of sprayfields at five potential sites (Hollister Municipal Airport, Pacific Sod Farm, San Juan Oaks Golf Club, Brook Hollow Ranch, and Brigantino Site). This phase also includes the construction of storage ponds, pipelines, and spray fields for tertiary wastewater application. The second phase implements a water



supply component, which involves the demineralization of source water and the construction of a desalination plant. This project was approved as part of the DWTP project in late 2006, and construction began in early 2007.

City of Hollister Long-Term Wastewater Management Program (LTWMP)

The City completed its LTWMP for both the DWTP and the IWTP in 2005. It identifies major components and actions required under the Regional Board's permit for the DWTP and the IWTP. It also describes the City's plan for wastewater treatment and effluent management of current and future wastewater flows. The LTWMP is consistent with the City's 2005 General Plan growth assumptions and related wastewater flows. The plan also assumes the DWTP will treat wastewater from the Sunnyslope County Waste District in the future.

City of Hollister Sewer System Management Plan

As part of the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems adopted by the SWRCB in 2006, the City must now report all sanitary sewer overflows to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). The new order requires the City to prepare a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP), which still needs to be completed. The latest plan on sewer systems is the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan, completed in November 2008, as part of the MOU developed in 2004. The plan was required to reduce and prevent sanitary sewer overflows, but it was developed primarily to identify water and wastewater service development as defined by both the City of Hollister and San Benito County General Plans.

City of San Juan Bautista

The City of San Juan Bautista encompasses approximately 0.7 square miles, but still provides many of its own services, except a few service contracts for law enforcement and mutual aid agreements for fire protection. As of 2007 the City provided wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for approximately 689 account connections for residential, commercial, and institutional uses (LAFCO 2007). The City's service area includes the entire city and several properties outside the City's boundaries. The City's wastewater system facilities currently (2010) include two lift stations, and sewer mains that collect and convey wastewater to the San Juan Bautista Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at the end of Third Street in the city.

City of San Juan Bautista Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

The WWTP provides tertiary treatment and has capacity for 0.27 mgd. Average dry weather flows are currently 0.18 mgd. Once treated, effluent is discharged into San Juan Creek. The CCRWQCB permits the WWTP. Although the City had an effluent violation in 2007 related to Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), it has since resolved the issue with improved water quality from a new water treatment facility. The City is also required to report all sanitary sewer overflows to the CIWQS, and to prepare a SSMP by August 2010.

Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD)

The Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) serves approximately 2.5 square miles that include the eastern portion of Hollister, and an unincorporated area with an estimated population of 16,000 located to the east and southeast of Hollister. While the SSCWD provides water services to the entire 2.5 square mile service area, SSCWD only provides wastewater services to a small area that includes the Ridgemark Estates community and the Oak Creek and Quail Hollow subdivisions. According to the LAFCO MSR, in 2007 the SSCWD served approximately 1,200 customers. However, the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan (2008) states the Ridgemark sewer service area is estimated to serve approximately 3,720 customers. In general, the SSCWD's Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its boundary, and any future expansion of the service areas would result if the service area's population increased. A summary of the SSCWD's LTWMP is described below.

Ridgemark Wastewater Treatment Systems (RM)

The SSCWD's Ridgemark wastewater system includes wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services. It consists of the Ridgemark (RM) wastewater treatment system, which includes three lift stations, 27 miles of sewer line, and two treatment facilities with a permitted capacity of 370,000 gallons per day (gpd). Both treatment facilities are known as the Ridgemark Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant I and II (or RM I and RM II), both of which use treatment ponds and disposal at 10.2 acres of evaporation ponds. RM I consists of six ponds and RM II consists of four ponds. Flows can be transferred between both plants through an interconnecting force main and transfer lift station. Currently, both treatment facilities are permitted for a combined 30-day operational running average, dry weather flows of 0.3 mgd, and a 30-day running average for wet weather flows of 0.31 mgd. Currently, the 30-day running average dry and wet weather flows conveyed to the two treatment plants are estimated at 0.26 and 0.28 mgd.

As of 2007 SSCWD provided 1,207 service connections through these two treatment plants and its collection system, which uses three lift stations to convey wastewater to the treatment facilities and ponds. Once treated, approximately 254-acre-feet was discharged, of which 227 acre-feet was estimated to percolate into the groundwater. While the SSCWD has not been cited for any violations since 2000, in 2007 it completed the rehabilitation of three percolation/evaporation ponds at RM I to restore percolation capacity. As population increases, capacity also needs to be increased to meet the future demand and decreasing percolation rates that occur at these ponds.

According to the LAFCO MSR, a new treatment process will need to be implemented to meet more stringent water quality requirements. As a result, the SSWCD has considered several treatment and disposal alternatives and a potential connection with the new Hollister Regional Wastewater Treatment Plan (expansion of the DWTP and IWTP). SSCWD's wastewater services operate under waste discharge permits and sanitary sewer requirement orders issued by the CCRWQCB.

SSWCD Long-Term Wastewater Management Plan (LTWMP)

The SSCWD LTWMP was adopted by the District in January 2006. The plan indicates that disposal capacity at both the RM I and RM II will need to be increased in the future to meet population demands and to account for decreasing percolation rates. Based on the LTWMP, the annual disposal capacity of



the two treatment plants would need to be increased by 264 acre-feet to accommodate future development and disposal needs. For example, RM I disposal capacity had diminished significantly at the time the LTWMP was being prepared, and maintenance at the ponds and plant were taken to provide interim increased capacity. The LTWMP also addresses the SSCWD's regulatory requirements as defined in its Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) to meet waste quality standards for nitrogen, TDS, chloride, sodium, and other constituents.

Tres Pinos Water District (TPWD)

The TPWD was formed in 1962 to serve the unincorporated Tres Pinos community in the eastern portion of San Benito County. The TPWD provides water and wastewater services for approximately 113 customers (LAFCO 2007). The TPWD's wastewater infrastructure consists of a wastewater collection system, treatment, and discharge to a 1.8-acre evaporation pond area adjacent to Tres Pinos Creek. The TPWD is permitted under the CCRWQCB.

Based on the LAFCO MSR prepared in 2007, the TPWD treatment facility discharged an estimated 33 acre-feet of which seven feet evaporated and 22 acre-feet were estimated to percolate. The treatment facility has been cited for a number of violations over the past few years due to effluent violations. For example, the facility had elevated levels of TDS. Since then the TPWD has begun planning to expand the wastewater treatment plant and in 2007 the CCRWQCB required the TPWD to develop a LWTMP and a SSMP.

San Benito County Wastewater Systems

The majority of the unincorporated county relies on septic tank systems for waste disposal, and only approximately 1 percent of the unincorporated area has the potential to use public sewer services (ECRI 1994). Only small portions of the unincorporated county located within cities' spheres of influence use public wastewater systems. These service areas cover portions of the unincorporated county closest to either Hollister or San Juan Bautista, both of which have public wastewater service districts. In addition, four CSAs provide wastewater collection and disposal for subdivisions located outside the Hollister area. Therefore, most wastewater from rural dwellings scattered across the county is usually disposed of via septic systems and in-ground disposal. As a result, prior to issuing a septic system permit, the County Environmental Health Department must assess whether soil and site conditions are favorable, whether maintenance of the system will be adequate, and whether or not the septic tank system can be expected to provide satisfactory service for the applicant. The few public wastewater systems managed by the County through CSAs, as well as a summary of the septic tank systems issued by the County Department of Public Health, are described below.

County Service Areas

CSAs are established as a vehicle to provide municipal services within unincorporated areas. They are dependent special districts and governed by the County Board of Supervisors. San Benito County includes 30 active CSAs and seven inactive CSAs, many of which have aging facilities according to the 2007 LAFCO MSR. Of the 30 active CSAs, only four provide sewer collection, treatment, and disposal through small community wastewater systems that are regulated by the 2006-0003 General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems or Individual Orders issued by the CCRWQCB with oversight by both the County

Environmental Health Department and the County Public Works Department. The CSAs with community wastewater service systems include Cielo Vista, Comstock Estates, Pacheco Creek Estates, and Rancho Larios. Rancho Larios is the only development that has a treatment plant with a disposal system. The other three have community wastewater treatment plants with leachfield disposal systems.

As of 2007 some CSAs required remedial actions, such as emergency water systems and improvements at their wastewater treatment plants. For example, Rancho Larios (CSA #45) began working with the County to resolve the operational failures at their wastewater treatment plant. Because of some of the CSA infrastructure needs, the County has recently reassessed the needs at each CSA to determine necessary revenues for current services and replacement costs. As a result, future rate increases and fee restructuring are anticipated in many of the CSAs. Table 7-3 lists all the active CSAs within the county and the services provided, including wastewater collection.

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TABLE 7-3
COUNTY SERVICE AREAS (CSAS)
 San Benito County
 2010

Name	CSA #	# of Parcels	Roads	Drainage	Sweeping	Street Lights	Landscape	Water	Sewer	Recreation	Fire/Police
Ashford Heights	38	51	•	•	•	•		•		•	•
Ausaymas Estates	34	7	•	•	•		x				•
Barnes Lane	11	12				•					•
Bonnie View	8	38				•					•
Cielo Vistas	22	76	•	•	•	•		•	•		•
Comstock Estates	51	36	•	•	•		x	•	•		•
Dry Creek	48	19	•	•							•
Dunneville Estates	50	30	•	•				•		•	•
Heatherwood	28	48	•	•							•
Hillcrest - El Toro	5	85				•					
Holiday Ranch/Santa Anna Estates	16	84	•	•		•					•
Hollister Ranch Estates	49	38	•	•		•					•
Lemmon Acres	42	28	•	•	•		x	x	x	x	•
Long Acres	21	22	•	•	•			x			•
Brown Maglady	29	4		•							•
McCloskey Estates	30	6	•	•	•						•
Oak Creek	47	89	•	•		•	•			•	•
Pacheco Creek Estates	54	5	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
Quail Hollow	46	109	•	•		•	•				
Rancho Larios	45	141	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•

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Rancho San Joaquin/Tevis Traits	23	30	•	•	•	•	•	•							•
Ridgemark	9	1054	x	•	•	•	•	•							•
Riverview Estates	53	56	•	•	•	•	•	•							•
Santa Ana Acres	24	27	•	•	•	•	•	•							•
Santa Rosa Acres	4	19													•
Springwood Estates	19	14		•	•	•	•	•				x			•
Stonegate	31	74		•	•	•	•	•		x			•		•
Torrano	33	9	•	•	•	•	•	•				x			•
Union Heights	35	24	•	•	•	•	•	•				x		x	•
Vineyard Estates	25	26	•	•	•	•	•	•				x			•

Notes: • = indicates active service, x = indicates inactive service.

Source: San Benito County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Services Review, 2007.

Cielo Vista Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant (CSA No. 22)

Cielo Vista Estates was established as San Benito County Service Area No. 22. The subdivision is located northwest of the intersection of Fairview Road and Airline Highway and consists of 70 acres of residential development with approximately 76 residences. Approximately 1.2 miles of sewer collection pipelines provide service to the area. It is the closest CSA to the city of Hollister.

The wastewater treatment facility consists of an enclosed package sequencing batch reactor (SBR) that has the capacity to treat up to 30,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater. The average estimated influent wastewater flow to the facility is estimated to be 20,000 gpd (Hollister Urban Water and Waste Management Plan 2005). The treated effluent is disposed of on leachfields adjacent to the treatment facility. Based on the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan, between October 2004 and September 2005, approximately 22 acre-feet of treated wastewater was disposed of on the leachfield system. The leachfields are located on gently sloped land located approximately 180 feet above the groundwater level. The firm, Bracewell Engineering, out of Oakland, California, operates the facility under contract with San Benito County. However, the County has considered decommissioning the Cielo Vista Estate WWTP and conveying raw wastewater to the DWTP in Hollister.

Septic Tank Systems

A septic system works by using anaerobic bacteria to decompose waste materials in the ground. When an applicant, such as a homeowner or business, applies for a septic tank permit, the San Benito County Environmental Health Department assesses whether the design of the septic system is adequate and whether the proposed location has suitable soil for absorbing the effluent and at what rate. For example, the soil must have a satisfactory absorption rate without interference from groundwater or impervious strata. There also must be a minimum depth to groundwater (greater than four feet), and impervious strata should be at a depth greater than four feet below the tile trench or seepage pit (ERCI 1994). If these conditions are not met, the site is generally determined to be unsuitable for a septic tank installation.

The safe operation of septic tanks is important because failed or improperly designed systems can contribute to the degradation of groundwater quality over time. For example, nitrate build-up is a major concern, and as rural residential development in the county increases, the nitrate quantities in the groundwater table increase and eventually move towards the water being taken up in the county's community water systems (ERCI 1994). The reasons a septic tank may fail can include insufficient permeability, saturation of the leach line, a high groundwater table, testing the soil conditions during the wrong season, lack of maintenance, and slope instability. As a result, the County Environmental Health Department maintains standards for evaluating the suitability of soils for septic disposal. In general, San Benito County contains approximately 97,855 acres (11 percent) of soil that has slight to moderate septic tank limitations, and the remainder of the soils (89 percent) have severe limitations. The soils within San Benito County that have been identified by the Soil Conservation Service as having slight to moderate septic tank installation limitations, including soils with few limitations, and each soil type's approximate area in acres within the county, are provided in Table 7-4 and shown on Figure 7-2-1.

Several thousand individual septic systems exist throughout the county. Between 1990 and 2010 approximately 1,410 new septic tank installation permits and approximately 962 septic replacements were issued (Andrade, 2010). Therefore, on average the County reviews and issues approximately 67 new septic system permits and 45 septic replacements a year. During this time period the County also issued 35 removal permits, or around 1 septic tank destruction permit per year.

**TABLE 7-4
SOIL TYPES WITH SLIGHT TO MODERATE LIMITATIONS FOR SEPTIC DISPOSAL**

San Benito County
2010

Soil Type	Acres	Percent of Land in County
Slight to Moderate		
Carralitos	375	--
Hanford	4,970	0.56
Yolo	5,560	0.60
Moderate		
Docas	5,920	0.66
Kettleman	43,265	4.80
Metz	3,105	0.40
Mocho	3,585	0.40
Panhill	3,615	0.40
Panoche	13,560	1.50
Reiff	2,095	0.20
Sorrento	14,200	1.60
Total	100,250	11.28

Source: Environmental Resources and Constraints Inventory (ERCI), 1994; United States Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey for San Benito County, California, 1969.



FIGURE 7-4
SOILS IN SAN BENITO
COUNTY THAT HAVE
SEPTIC TANK
LIMITATIONS

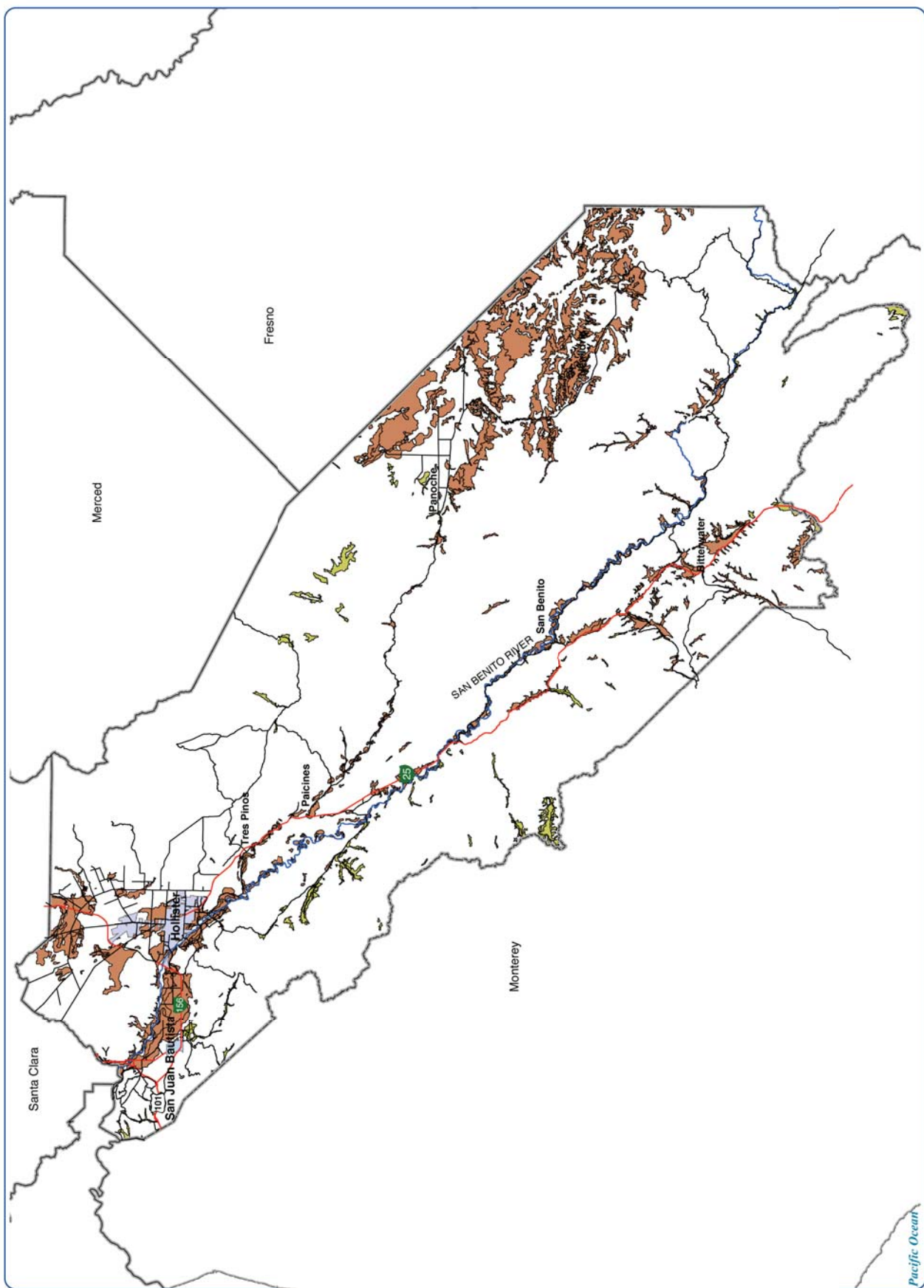
Legend

- Rivers
 - San Juan Bautista City Limits
 - Hollister City Limits
 - County Limits
- Roadways**
- State Highways
 - County Roads
- Soil Types**
- Slight to Moderate Limitations
 - Moderate Limitations



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

Source: San Benito County Planning and Building Department, 2010
 USDA NRCS San Benito County Soil Survey (CA069), 2009. Data displayed shows only soil types in San Benito County that have septic tank limitations for septic disposal. All other areas have high to very high soil limitations for the installation of septic systems.



SECTION 7.3 STORM DAMAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

Introduction

This section summarizes existing (2010) information regarding stormwater drainage in San Benito County, specifically identifying natural features and constructed facilities and systems that convey storm water from developed areas to receiving waters. Additionally, this section discusses stormwater quality conditions and requirements. San Benito County is the lead agency in providing storm drain infrastructure within the unincorporated areas of the county.

Key Terms

APWA. American Public Works Association.

Acre-Foot (acre-ft). The volume of water required to cover one acre of land (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters. This term is usually used to describe the volume of stormwater detention or retention basins and reservoirs.

Basin. A hydrologic unit defined as a part of the surface of the earth covered by a drainage system consisting of a surface stream or body of impounded surface water plus all tributaries.

Best Management Practices (BMP). Activities or structural improvements that help reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. BMPs include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Catch Basin. An entryway to the storm drain system, usually located at street corners.

Channel Bank. The sloping side of a drainage or other open channel.

Channel Capacity. The flow rate (volume/time) a channel will carry without overtopping; or reduced capacity by required freeboard or other designated non-drainage/flood protection uses.

Culvert. A short, closed (covered) conduit or pipe that passes stormwater runoff under an embankment, usually a roadway.

CWA. Clean Water Act.

Detention. Temporary storage of stormwater runoff; typically a basin that has an outlet designed to control the release rate to downstream water bodies.

Drainage. Surface or subsurface features or structures that collect and remove excess rainfall runoff or high groundwater.

Drainage Channel. An open channel such as a swale, constructed channel, or natural drainage course that conveys, stores and/or treats runoff.

Erosion. Removal of soil and/or sediment (whether vegetated or not) by wind, water, or glacial ice. Erosion occurs naturally, but can be intensified by land clearing activities such as farming, development, road building, and timber harvesting.

Exceedance Probability. The probability that a precipitation or runoff event of a specified size will be equaled or exceeded in any stated time unit.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Federal agency that regulates floodplains and manages the nation's flood insurance program.

Flood. A temporary rise in flow rate and/or stage (elevation) of any watercourse or stormwater conveyance system that results in runoff exceeding normal flow boundaries and inundating adjacent, normally dry areas.

Flood Control. Regulations and practices that reduce or prevent the damage caused by stormwater runoff.

Floodplain. Any land area susceptible to inundation by stormwater from any source. FEMA defines the floodplain to be the area inundated by the 100-year flood.

Floodplain Management. The implementation of policies and programs to protect floodplains and maintain their flood control function.

Freeboard. The vertical distance between the maximum design water surface of a channel and the top bank provided to account for differences between predicted and actual water surface elevations and/or to provide an allowance for protection.

Frequency. How often an event will occur expressed by the return period or exceedance probability.

General Permit. A permit issued under the NPDES program to cover a certain class or category of stormwater discharges. These permits reduce the administrative burden of permitting stormwater discharges.

Hydrograph. A numeric or graphical representation of variation over time in stage (depth) or flow rate of water.

Infiltration. The penetration of water through the ground surface into subsurface soil or the penetration of water from the soil into sewer or other pipes through defective joints, connections, or manhole wells.

Levee. A dike or embankment constructed to confine flow to a stream channel and to provide protection to adjacent land. A levee designed to provide 100-year flood protection must meet FEMA standards.

Level of Protection. The amount of protection that a drainage or flood control measure provides.

Low Impact Development. Development that incorporates a combination of drainage design features and pollution reduction measures to reduce development impacts on hydrology (peak runoff flow rates) and water quality.

Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollutants. Pollutants from many diffuse sources. Rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground causes NPS pollution. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing the pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even underground sources of drinking water.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The surface water quality program authorized by Congress as part of the 1987 Clean Water Act. This is EPA's program to control the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

Oil and Grease Traps. Devices that collect oil and grease, removing these contaminants from water flows.

Oil Sheen. A thin, glistening layer of oil on the surface of water.

Oil/Water Separator. A device installed (usually at the entrance to a drain) which removes oil and grease from water entering the drain.

One Hundred Year (100-year) Flood. The flood event that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

One Hundred Year (100-year) Runoff. The storm runoff that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Outfall. The point where wastewater or drainage discharges from a sewer pipe, ditch, or other conveyance to a receiving body of water.

Point Source Pollutant. Pollutants from a single, identifiable source such as a factory, refinery, or place of business.

Pollutant Loading. The total quantity of pollutants in stormwater runoff. TDML (Total Daily Maximum Loading) is the limiting of pollutant loading into a body of water, such as a lake or river.

Rational Method. A method of predicting peak runoff rates. The Rational Method is based on a runoff coefficient, predicted rainfall intensity, and drainage shed area.

Recharge. Re-supplying of water to the aquifer. Recharge generally comes from snowmelt and stormwater runoff.

Retention. A process that halts the downstream progress of stormwater runoff. This is typically accomplished using total containment involving the creation of storage areas that use infiltration devices, such as dry wells, to dispose of stored stormwater via percolation over a specified period of time (as opposed to the more common detention pond).

Return Period. The long-term average number of years between occurrences of an event being equaled or exceeded.

Runoff. Drainage or flood discharge that leaves an area as surface flow or as pipeline flow.

Stormwater. Precipitation that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage and stormwater systems during and immediately following a storm event.

Stormwater Facilities. Systems such as watercourses, constructed channels, storm drains, culverts, and detention/retention facilities that are used for conveyance and/or storage of stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Management. Functions associated with planning, designing, constructing, maintaining, financing, and regulating the facilities (both constructed and natural) that collect, store, control, and/or convey stormwater.

Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). A document submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The SWMP describes how a jurisdiction will reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practical and effectively limit non-storm water discharges into the jurisdiction's storm drain system.

Stormwater System. The entire assemblage of stormwater facilities located within a watershed.

Sub-basin or Sub-shed. An area within the watershed that can be analyzed independently and that contributes a component of total watershed runoff.

Surface Water. Water that remains on the surface of the ground, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, wetlands, impoundments, seas, and estuaries.

Swale. A low-lying or depressed, at least seasonally wet, stretch of land. Often lined with grass (grassy swale) and used as a conveyance for stormwater.

Ten Year (10-year) Runoff. The storm runoff that has a 10 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A quantitative assessment of the total pollutant load that can be discharged from all sources each day while still meeting water quality objectives.

Toxic Hot Spot. A designation of a body of water that does not meet water quality standards and that will require an urban stormwater cleanup program and special monitoring.

Urban Runoff. Stormwater from urban areas that tends to contain heavy concentrations of pollutants from vehicles and industry.

Watercourse. A lake, stream, creek, channel, stormwater conveyance system, or other topographic feature, over which stormwater flows at least periodically.

Watershed. That geographical area which drains to a specified point on a water course, usually a confluence of streams or rivers (also known as a drainage area, catchment, or river basin).

Wetlands. Land with wet, spongy soil, where the water table is at or above the land surface for at least part of the year. Wetlands are characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.

Regulatory Setting

Key entities that regulate stormwater in California include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). These agencies are responsible for carrying out and enforcing environmental laws enacted by Congress. Local government agencies are responsible for establishing and implementing specific design criteria related to storm drain systems. Various Federal and State programs related to the control of pollutants in stormwater are summarized below.

Federal

Clean Water Act (CWA)

The CWA was amended in 1972 to provide that the discharge of pollutants to water of the United States from any point source is unlawful unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The 1987 amendments to the CWA added Section 402(p), which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial stormwater discharges, including discharges associated with construction activities, under the NPDES program.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In 1990, EPA published final regulations that establish stormwater permit application requirements. The regulations, also known as Phase I of the NPDES program, provide that discharges of stormwater to waters of the United States from construction projects that encompass five or more acres of soil disturbance are effectively prohibited unless the discharge complies with a NPDES permit. Phase II of the NPDES program expands the requirements by requiring operators of small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in urbanized areas and small construction sites to be covered under an NPDES permit, and to implement programs and practices to control polluted stormwater runoff. San Benito County is under the jurisdiction of EPA Region 9.

State

State Water Resources Control Board

In California water quality regulations are administered by the SWRCB through its nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB). San Benito County falls under the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB).

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems

- The NPDES Program directed at stormwater has been implemented in two phases, and has permits under three categories of potential pollutant sources:
 - **Construction Activities.** Construction projects may choose to obtain individual NPDES permits or coverage under a State General Permit, but obtaining individual permits can be an expensive and complicated process, and their use is generally limited to very large construction projects that discharge to critical receiving waters. The SWRCB recently adopted a new construction General Permit in Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ which became

effective on July 1, 2010. The General Permit under Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ has significant differences from the prior permit. This General Permit imposes more minimum BMPs and establishes three levels of risk-based requirements based on both sediment risk and receiving water risk. All dischargers are subject to narrative effluent limitations. Risk level 2 dischargers are subject to technology-based numeric action levels (NAL) for pH and turbidity. Risk level 3 dischargers are subject to NALs and numeric effluent limitations (NEL). Certain sites must develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Rain Event Action Plan (REAP), and all projects must perform effluent monitoring and reporting, along with receiving water monitoring and reporting for some Risk level 3 sites. Key personnel (e.g., SWPPP preparers, inspectors, etc.) must have certifications to ensure their qualifications to design and evaluate project specifications that will meet the requirements. The applicant must electronically submit Permit Registration Documents (PRD) prior to commencement of construction activities including the Notice of Intent, Risk Assessment, Post-Construction Calculations, a Site Map, the SWPPP, a signed certification statement by the Legally Responsible Person (LRP), and the first annual fee.

- **Industrial Activities.** The SWRCB adopted a General Permit for ten categories of industrial activities, reissued every five years, and last adopted under Order 91-03-DWQ. All permit holders are required to implement BMPs under a site-specific SWPPP, and to conduct monitoring and annual reporting.
- **Municipalities.** No municipalities in San Benito County are covered under the Phase I NPDES program. Under Phase II small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in an urban area with a population of 50,000 and density of 1,000 persons/square mile are required to obtain coverage under the SWRCB General Permit. The City of Hollister is a current participant in the Phase II municipal NPDES program.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- The RWQCBs, SWRCB, and EPA also establish and approve TMDL programs for water bodies that are identified as impaired and in need of actions to implement applicable water quality standards under Section 303(d) of the CWA. In San Benito County several water bodies have approved TMDLs to address specific constituents of concern (see Table 7-5), several of which are linked to stormwater runoff and surface erosion sources. The TMDLs establish implementation activities to achieve the numeric targets for the constituents and impose regulatory mechanisms for various discharge types. For Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution, implementation must still have regulations under WDRs, waivers of WDRs, a basin plan prohibition, or requirement for documentation that no discharge will occur. The following streams and water bodies are identified as impaired under Section 303(d) of the CWA:
 - Past mining activities for asbestos, chromium, mercury, and other metals in the watershed of Clear Creek, in the headwaters of the San Benito River including Hernandez Reservoir, have contributed to the need for the mercury TMDL. The land use legacy effects and modern erosion factors required management, and the TMDL requires the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue to control mercury-rich sediment runoff to achieve the load allocation limits for Clear Creek and restore beneficial uses of the reservoir. Remedial actions have been implemented by the BLM.

- In addition to the water bodies that already have adopted TMDLs in place, others within San Benito County have recently been identified as 303(d) listed and needing TMDLs, including: Pacheco Creek, San Juan Creek, Tequisquita Slough, and Tres Pinos Creek. Once approved, the TMDLs may impose modifications to stormwater management, erosion control, or other measures to meet the requirements.

TABLE 7-5 TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) STATUS 303(D) IMPAIRED WATER BODIES San Benito County 2010		
TMDL Project	Status	Implementation Actions
Pajaro River Watershed Siltation TMDL	Implementation	n/a
Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL	Approved by USEPA May 3, 2007	Pajaro River Watershed land disturbance prohibition or other NPS ¹ compliance
Pajaro River Watershed Nitrate TMDL ²	Approved by USEPA October 13, 2006	Load allocations to point and NPS; reduction of croplands under Irrigated Lands Conditional Waivers of WDRs
Clear Creek and Hernandez Reservoir Mercury TMDL	Approved by USEPA June 21, 2004	Remedial erosion control measures by the US Bureau of Land Management (complete)
Parajo River Fecal Coliform TMDL	SWRCB approved April 30, 2010	Pending: Domestic Animal Waste and Human Fecal Material Discharge Prohibitions

¹ NPS = non-point source.

² The only section within San Benito County is along the main stem of Parajo River on the county border.

Source: Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 2010.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/303d_and_tmdl_projects.html

Regional Authority

The Pajaro River Watershed Collaborative (Collaborative) was established in October 2004 via a MOU between the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), the San Benito County Water District (SBCWD), and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to coordinate water resources planning and implementation watershed wide (Authority 2007). The Collaborative partners have led the development of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), with goals and objectives focused on water supply, water quality, flood protection, environmental protection and enhancement. As a partner in the Collaborative, San Benito County is responsible for assisting in priority IRWMP projects and participating in review of all development applications for consistency with the adopted IRWMP (Nazemi 2010).

San Benito County

San Benito County Drainage Design Standards

Title 23 Subdivisions Chapter 23.31: Improvement Designs, Article III

The storm drainage design standards are part of the San Benito County Subdivision Ordinances, within Appendix D, "Improvement Standards."

The storm water drainage system for any proposed development within San Benito County must be designed in accordance with the Storm Drainage Design Standards (Appendix D, Chapter 3 of the Subdivision Ordinance). The Storm Drainage Design Standards establish guidelines for the design storm for various locations and systems (ranging from the 10-year to 100-year storm) and hydraulic methods for calculations; identifies construction requirements to address alignment, easements, use and design of closed conduits and open channels; and specifies the drainage reports necessary for subdivisions larger than two acres. The County's ordinance is more strict than typical State requirements (Nazemi 2010), requiring that the post-development 100-year storm peak flow discharged off-site be limited to the pre-development 10-year storm peak flow or channel capacity, whichever is the lesser (SBC Code Section 23.31.041 (F)). This requirement is intended to help prevent adverse changes in localized or downstream flooding, and to accommodate the existing conveyance system in undeveloped areas, which is primarily unlined earthen ditches (Nazemi 2010).

San Benito County Grading Ordinance

The grading, drainage, and erosion control ordinance is contained in Chapter 19.17 of the San Benito County Code. The ordinance regulates grading, drainage, and erosion control on private and public property and requires grading, erosion, and drainage control plans to prevent water pollution and sedimentation of the county's water resources.

Grading permits from the Building Inspection and Planning Department are required for grading activities, aside from exemptions listed in County Code Section 19.17.004. Permits are required primarily for activities not otherwise regulated or having reasonable extent (>50 cubic yards) and risk (e.g., crossing or affecting natural drainages). Grading is not permitted within 50 feet of the top of bank of a stream, creek, river or other water body; in areas of active landslides; or areas over 30 percent slope.

The grading permit applications require an erosion and drainage control plan that specifies measures to minimize construction phase water quality risks.

Major Findings

- There is currently (2010) no readily accessible countywide inventory and/or assessment of stormwater drainage systems and stormwater quality conditions.
- The County does not have a comprehensive stormwater master plan, but some facilities have been constructed to serve sub-basins. All private subdivisions have been required to manage stormwater peak flows aggressively.
- The County has made a practice of requiring stormwater quality features in drainage systems for subdivisions, although consistent and/or effective measures are not necessarily required by existing code.
- The County is an active member of the Pajaro River Collaborative and reviews development proposals for consistency with the adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

Existing Conditions

Storm Drainage Systems

The majority of surface areas in San Benito County ultimately drain to the Pajaro River, with small exceptions in the southwest and southeast corners of the county which drain to the Salinas River and Central Valley. San Benito County does not have a comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan, but some sub-watersheds have been subject to special studies, drainage assessments, and improvement projects (Nazemi 2010). Additionally, the countywide drainage ordinance is enforced and the County Public Works Department has been pro-active in their review of development applications to place conditions of approval that require stormwater quality measures to control potential urban pollutants (Nazemi 2010). Private subdivisions are required to have either a Homeowners Association (HOA) or County Service Areas (CSA) created to maintain drainage systems.

Within the Santa Ana Creek watershed, a special study (Schaaf & Wheeler 1999) determined the need for drainage/maintenance fees that have been adopted as part of County Code (Chapter 5.01, Article II, Drainage Impact Fees) and apply within the San Felipe Lake Drainage. The Santa Ana Creek/San Felipe Lake watershed had serious flooding problems prior to recent urbanization pressure, but flooding under large events could be worsened by urbanization (Schaaf & Wheeler 1999). The drainage study recommended combinations of measures, facilities, and management practices needed to appropriately address conditions under Alternative Plans with total costs estimated between \$8 and \$11 million. However, the per-acre/per-lot fees previously established are outdated and do not cover typical costs of modern infrastructure requirements (Nazemi 2010).

Localized flooding concerns in the vicinity of Fallon and Fairview during events as small as the 10-year storm prompted a tributary drainage study. Strategies to preserve habitat along natural drainages, but increased conveyance at culverts, bridges, and along a constructed overflow channel were identified and adopted by the County (Nazemi 2010). No fees are codified, but the study recommendations are used in development project reviews as the basis for potential conditions of approval.

Another sub-watershed that has had specific study and improvements is along the southwest side of the City of Hollister, serving unincorporated lands and some portions of the City (Nazemi 2010). An 84-inch cast-in-place pipe and detention basins receive water from storm drainage systems and discharge to the San Benito River. The Enterprise Drainage Basin Benefit Area has established fees to support facilities maintenance, and the project was implemented in phases during the early to mid-1990s.

Stormwater quality measures have been advocated and required by County Public Works as a practice during review of development for many years (Nazemi 2010). However, specific requirements and performance standards are not codified. In part due to the natural channels and earthen unlined ditches that comprise the conveyance system, protections against urban pollutants from subdivisions have been a priority. Many measures such as oil and grease traps have been required by the County, but no monitoring of maintenance or performance of installed facilities has occurred. To date the relatively low magnitude and intensity of development in unincorporated areas, and the available land to cost-effectively site and construct storm drainage features have buffered the potential effects.

Storm Drainage Entities

San Benito County Water District

San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) was formed by a special act of the State Legislature in 1953, which gives the SBCWD broad powers for the conservation and management of water throughout San Benito County, including flood, surface, drainage, and groundwater. The boundaries of the SBCWD are coterminous with the county boundary. There are several distinct service zones within SBCWD: Zone 1 covers the entire county, Zone 3 covers the San Benito River Valley, Zone 6 includes the six major delineated subbasins that are part of the San Felipe Project, and zones 103 and Zone 104 are rural water systems. SBCWD has several programs and activities related to water resources and water supply, including a San Juan Valley Water Management Plan to address stormwater management (LAFCO 2007).

County Service Areas of San Benito County

There are 30 active and seven inactive County Service Areas (CSA). Many of the CSAs have aging and deteriorated facilities, including drainage infrastructure. They are dependent special districts governed by the County Board of Supervisors, and their infrastructure needs are managed by the Public Works Department of the County (LAFCO 2007).

City of Hollister

The City of Hollister is responsible for local drainage within the incorporated area. Storm water facilities are provided through a City-maintained network of storm drains that flow to the San Benito River, Santa Ana Creek, and a Santa Ana Creek tributary. The City last adopted a Storm Drain Master Plan in 2002 (LAFCO 2007). The ongoing operation and maintenance of these facilities is funded through storm water impact fees. The City has an adopted Phase II NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). The plan includes strategies for the protection of water quality and reduction of pollutant discharges to the maximum extent practicable from all areas and facilities within the city.

City of San Juan Bautista

The City of San Juan Bautista is responsible for local drainage within the incorporated area. This is provided by a City-maintained network of storm drains that flow to San Juan Creek and ultimately the San Benito River. The LAFCO MSR (2007) stated that existing facilities are in poor condition and that significant funding would be needed to assess existing conditions for both drainage and roadways, and to repair, rehabilitate, or reconstruct as necessary. Replacement of sections of the stormwater drainage pipeline is included in the City's water and sewer upgrade project, although this will not address all of the drainage issues within the city.

Aromas Water District

The Aromas Water District (AWD) is a tri-county district (Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito) that serves four separate service areas within the unincorporated community of Aromas and its vicinity (LAFCO 2007). The portion in San Benito County is in the northwest corner of the county. The primary function of AWD is water supply. The District does not have formal stormwater drainage systems or responsibilities.

Sunnyslope County Water District

The Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) provides both water and wastewater services to an area on the east portion of Hollister and unincorporated lands to the east and southeast (LAFCO 2007). SSCWD does not have specific stormwater systems or responsibilities.

Tres Pinos Water District

The Tres Pinos Water District (TPWD) formed in 1962 to serve the unincorporated Tres Pinos community in eastern San Benito County, primarily with water and wastewater services (LAFCO 2007). TPWD does not have specific stormwater systems or responsibilities.

Pacheco Stormwater District

Pacheco Stormwater District (PSD) is an independent special district formed in 1909 that is no longer active; the LAFCO MSR (2007) stated that the PSD should be dissolved and its revenue reallocated to other entities.

SECTION 7.4 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

Introduction

This section describes the existing (2010) solid waste and hazardous waste disposal practices within San Benito County. The County manages public and private solid and hazardous waste handling and disposal operations, which are considered a critical health and safety measure for county residents and businesses. The adequacy and distribution of waste handling operations are important considerations for developers, decision-makers, and the public relative to land use decisions and County policy on growth and utility services.

Key Terms

Solid Waste. Non-hazardous solid discarded items from households and industry. Solid waste includes primarily waste paper and food organic waste. Other common waste items are plastic, cloth, metal cans, and yard waste.

Household Hazardous Waste. Items that are discarded at specially designated facilities. These items include paints, cleaning chemicals, solvents, fluorescent light bulbs, non-commercial pesticides, insecticides, and motor oil.

Electronic “E” Waste. Items include computers, computer monitors, televisions, printers, and electronic parts, which are excluded from solid waste landfills.

Hazardous Waste. Discarded items from industrial or agricultural processes that would be designated hazardous due to the concentration, volume, and chemical content.

Industrial Waste. Solid or liquid material that is discarded from industrial facilities.

Waste Generation Rates. The amount of solid waste generated. These rates are used to assess the annual anticipated landfill volume used.

Regulatory Setting

State

Solid Waste Regulations and Administration

California Code of Regulation (CCR) Title 27 Sections 21600 through 21900. In accordance with the California Code of Regulation (CCR) Title 27, Sections 21600 through 21900, solid and hazardous waste transfer and disposal facilities in San Benito County are regulated jointly by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (RWQCB) and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) (formerly the Integrated Waste Management Board). Compost facilities are Regulated Under CCR Title 14, Sections 17850 to 17869, by CalRecycle. Permit requests, Reports of Waste Discharge, and Reports and Disposal Site Information are submitted to the RWQCB and CalRecycle, and are used by the two agencies to review, permit, and monitor these facilities. Both the RWQCB and CalRecycle regulate facilities individually and through local enforcement agencies staffed by San Benito County employees. In San Benito County the local enforcement agency

(LEA)¹ for CalRecycle is primarily the County Health Department, Division of Environmental Health (SBDEH). The SBDEH is designated by CalRecycle to regulate solid waste and hazardous materials (i.e., waste oil and household hazardous waste) collections and operations within the county.

Local

Solid Waste Regulations and Administration

Chapter 15.01, Solid Waste Regulations. San Benito County codes related to solid waste are set forth in Title 15 of the Public Works Ordinance, Chapter 15.01, Solid Waste Regulations. The SBDEH works with other County and State agencies in the development and continuous updating of the County's Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP), enforces solid waste laws, investigates closed and abandoned landfills, and investigates citizen complaints regarding solid waste. The SBDEH is the local enforcement agency for CalRecycle.

San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Department. The San Benito County Integrated Waste Management (SBIWM) Department is responsible for oversight of landfill operations and the County refuse/recycling contracts. In addition, this department serves as lead agency for the San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency, which consists of the County and the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. This agency is responsible for ensuring that all jurisdictions within San Benito County comply with State-mandated waste diversion goals of 50 percent (AB 939); this diversion goal has been achieved within the county. The SBIWM also implements the countywide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Small Quantity Generator (SQG) programs for qualifying business hazardous wastes. (See Chapter 11, *Safety*, Section 11.4, *Human-Made Hazards*, of this Background Report for more information.) The SBIWM is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with Federal and State regulations to ensure public health and safety related to refuse and household hazardous waste. Departmental responsibilities include landfill operations oversight and regulatory compliance, refuse and recycling contract oversight, HHW/SQG programs, and public education on waste diversion and household hazardous waste.

Hazardous Waste Regulations

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The SBDEH is the lead agency² for the enforcement of State Hazardous Waste Control Laws and regulations. San Benito ordinances administered by the SBDEH for hazardous materials management and enforcement are contained in Title 11 of the Public Health and Safety Code. County duties and inspection schedules are discussed in Section 11.4, *Human-made Hazards*, of this Background Report.

¹ Regulatory and enforcement responsibilities are delegated by CalRecycle and the RWQCB to Local Enforcement Agencies (LEA) for solid waste disposal activities and facilities. These two State agencies oversee the activities of the LEA, but the primary administrative responsibility for standard activities rest with the LEA.

² The SBDEH under this authority is also known as the Certified Unified Program Agency, or CUPA, within the State of California Unified Program for the regulation of hazardous waste programs. See Section 11.4, *Human Made Hazards*, of this Background Report for additional information on the Unified Program and local CUPA agencies and their responsibilities.

Hazardous Materials Program. The goal of the Hazardous Materials Programs is to assure that all hazardous materials used by local industries and businesses are properly handled and stored to protect the public health and environment. The following are major program elements of the hazardous material program:

- Proposition 65 Reporting
- Business Plans for Hazardous Material Storage
- Emergency Response
- Identification of all generators of hazardous waste in San Benito County
- Inspection of all generators for the proper handling, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous waste
- Creation of an inspection program for the routine inspection of all hazardous waste generators
- Education of generators in the proper handling, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous waste
- Enforcement of all applicable laws and regulations to ensure that compliance is achieved

San Benito County General Plan (1992)

The 1992 General Plan Update detailed the following objectives and policy statements with regard to solid and hazardous waste.

Open Space and Conservation Element (1995)

Waste Source Reduction and Recycling Objectives

1. Establish a variable disposal rate by 1995
2. Reduce generated solid waste by 25 percent by 1995
3. Achieve a 50 percent reduction in solid waste by 2000
4. Develop a recycling program consistent with the Integrated Waste Management Plan developed by the State.

Policy 35. Hazardous waste and waste source reduction. It is the policy of the County to implement the short-, mid-, and long-range goals and objectives outlined in the County of San Benito Final Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Household Hazardous Waste Element of 1992 or any future amendments.

Actions

- a) Require that new developments be reviewed for consistency with the Final Source, Reduction, and Recycling Element and Household Hazardous Waste Element.
- b) Encourage the integration of areas for composting yard waste as a part of subdivision design.

Policy 36. Hazardous waste management plan. It is the policy of the County to implement the goals and objectives and policies of the San Benito County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Volume I, July 1989.

Goal 7. Environmental Hazards.

To discourage development in areas that are environmentally hazardous.

Objective. Environmental Hazards

- a) Develop methods to avoid development in environmentally hazardous areas.
- b) Include landfills and areas contaminated by landfills within the environmental hazards overlay district.

Major Findings

- Recology, a private company, collects all solid waste in the unincorporated areas of the county, including garbage, recycling materials, and yard waste. The company operates 14 to 15 trucks per day. A small portion of the business and residential waste is collected by other private haulers using drop boxes.
- The John Smith Landfill is the only operating active solid waste landfill within the county. It is a Class III municipal waste landfill owned by the County and operated by a private firm, Waste Connections, through a contract administered by the County Integrated Waste Management Department. The facility receives on average 250 tons of waste per day, 50 percent of which is diverted to recycling. As of 2005 the landfill had a remaining capacity of 3,594,899 cubic yards. The facility is expected to reach capacity and close in 2016.
- There are several compost sites that process inert, green, and agricultural waste within the county. The only recycling site in the county is made up of separation boxes at the John Smith Landfill.
- San Benito County provides a receiving site for household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal at the John Smith Road Landfill site. It receives household hazardous waste, including car batteries, latex paints, used oil and oil filters, antifreeze, medically prescribed hypodermic needles, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, paints and thinners, and pool chemicals.

Existing Conditions

Solid Waste Hauling

San Benito County administers a countywide contract for solid waste hauling operations through one private hauling firm, Recology. This firm operates 14 to 15 trucks per day within the unincorporated portions of the county. No transfer or recycling stations exist in the county, and Recology uses curbside separation via separate cans for household garbage, greenwaste, and recyclables and collection as the primary mode of collection. Recology operates approximately eight hauling trucks for garbage, five trucks for recyclables, and two trucks for yard waste. Approximately three additional private drop-box haulers collect and haul waste for county businesses on an as-needed basis (Rose 2010).

Solid Waste Landfill

The John Smith landfill, located at 2650 John Smith Road in Hollister, is the only operating solid waste landfill within San Benito County that serves the entire county. The landfill is currently (2010) a Class III active landfill, which means the landfill is open and under current operation and accepts mainly materials that cannot be disposed of at Class I landfills. This limits disposal to 20 tons or more of solid waste per day and only permit specific types of solid waste. The additional materials permitted at Class III landfills include trash such as furniture, construction debris, roofing materials, wood, carpet, and vegetative debris. This facility is operated by Waste Connections through a contract administered by SBIWM. Based on the 2009 waste generation rate (average 250 tons per day), the facility has a life span of approximately 17 years (Rose 2010). Table 7-6 lists the status of solid waste and compost facilities in the county.

Compost and Recycling Programs

There are several compost sites that process inert, green, and agricultural waste in the county all operated, regulated, and inspected by CalRecycle. However, there are no other county recycling sites other than separation boxes at the John Smith Landfill. Curbside collection is the primary recycling method.

The county has over 12 certified used oil centers. Nine of the oil centers are located in Hollister, one is located in Aromas, one is located in San Juan Bautista, and one is located in Paicines. Electronic waste, household-hazardous waste, oil, and grease are prohibited from landfills. Instead, these materials are stored at the designated area at the John Smith landfill and hauled to appropriately permitted recycling or disposal sites outside the county.

**TABLE 7-6
CALRECYCLE LANDFILL AND COMPOST SITES**

San Benito County
2010

NUMBER	NAME	ACTIVITY	REGULATORY STATUS ¹	OPERATIONAL STATUS
35-AA-0001	John Smith Road Class III Landfill	Solid Waste Landfill	Permitted	Active
35-AA-0021	Herbert Compost Operation	Composting Operation (Ag)	Notification	Active
35-AA-0024	Chapin Plant 25- Chain Ready Mix	Inert Debris Type A Proc. Operation	Notification	Active
35-AA-0025	Phil Foster Ranch Composting Operation	Composting Operation (Greenwaste)	Notification	Active
35-AA-0026	Comgro, Inc.	Composting Operation (Ag)	Notification	Active
35-AA-0027	David P. Grimsley	Composting Operation (Ag)	Notification	Active

1) Status - A "tiered permit" is a type of solid waste facilities permit obtained pursuant to procedures set forth by Titles 14 and 27. The type of permit sought and issued is related to the size and use of the facility ranging from a greenwaste facility to a municipal landfill. A tiered permit (notification) is a solid waste facility operated under other than a full permit with reduced application and permit processing requirements ("Notification" is for a typical agricultural land application site that is not required to comply with CEQA). A tiered permit (permitted) facility is granted a full permit. Regulatory review is completed by the State for all sites.

Source: Solid Waste Information System, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) formerly California Integrated Waste Board, June 2010.

Solid Waste Generation, Diversion, and Landfill Capacity

According to the County Integrated Waste Management Plan, in 2005 the John Smith Road Class III landfill³ had a remaining capacity of 3,594,899 cubic yards based on receiving approximately 250 tons of solid waste per day with a diversion rate of 50 percent. At this rate, its estimated cease of operation date is 2024. As of 2009 the planned closure date is 2016.

A solid waste recovery project approved by the County in December 2008, but not constructed as of Summer 2010, the Resource Recovery Park project is designed to operate in partnership with the John

³ As classified by the State of California, a Class I landfill is suitable for the disposal of hazardous wastes; a Class II landfill is suitable for disposal of non-hazardous waste that may release constituents in concentrations that are in excess of applicable water quality objectives (so-called designated wastes); a Class III landfill may only accept municipal solid waste, although limited amounts of nonhazardous industrial wastes and sludge from water and wastewater treatment plants may be accepted. No hazardous or designated wastes are accepted at Class III landfills. There are no Class I or II landfills located within San Benito County.

Smith Road Landfill, and would provide recyclable materials and energy (e.g., used oil) for businesses co-located within the Resource Recovery Park. The County owns a total of 133 acres adjacent to John Smith Road Landfill. As currently (2010) envisioned, the Resource Recovery Park would be constructed on 30 acres adjoining the new landfill footprint. The proposed recycling facilities and expanded landfill footprint would be used to limit the need to permit additional landfill capacity in the county. Table 7-7 lists the proposed activities available in the Resource Recovery Park.

TABLE 7-7 RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK PROJECT COMPONENTS		
San Benito County 2010		
Project Component	Activity Description	Acres
Construction/Demolition/Sort Line	Processing, stockpiling and storage of sorted materials	2
Recycling drop off area/Material Processing Facility	Collection, processing, stockpiling, storage of sorted materials	5
Green and Wood Waste Grinding	Collection and processing	3
Composting	Stockpiling of feedstock, windrowing and storage of materials	10
Reusable Items Center	Building materials, appliances, furniture, clothing etc: collection, processing and storage of sorted materials	5
Relocation of Household Hazardous Waste facility and E-waste recycling	Processing, stockpiling and storage of feedstock	0.5
Energy Production	Landfill gas, biomass	2

Source: California Department of Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), 2010.

Household and Small Quantity Generator Hazardous Waste Disposal

San Benito County maintains a receiving site for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal at the John Smith Road Landfill. The facility receives household hazardous waste on the third Saturday of each month. Household hazardous waste includes car batteries, latex paints, used oil and oil filters, antifreeze, medically prescribed hypodermic needles, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, paints and thinners, and pool chemicals. Disposal of ammunition, explosives, radioactive materials, medical waste, and compressed gas cylinders not allowed at the facility. If electronic waste, household-hazardous waste, and oil and grease are found within disposal, because these waste types are prohibited from landfills, they are temporarily stored and eventually hauled to appropriate recycling or disposal sites outside the county.

Small Quantity Generators

Businesses that generate less than 220 pounds, 100 kilograms, or 27 gallons of hazardous waste in one month qualify as a Small Quantity Generator (SQG). SQG businesses and other household or business waste generators can dispose hazardous materials at the John Smith facility. John Smith Landfill staff

sends these materials to appropriate off site (i.e., outside of the county) final disposal facilities. To qualify as a SQG, businesses must meet the following criteria:

- Hold an EPA Identification Number.
- Submit Form 1358 to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (form to www.dtsc.ca.gov).
- Generate no more than 220 pounds or 27 gallons of waste per month; no single container greater than 5 gallons; and less than 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste. This is approximately equal to one quart of liquid with a comparable weight to water.
- Generate no more than 110 pounds of perchloroethylene. This is approximately equal to 13 gallons of liquid with a comparable weight to water.
- Generate no farm chemicals, radioactive waste, biohazardous waste or compressed gas cylinders.

These guidelines are set out in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 265.201 and the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 66260.10.

Hazardous Waste Landfills

Other than the SQG program's temporary storage provisions (listed above) and based on Title 22, there are no hazardous waste transfer, storage, and disposal facilities in San Benito County. Specific detail regarding the human-made hazards and more information on the CUPA Program are provided in the Section 11.4, Human-Made Hazards, of this Background Report.

SECTION 7.4 UTILITIES

Introduction

This section summarizes existing (2010) information on the level of utilities provided in the county by quasi-public and private companies, focusing on electrical, natural gas, and communication systems. Utilities are important services that support the expansion of the region's economic base, serve available developable land, and maintain/increase infrastructure capacity.

Key Terms

Electricity. A natural phenomenon, either through lightning or the attraction and repulsion of protons and electrons to create friction, that in turn forms an electric current or power.

Watt. An electrical unit of power equal to the rate of energy transfer produced in a circuit by one volt acting through a resistance of 1 ohm, a unit of measurement of resistance.

Kilowatthours (kWh). A unit of measurement for electricity equal to one thousand watt hours.

Megawatthours (MWh). A unit of measurement for electricity equal to one thousand kilowattwatt hours or one million watt hours.

Gigawatthours (GWh). A unit of measurement for electricity equal to one thousand megawatt hours or one billion watt hours.

Power Plants. Sources for generating electricity.

Generators. Entities that own, operate, and maintain generation assets to supply energy and ancillary services to the competitive market.

Transmission and Distribution Lines. Distribution networks for electricity and natural gas.

Cellular Telephone. A mobile telephone operated through a cellular radio network.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL). Internet technology that uses existing two-wire copper telephone wiring to deliver high-speed data services at speeds greater than basic internet dial-up.

Easement. A limited right to make use of a property owned by another; for example, a right-of-way across the property.

Internet. A network that links computer networks all over the world by satellite and telephone, connecting users with service networks such as e-mail and the World Wide Web.

Regulatory Setting

The key organizations and agencies that regulate utilities in California include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). These agencies are responsible for regulating the transmission of electricity, natural gas and oil, and assuring that utilities provide safe, reliable public services. The San Benito Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is also described because they oversee public agency boundary changes, as well as the establishment, update, and amendment of spheres of influence, often related to public utility districts for water, sewer, electrical, and other related services.

Federal

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines, and licenses hydropower projects. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave FERC additional responsibilities, including: promoting the development of a strong energy infrastructure; open access transmission tariff reform; and preventing market manipulation.

State

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The CPUC is a State agency created by constitutional amendment to regulate privately-owned telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, railroad, rail transit, passenger transportation, and in-state moving companies. The CPUC is responsible for assuring

California utility customers have safe, reliable utility services at reasonable rates while protecting utility customers from fraud. The CPUC regulates the planning and approval for the physical construction of electric generation, transmission, or distribution facilities; and local distribution pipelines of natural gas (CPUC Decision 95-08-038).

Power is delivered from generating facilities over the utilities' transmission lines and distribution wires. The Independent System Operator (ISO), whose governing board is appointed by the Governor, manages most of California's transmission system. The ISO's primary function is to balance electricity supply with demand, and maintain adequate reserves to meet the needs of California homes and businesses. FERC regulates the ISO. The California Electricity Oversight Board monitors and reports on the activities of the ISO.

The CPUC regulatory program is grounded in the philosophy that cost-effective energy efficiency is the State's first line of defense against power shortages, and this strategy is supported through \$2 billion in energy efficiency funding for 2006-2008. The CPUC's Renewables Portfolio Standard program requires an annual increase in renewable generation by electric utilities equivalent to at least 1 percent of sales, with an aggregate goal of 20 percent by 2010 and 33 percent by 2020.

Title 20, Public Utilities and Energy. Title 20 contains the regulations related to power plant siting certification. Title 24, California Building Standards, contains the energy efficiency standards related to residential and nonresidential buildings. Title 24 standards are based, in part, on a State mandate to reduce California's energy demand.

The CPUC also regulates rates and charges for basic telecommunication services, such as how much you pay for the ability to make and receive calls.

Article 2, California Government Code 4216.9 Protection of Underground Infrastructure. The responsibilities of persons excavating in the vicinity of underground utilities are detailed in Section 1, Chapter 3.1 "Protection of Underground Infrastructure," Article 2 of California Government Code 4216.9. This law requires that an excavator must contact a regional notification center at least two days prior to excavation of any subsurface installation. Any utility provider seeking to begin a project that may damage underground infrastructure can call Underground Service Alert, the regional notification center. Underground Service Alert will notify the utilities that may have buried lines within 1,000 feet of the project. Representatives of the utilities are required to mark the specific location of their facilities within the work area prior to the start of project activities in the area.

Local

San Benito County General Plan (1992)

The 1994 General Plan Update includes the following objectives and policy statements with regard to electrical and natural gas service, solid waste disposal, communications, groundwater and surface water supply, and wastewater treatment. They are included in the Open Space and Conservation Element and the Land Use Element.

Open Space and Conservation Element (1995)

Policy 29. Energy Conservation

It will be the County's policy to encourage the use of energy-efficient design in new construction.

Land Use Element (1992)

Policy 35. The County shall encourage energy and water conservation techniques and energy efficiency in all new building design, orientation, and construction.

Action

- a) Assist the public in the incorporation of energy and water conservation in new construction.

San Benito County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

The San Benito County LAFCO oversees public agency boundary changes, as well as the establishment, update, and amendment of spheres of influence (Government Code Sections 56001, 56375 and 56425). The overarching goal of LAFCO is to encourage the orderly formation and extension of governmental agencies. The primary purposes of LAFCO are to facilitate orderly growth and development by determining logical local boundary changes; to preserve prime agricultural lands by guiding development away from presently undeveloped prime agricultural preserves; and to discourage urban sprawl and encourage the preservation of open space by promoting development of vacant land within cities before annexation of vacant land adjacent to cities. San Benito LAFCO's approval is required for proposed changes of organization or reorganization of service districts, and the approval of proposed annexations or detachments of services districts.

San Benito Countywide Municipal Services Review (2007). The San Benito *Countywide Municipal Services Review* addresses the services provided by the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, and special districts within the county. California State law authorizes the LAFCO within each county to establish boundaries and spheres of influence (SOI) for cities and special districts under their purview, and to authorize the provision of services within the approved service areas. As part of this responsibility, LAFCO is required to conduct periodic reviews of each service provider, and to adopt determinations with respect to the need for, and adequacy of, current services and each agency's ability to continue to provide adequate services in the future.

Major Findings

- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) is the only purveyor of electricity in the county. In 2009 the county's total electricity consumption was 314,891 million kWh, which included 117,747 million kWh (37 percent) used by residential electricity accounts and 197,144 million kWh (63 percent) used by non-residential electricity accounts. The county's current average electricity demand of 3,148 GWh far exceeds the electricity it produces, as there are no major power generating plants in the county. PG&E maintains three major transmission lines running across the county to substations in Fresno, Merced, and Monterey Counties.

- PG&E is the only purveyor of natural gas in San Benito County and owns the primary gas pipelines. PG&E maintains two natural gas pipeline spines, including two 2- to 12-inch natural gas pipelines that run down the center of San Benito County and split near the middle of the county. There are no natural gas storage facilities within the county. The nearest natural gas and oil refineries and terminals are located in Santa Clara County. In 2009 PG&E delivered 13,069,164 therms to users in the county. Approximately 6,729,063 therms (51 percent) were used by residential customers and 6,438,104 therms (49 percent) were used by non-residential customers.
- AT&T and SBC provide telecommunications services in the county. A variety of internet providers, such as AT&T and Comcast, provide DSL and wireless service. However, the availability of high-speed internet service is limited in the rural areas of the county.

Existing Conditions

A variety of purveyors in the county provide and maintain utility and service system facilities associated with electricity, natural gas, and telecommunication services. These providers include Pacific Gas & Electric, which provides both electricity and natural gas services, and AT&T and SBC, which provide telecommunications services.

Electrical Services

The supply of power for San Benito County no longer involves simply plugging into the existing electricity transmission network. New development within San Benito County must now determine which electricity supplier and alternative energy sources to use; the extent of dependency upon electrical; and the degree that energy demand can be reduced through efficient building designs, site planning, and other conservation measures.

The California Legislature restructured California's electricity market in 1996 through AB 1890, opening the generation of electricity to competition (transmission and distribution systems remain a regulated monopoly). Under the Act utilities are required to purchase all their electricity needs from the wholesale market. The Legislature expected competitive energy markets to drive down the cost of electricity. AB 1890 gives customers of investor-owned utilities, such as PG&E, the ability to choose who provides their electric energy just as they can choose long distance telephone companies. In practice, choice of providers is limited to the largest consumers of electricity, primarily industrial users.

Electric Service Providers (ESP), created as a result of the 1996 restructuring of the California electrical industry, are non-utility retail service providers. ESPs, such as brokers and aggregators, buy power from generators and distributors, and sell the electricity to consumers. ESPs provide service only through existing transmission lines.

California has experienced a number of problems since the electricity industry was restructured. California's population has increased from 29.7 million in 1990 to 37.4 million in 2006, a 26 percent increase. California has been producing less than three-quarters of the electricity it needs (69.5 percent in 2007), the balance of which must be purchased from other western states. At the same time the Pacific Northwest has experienced dramatic growth in energy demand, which has reduced the amount of energy available for purchase from that area. Because most power plants in California are powered

by natural gas, the cost of making electricity has increased dramatically as the price of natural gas has increased. In addition, with 70 percent lower than normal rainfall in Winter 2007/2008, the amount of hydroelectric power recently has also been lower than expected.

To ensure that there are adequate, reliable, and reasonably-priced electrical power and natural gas supplies, the CPUC and the CEC created an Energy Action Plan in 2003 (updated in 2009). The plan functions as a planning document that ensures that prudent reserves are achieved and provided through policies, strategies, and actions that are cost-effective and environmentally sound for California's consumers and taxpayers. Energy agencies in California intend to achieve this goal through six specific means:

- Meet California's energy growth needs while optimizing energy conservation and resource efficiency and reducing per capita electricity demand;
- Ensure reliable, affordable, and high-quality power supply for all who need it in all regions of the State by building sufficient new generation;
- Accelerate the State's goal for renewable resource generation to 2010;
- Upgrade and expand the electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure and reduce the time before needed facilities are brought on line (currently it takes at least seven years to develop a new transmission facility);
- Promote customer- and utility-owned distributed generation; and
- Ensure a reliable supply of reasonably priced natural gas.

California's energy policies have been significantly influenced by the passage of Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The CEC has prepared the 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) to show how to meet California's energy needs while meeting the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some policy analysts believe in focusing on a single dimensional approach such as a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade program, other advocates promote expanding the State's existing energy efficiency, demand-side, and Renewables Portfolio Standard programs. The CEC recommends pursuing a blend of both market incentives and a regulatory programs approach for addressing California's climate issues. As a result, in 2008 the CEC and CPUC prepared an update to both their Energy Action Plan and the Integrated Energy Policy Report that examines the State's ongoing actions in the context of global climate change (CEC 2008).

Pacific Gas & Electric

PG&E is the primary supplier of electricity in San Benito County. PG&E is also responsible for maintenance of all the transmission and distribution systems in the county. PG&E delivers approximately 86,000 GWh of electricity to its 15 million customers throughout the 70,000-square-mile service area in northern and central California. In 2009 PG&E delivered 3,148 GWh of electricity to residential, commercial, and industrial accounts in the county (CEC 2010). PG&E maintains three major transmission lines running east to west across the county to substations in Fresno and Merced Counties.

Generation Facilities

There are currently no thermal power plants generating electricity in San Benito County (CEC 2010). The nearest power plants are located in Santa Clara, Fresno, and Monterey Counties, and consist mainly of oil, gas, and biomass power generating facilities. There are also no online or recently approved new power plant licensing cases in San Benito County. However, there is one small operating electric generation facility located in Monterey County that is connected to an electric transmission line that runs through the southwestern part of San Benito County.

Transmission and Distribution Facilities

The components of transmission and distribution systems include the generating facility, switching yards and stations, primary substation, distribution substations, distribution transformers, various sized transmission lines, and the customers. In the United States there are over one-quarter million miles of transmission lines, most of them capable of handling voltages between 115 kv and 345 kv, with a handful of systems of up to 500 and 765 kv capacity. Transmission lines are rated according to the amount of power they can carry, the product of the current (rate of flow) and the voltage (electrical "pressure"). Generally, transmission is more efficient at higher voltages.

Generating facilities, hydro-electric dams, and power plants usually produce electrical energy at fairly low voltages, which is increased by transformers in substations. From there the energy proceeds through switching facilities to the transmission lines. At various points in the system, the energy is "stepped down" to lower voltages for distribution to customers. Power lines are either high voltage (115, 230, 500, and 765 kv) transmission lines or low voltage (12, 24, and 60 kv) distribution lines.

Overhead transmission lines consist of the wires carrying the electrical energy (conductors), insulators, support towers, and grounded wires to protect the lines from lightning (called shield wires). Towers must meet the structural requirements of the system in several ways. They must be able to support both the electrical wires, the conductors, and the shield wires under varying weather conditions, including wind and ice loading, as well as a possible unbalanced pull caused by one or two wires breaking on one side of a tower. Every mile or so, a "dead-end" tower must be able to take the strain resulting if all the wires on one side of a tower break. Every change in direction requires a special tower design. In addition, the number of towers required per mile varies depending on the electrical standards, weather conditions, and the terrain. All towers must have appropriate foundations and be spaced at fairly regular intervals along a continuous route accessible for both construction and maintenance.

A right-of-way is a fundamental requirement for all transmission lines. A right-of-way must be kept clear of vegetation that could obstruct the lines or towers by falling limbs or interfering with the sag or wind sway of the overhead lines. Land acquisition and maintenance requirements can be substantial. The dimensions of a right-of-way depends on the voltage and number of circuits carried, and the tower design. Typically, transmission line rights-of-way range from 100 feet to 300 feet in width.

The electric power supply grid within San Benito County is part of a larger supply network operated and maintained by PG&E that encompasses the entire northern California region. This system ties into an even larger grid known as the California Power Pool that connects with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Pacificorp (PCORP), San Diego

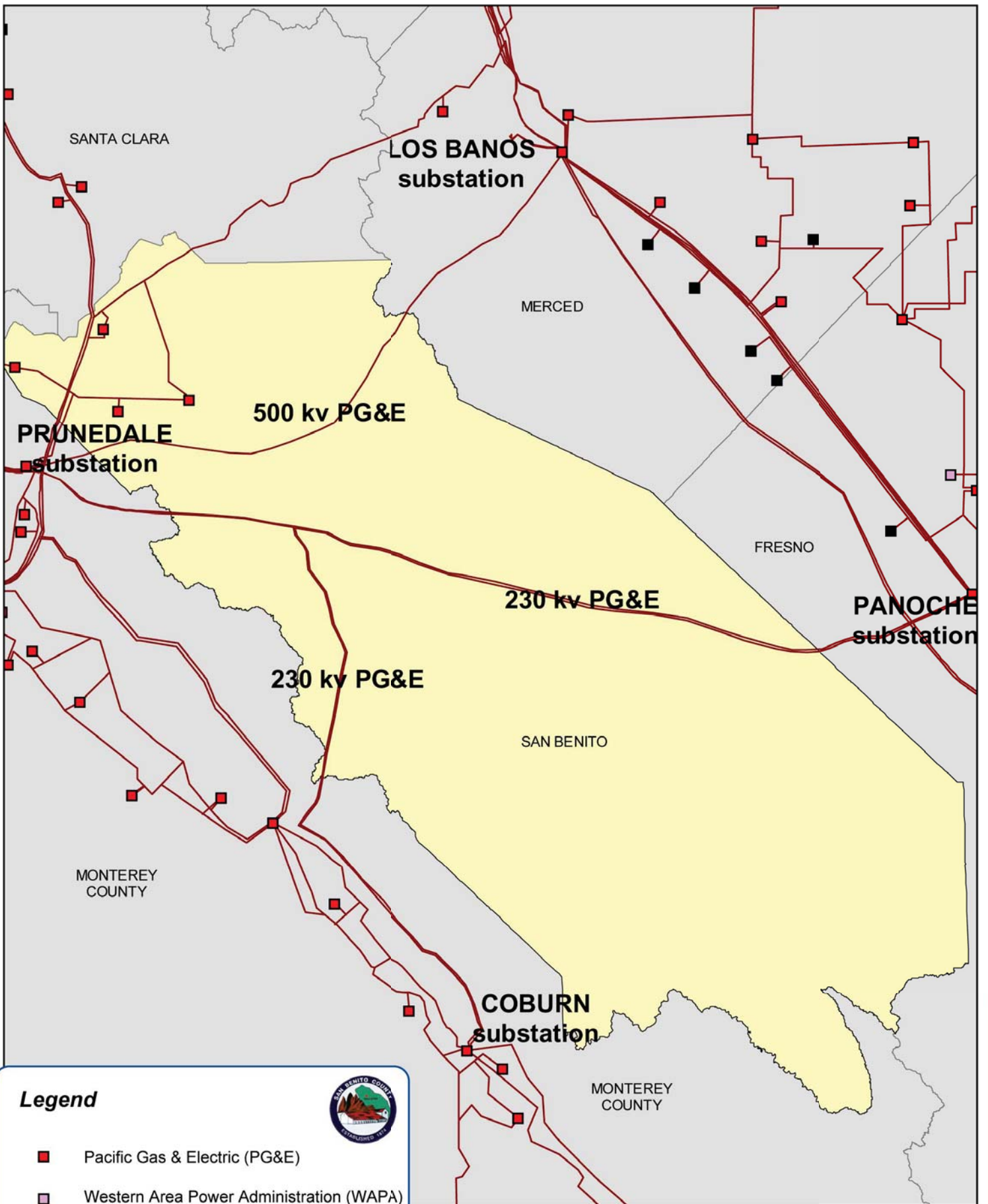
Gas and Electric and the Southern California Edison Companies. This pool of companies coordinates the development and operation, as well as the purchase, sale, and exchange, of power throughout the State of California.

Within San Benito County, PG&E owns all of the transmission and distribution facilities. One 550 kv and two major 230 kv transmission lines pass through the county, connecting San Benito County to the national power grid, allowing the wheeling of power to locations where power is in demand. The major transmission lines in San Benito County generally traverse the county from east to west. The 500 kv transmission line traverses the northern portion of the county, just south of the city of Hollister. It connects between the Prunedale substation in Monterey County and the Los Banos substation in Merced County. The two 230 kv transmission lines that traverse through the middle of the county connect to the Panoche substation located in Fresno County, also operated by PG&E. The remaining electrical transmission lines are low-voltage transmission lines surrounding the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista in the far northwest portion of the county. These include approximately four 60 to 92 kv lines that interconnect between four substations operated by PG&E. Figure 7-5 shows the locations of each transmission line, its corresponding voltage, and the nearest substation.

Natural Gas

PG&E supplies natural gas to San Benito County and owns the primary gas transmission lines (Figure 7-6). The main spines PG&E maintains include two 2- to 12-inch natural gas pipelines that run down the center of San Benito County and split near the middle of the county. There are no natural gas storage facilities within the county. The nearest natural gas and oil refineries and terminals are located in Santa Clara County.

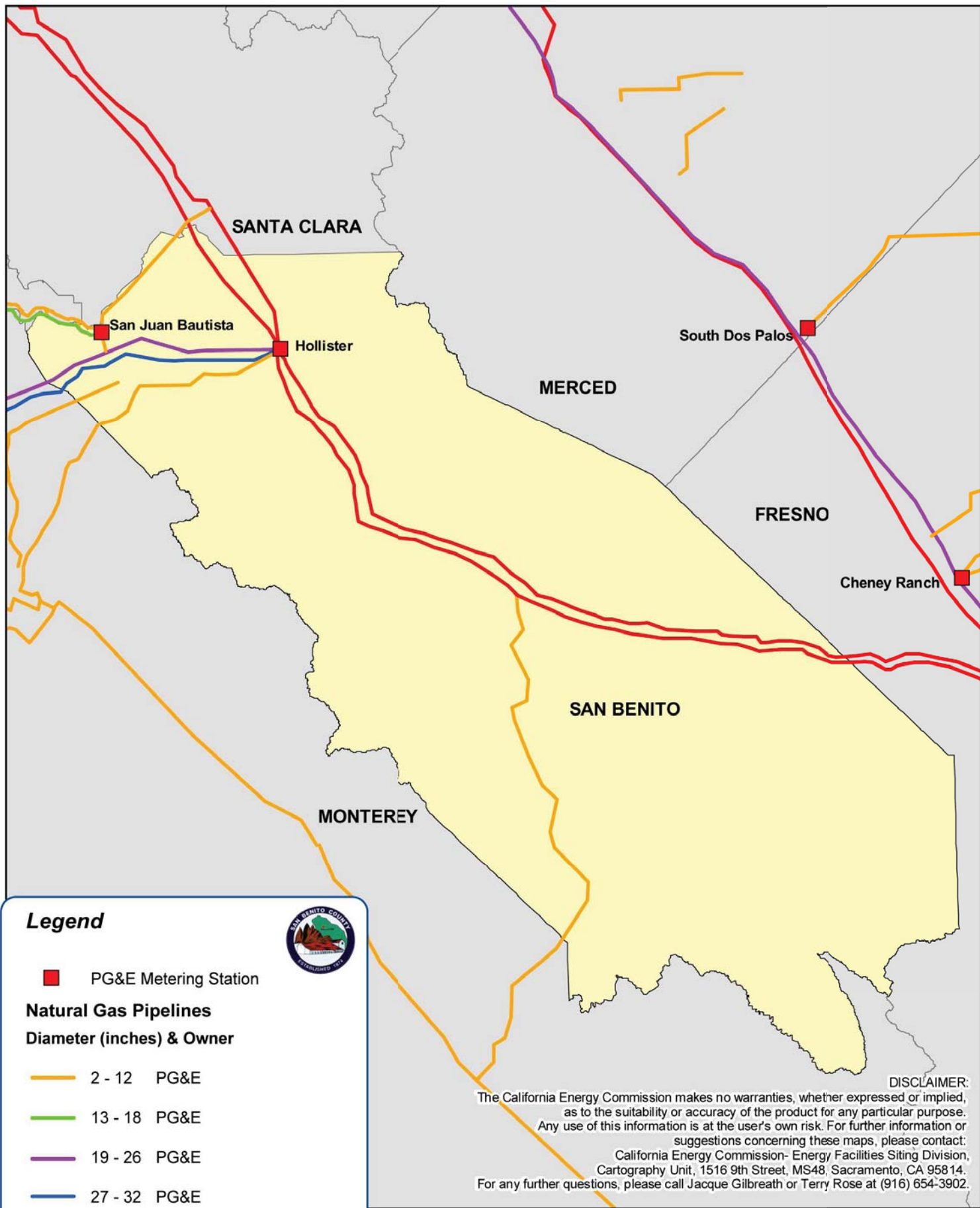
In 2009 PG&E delivered 13,069,164 therms to both residential and commercial customers. Approximately 6,631,060 therms (51 percent) were consumed by residential uses and 6,438,104 therms (49 percent) were consumed for non-residential uses. California supplied only 13.5 percent of its natural gas demand in 2007 (CEC 2008).



Source: California Energy Commission, 2010



Figure 7-5
Electricity Transmission Lines
in San Benito County



Source: California Energy Commission, 2010



Figure 7-6
Natural Gas Pipelines
in San Benito County

Telecommunications

Both AT&T and SBC provide telecommunications to San Benito County. SBC, which acquired AT&T in 2005, is now one of the largest telecommunications providers in the United States. It provides all the telecommunications services to the county, including local phone service, long-distance phone service, and high-speed internet. Wireless phone service is also available from many different national and local providers, including Verizon Wireless, AT&T, Sprint, TMobile, and U.S. Cellular.

County residents can access high-speed internet services through Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL) and through other modes of connection provided by AT&T and Comcast. However, availability of the internet is currently (2010) limited in rural areas in the southern parts of the county. In these locations internet service is still limited to dial-up and DSL service. Cable television service is provided by various providers, including Direct TV and Comcast.

SECTION 7.5 LAW ENFORCEMENT

This section describes the general characteristics of existing (2010) law enforcement facilities and services provided within unincorporated San Benito County by the Sheriff's Office and its divisions.

Regulatory Framework

State

California Government Code Section 24000. Section 24000 mandates that an Office of Sheriff be established in each county in California. The Government Code describes the duties of the Office of Sheriff-Coroner, which include acting as bailiff in the Superior Court, maintaining a jail, and preserving the peace.

California Megan's Law (1996). The California Megan's Law has allowed law enforcement agencies in California to notify residents of predatory sex offenders who live in their communities. All sex offenders are required to register with the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over their place of residence (Penal Code section 290 and 290.4). A California law finalized in 2004, Assembly Bill 488, now provides the public with Internet access to detailed information on registered sex offenders.

Local

San Benito General Plan (Existing)

The Safety Element of the County's General Plan includes the following goals, policies, and objectives related to public safety and law enforcement:

Policy 1. Roads should be of adequate capacity for use in times of emergency.

Action

- a. In accordance with Government Code Section 65302(i), the County hereby establishes a minimum of 16 feet of all weather road width for private driveways serving two or more units.

Policy 2. It will be the County's policy to review on a biannual basis the Emergency Plan of San Benito County.

Action

- a. The County will continue its policy of reviewing the disaster plan every two years.

Policy 3. It will be the County's policy to require that lands which are subdivided and developed in the future to residential or commercial uses be designed and constructed in such a manner that levels of "acceptable risk" identified in Appendix A of the Seismic Safety Element are not exceeded. It will be the County's further policy that these uses will supply adequate water for normal use and fire suppression. Roads which are suitable for safe passage for emergency vehicles, legible street name signs, and two means of access to all parcels except on those with cul-de-sacs 600 feet or less.

Actions

- a. The County will adopt minimum street standards in the subdivision ordinance, which will provide a 16-foot all weather road width for private driveways.
- b. Adopt and maintain an appropriate fire protection water standard for application to land development.

Policy 4. It will be the County's policy to periodically update information on existing hazards and reduce the risk from them.

Actions

- a. In areas where substandard water supplies exist, the County will take steps to improve the systems.
- b. In areas of existing and new development, the County will review road signs and require the placement of legible road signs.

Policy 5. It will be the County's policy to maintain local police, fire, and health forces in a state of readiness to insure adequate protection for the citizens of San Benito County.

Action

- a. The County will continue its policy of training programs, periodic review of organization, and the provisions of supplies, equipment, and facilities for use in disaster response.

Policy 6. It will be the County's policy to cooperate with other local, State, and Federal agencies in the event of a major disaster.

Action

- a. The County will continue its mutual assistance programs and will work closely with the Cities of San Juan Bautista and Hollister, as well as State and Federal authorities, in assuring emergency preparedness.

Findings

- The San Benito County Sheriff's Office has 32 sworn deputy allocations serving the unincorporated parts of the county, which does not include sworn officers for incorporated cities. This represents a current (2008) staffing level of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents, based on an unincorporated population of approximately 18,859.
- The County Jail is a 28,000-square-foot facility with an average daily population of approximately 100 inmates and a rated capacity of 124 inmates. It has two maximum-security modules with a capacity of 27 inmates each and two medium-security modules with a maximum of 35 inmates each.

Existing Conditions

The San Benito County's Sheriff's Department has the primary responsibility of protecting the life and property of citizens living in the unincorporated areas of San Benito County. The Sheriff's Office is led by the Sheriff-Coroner. Executive staff includes the Undersheriff, Lieutenant/Jail Commander, and the Operations Lieutenant. The Sheriff's Office includes the following units and divisions:

Agricultural Investigations. San Benito County has recognized that agricultural crime is an escalating problem requiring serious attention, and is a persistent problem in rural areas. The theft of crops, tractors, equipment, and commercially-grown flowers has led to an estimated annual loss of \$30 million to California farmers, according to the Rural Police Project. As part of the Rural Police Project, which is overseen by the County Sheriff's Office, San Benito County has staffed one full-time detective to investigate agricultural crime and is working with the District Attorney's Office to staff one part-time deputy district attorney for such crimes. The focus of the project will be to increase law enforcement efforts for agriculture-specific crimes. The project will coordinate work with 12 other counties in central California to develop a strategy to fight agricultural theft on both a regional and local basis.

Chaplain Program. The purpose of the Sheriff's Chaplain Program is to assist deputies that deal with people in crisis situations by providing counseling services. Types of counseling services cover death or near-death emergencies, death notification, some domestic altercations, and other emotional, non-violent occurrences.

Corrections. The Corrections Division administers the jail system in San Benito County. The County Jail is located on Flynn Road in Hollister. The facility provides inmate workers to various agencies around the county to assist with work projects. The Corrections Division is comprised of approximately 32 non-sworn Correctional Officers, Sargeants, and support staff. There are also Correctional Officers assigned to Court Security and Prisoner Transportation. San Benito County's inmate average daily population is about 100 persons at any given time.

Explorer Program. The Sheriff Explorer Program offers an opportunity to educate and involve youth in police operations and serve the community. Many law enforcement agencies use Explorers in crime prevention, traffic control, telecommunications, and community policing projects.

Investigations. The Investigations Division handles crimes against persons, youth services, property crimes, and narcotics enforcement. This includes fraud, theft, burglary, robbery, homicide, sexual assault, general sex crimes, and missing person cases. Additionally, the Investigations Division carries out the duties and responsibilities of the coroner. The Investigations Division is comprised of four detectives.

K-9 Unit. The Canine Unit supports various other departments with suspect apprehension, drug detection, searching for lost persons, crowd control, officer protection, and public awareness. The Canine Unit currently (2010) consists of one handler and one canine.

Off-Road Enforcement. The San Benito County Sheriff's Office Off-Road Enforcement Unit (OREU) is a specialized unit deployed to remote areas of San Benito County to provide law enforcement services for those involved in off-road vehicle recreation. The OREU currently (2010) consists of two sergeants, three deputies, and one reserve deputy. The unit has a twenty-two foot cargo trailer and three Suzuki 300 King-Quad All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) that were purchased with grant money. The grant was funded by the California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation program. The team deputies enforce all State and local laws, including regulations pertaining to OHV registration, safe handling and proper operation, trespassing, illegal dumping, and the destruction of natural resources.

Patrol. The Patrol Division personnel are the first to respond to emergencies within the county. Patrol Deputies handle the enforcement of criminal and vehicle code regulations, and investigate misdemeanors and felony crimes. Patrol Deputies are also responsible for the enforcement of some of the County Code ordinances, including parking. In addition to law enforcement duties, the following services are provided through the Patrol Division:

Reserves. The Sheriff's Reserves are a trained work force that supplements the Patrol Division in all areas of law enforcement. The Reserve Deputy Sheriff is a paid position.

School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO serves as a law-related counselor, law-related education teacher, and law enforcement officer. General School Resource Officer Services include:

- Providing consultation and information to student support services and other school staff;
- Providing law-related education, minors' rights and responsibilities, school attendance, and substance abuse prevention;
- Advising school staff with regard to current illegal activities within the community that may impact the school community; and
- Providing support to the schools' truancy program.

Student Support Services. Representatives serve as a liaison between students, parents, and social agencies that provide services to the school. They also:

- Participate in school activities, student organizations, and athletic events;
- Participate in parent, teacher, staff, and student meetings as requested;
- Answer questions students may have regarding criminal or juvenile law;
- Actively work towards reducing gang activity on campus; and
- Address individual student truancy problems.

Deputy Services. The San Benito County Sheriff's Office provides Special Law Enforcement Services for public and private events held in San Benito County.

House Watch Program. The San Benito County Sheriff's Office offers a House Watch Program for county residents that are going on vacation or leaving the area for any length of time. This program is restricted to county residents, and those who live in Tres Pinos, San Juan Bautista, and Aromas. This service does not apply to Hollister residents.

Fingerprinting. The San Benito County Office of Education provides fingerprint registration via LiveScan technology, which submits digitally scanned fingerprints directly to the California Department of Justice.

Permits. San Benito County residents and businesses are required to obtain an Alarm Permit for building and home alarm devices. Concealed Weapons Permits are issued, at the discretion of the Sheriff, to any person who provides proof that he/she is of good moral character, that good cause exists for the issuance, and that the person applying is a resident of San Benito County. The Sheriff may issue to that person a license to carry a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

Volunteer Mounted Search and Rescue Unit. The San Benito County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Search & Rescue Unit is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of assisting the Sheriff in search and rescue, and promoting goodwill among the residents of the county and elsewhere. This unit assists in the location of lost children or hikers, provides assistance during times of disaster, and provides other support missions at the direction of the Sheriff. Volunteers are required to meet stringent standards in rescue training, CPR & First Aid Certification, and horsemanship skills.

Sworn Deputies

The County Sheriff's Office is located in Hollister and operates a substation in San Juan Bautista. In 2008 the Sheriff's Office had 32 sworn officer allocations servicing the Patrol Division, which does not include patrol services provided in Hollister and San Juan Bautista. These levels indicate a staffing level of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents based on the population in the unincorporated portion of the county in 2008 of approximately 18,859 people. While the 1992 General Plan does not recommend a ratio of deputies per 1,000 residents, the Federal Bureau of Justice (U.S. Department of Justice) recommends 2.5 officers per 1,000 residents, and nearby counties that have population dispersed between rural and urban communities have levels varying from 1.5 line deputies per 1,000 residents for urban areas and 1 line

deputy per 1,000 residents for rural areas. Therefore, San Benito County is currently (2010) maintaining a ratio of deputies per 1,000 residents similar to the ratios provided in adjacent counties. However, if the population of the unincorporated county increases over the next 10 to 20 years, calls for service would also increase, resulting in impacts to the existing Sheriff's Office resources and the need for more officers.

Response Time

The time it takes for an officer to respond to a call is referred to as the "response time." Factors that affect response times include the number of officers on duty, the size of the patrol area, the density of the population served, the distance to the call, the level of traffic congestion, and the number of incidents occurring at the same time. The average response time for emergency and non-emergency calls is currently not available.

Call Types

Emergency 911 calls that originate in the unincorporated portions of San Benito County are received by the San Benito County Communications Dispatch Center (also known as Hollister Com) located at 471 Fourth Street in Hollister. The Communications Center coordinates dispatch services through a private contractor and routes calls to the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, and the EMS Communications Center. Which department responds to the call coming from unincorporated areas depends on the location of the call and the type of emergency. Calls from unincorporated areas may be routed to police, fire, or EMS response from various agencies due to mutual aid agreements between the County, the two cities, and the State's CAL FIRE unit. As a result, all calls received through the Communications Center Dispatch for law enforcement service are routed to the Patrol Division and a call for fire service is routed to the San Benito-Monterey (BEU) Unit in Monterey. Once a call is received at the BEU Unit in Monterey, if the call is related to urban, wildland, or auto fires in San Benito County, it is typically routed to the County Fire Department/ CAL FIRE station in Hollister. All emergency calls requiring medical services are forwarded to the ambulance dispatch, which are provided by American Medical Response. Table 7-8 shows all calls for law enforcement and other emergency services received in 2009.

Court Security Services: Marshal

The mission of the County Marshal's Office is to serve the County judiciary and protect the public by ensuring a safe environment in the Superior Courts of San Benito County. Representatives of the department serve court orders, civil process, summons and complaints, and warrants. They enforce the laws of the County and the State of California. The Marshal is elected by the registered voters of San Benito County for a six-year term. Other services provided by the Marshal's Office include:

- Coordinating juror security and Court trial issues that relate to security.
- Enforcing rental evictions.
- Assisting other law enforcement agencies.
- Participating in the community through public service opportunities.

Note: The County Marshal's Office is anticipated to close in 2010 and merge with the County Sheriff's Office.

**TABLE 7-8
SHERIFF COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) EVENT TALLY**

San Benito County
January 1-December 2009

Agency	Number of Events
Animal Control	75
BLM	14
Cal Fire	1,285
CPS	11
Hollister Fire Department	1,877
Hollister Police Department	35,652
San Benito County Marshal	42
Other Agency	56
San Benito County Probation	121
San Benito County Sheriff's Jail	15
San Benito County Sheriff's Office	15,540
San Juan Bautista Fire	116
United Narcotics Enforcement Team	3
American Medical Response	2,535
EMS Other	83
Total Events	57,425

Source: San Benito County Sheriff's Office, July 2010.

Correctional Services

The San Benito County Jail facility is located in Hollister. The original jail was built in 1874 and housed up to 50 prisoners in shared cells. A 28,000-square-foot facility opened in November 1992 and has a rated capacity of 124 inmates. The jail consists of two maximum-security modules with a capacity of 27 inmates each and two medium-security modules with a maximum of 35 inmates each. The jail also houses female inmates in two separate housing units. One unit can house up to 10 medium-security female inmates and the other up to eight maximum-security inmates.

The Correctional Division staff of the Sheriff's Office, including professional medical and program staff, manages an inmate population averaging over one hundred. There are also Correctional Officers assigned to Court Security and Prisoner Transportation.

Work Alternative Program

In lieu of incarceration the Jail Division of the San Benito County Sheriff's Office has an inmate Work Alternative Program. The Sheriff Work Alternative Program is known as S.W.A.P. To qualify for S.W.A.P., the person must have received a jail sentence of 40 days or less. The program accepts court commitments from all California counties.

County Coroner

The Coroner, acting under the authority of the California Penal Code, Government Code, and Health and Safety Code, provides a preliminary inquiry into any death reported. This hearing is recorded and, if circumstances warrant, a full investigation into the cause of death is completed. In San Benito County each Deputy Sheriff is trained as a Deputy Coroner, and the Investigations Division carries out the duties and responsibilities of the Coroner.

SECTION 7.6 FIRE PROTECTION

Introduction

This section describes the existing (2010) structural and urban fire protection systems in San Benito County, as well as responsible agencies and fire prevention measures currently in place. Wildland fire hazards are discussed in Chapter 11, Section 11.3, Wildfire Hazards, of this Background Report.

Key Terms

Automatic Aid. The process whereby the closest piece of emergency apparatus is dispatched to a call for assistance, regardless of jurisdiction.

Insurance Services Office Ratings. Public protection classifications are designated by the State Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO bases its classifications on a number of factors, including fire department location, equipment, staffing, water supply, and communications abilities. Ratings range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best possible fire protection, and 10 being the worst.

Mutual Aid. The provision of resources (personnel, apparatus, and equipment) to a requesting jurisdiction already engaged in emergency operations, which have exhausted or will shortly exhaust local resources.

State Responsibility Areas (SRA). Areas classified by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as being the primary financial responsibility of the State for preventing and suppressing fires. These lands include: lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth or grass, whether of commercial value or not; lands that protect the soil from erosion, retard run-off of water, or accelerated percolation; lands used principally for range or forage purposes; lands not owned by the Federal Government; and lands not incorporated. Lands are removed from SRA when housing densities average more than three units per acre over an area of 250 acres.

Regulatory Setting

Local

San Benito County General Plan (Existing)

The existing General Plan identifies several fire related policies and actions intended to safeguard county residents and property from both structural fires and wildfires. Relevant policies from the General Plan's Open Space and Conservation Element and the Safety Element are listed below.

Open Space and Conservation Element (1995)

Goal 7. Environmental Hazards

To discourage development in areas that are environmentally hazardous.

Objectives

3. A response time of five minutes for first-response fire engine in local responsibility areas and a response time of fifteen minutes for first-response fire engine in State responsibility areas.

Policy 37. Development policy for hazardous areas

It will be the policy of the County to limit densities in areas that are environmentally hazardous (fault, landslides/erosion, hillsides over 30 percent slope, flood plains) to levels that are acceptable for public health and safety for citizens and property. It is the County's policy to apply zoning categories and scenic easements for the protection of environmentally hazardous or aesthetically valuable resources.

Actions

1. The County shall adopt an overlay zoning which establishes development standards in areas of special concern, such as the Earthquake Fault Zone maps, flood plains, landslide, severe erosion hazards, slopes 30 percent or greater, and hazardous fire areas. These development standards would be over and above the standards applicable to basic land uses.
2. The County shall establish an overlay zoning district for environmentally hazardous areas (an "EC" environmental constraints land use designation district) which discourages by development standards development in areas hazardous to the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and community.
3. Prohibit creation of parcels by subdivision that will be wholly located within environmentally hazardous areas and/or where developable areas cannot be safely accessed.

Policy 40. Development in State Responsibility Areas

All new development shall be required to conform to the standards and recommendations for applicable fire protection agency to an acceptable fire protection risk level (CDF, County, incorporated city).

Actions

1. New development within the Sphere-of-Influence of an incorporated city shall be designed to conform with fire safety and water supply standards of the city.
2. Subdividers/developers shall be financially responsible for measures to reduce fire hazards for the protection of persons, property, and natural resources.
3. New residential development and additions to existing homes within the SRA shall be required to conform at a minimum to Public Resources Code 4290, San Benito County Code Chapter 17, Uniform Fire Code, Uniform Building Code, and National Fire Codes as applicable.

Policy 41. Fire safety

New development will not be allowed where access is a fire safety risk.

Safety Element (1980)

Policy 1. Roads should be of adequate capacity for use in times of emergency.

Action

- a. In accordance with Government Code Section 65302(i), the County hereby establishes a minimum all weather road width for private driveways serving two or more units as 16 feet.

Policy 2. It will be the County's policy to review on a biannual basis the Emergency Plan of San Benito County.

Action

- a. The County will continue its policy of reviewing the disaster plan every two years.

Policy 3. It will be the County's policy to require that lands which are subdivided and developed in the future to residential or commercial uses be designed and constructed in such a manner that levels of "acceptable risk" identified in Appendix A of the Seismic Safety Element are not exceeded.

It will be the County's further policy that these uses will supply adequate water for normal use and fire suppression. Roads which are suitable for safe passage for emergency vehicles, legible street name signs and two means of access to all parcels except on those with cul-de-sacs 600 feet or less.

Actions

- a. The County will adopt minimum street standards in the subdivision ordinance which will provide a 16-foot all weather road width for private driveways.
- b. Adopt and maintain an appropriate fire protection water standard for application to land development.

Policy 4. It will be the County's policy to update periodically information on existing hazards and reduce the risks from them.

Actions

- a. In areas where substandard water supplies exist, the County will take steps to improve the systems.
- b. In areas of existing and new development, the County will review road signs and require the placement of legible road signs.

Policy 5. It will be the County's policy to maintain local police, fire, and health forces in a state of readiness to insure adequate protection for the citizens of San Benito County.

Action

- a. The County will continue its policy of training programs, periodic review of organization, and the provisions of supplies, equipment and facilities for use in disaster response.

Policy 6. It will be the County's policy to cooperate with other local, State and Federal agencies in the event of a major disaster.

Action

- a. The County will continue its mutual assistance programs and will work closely with the Cities of San Juan Bautista and Hollister as well as State and Federal authorities in assuring emergency preparedness.

Policy 7. It will be the County's policy to incorporate into subdivision and zoning ordinances those fire safe guides adopted by the Board of Supervisors and entitled "Fire Safe Guides for Residential Development in California (in or near forests, brush and grassland areas)," revised and printed by the California Department of Forestry, May 1980.

Actions

- a. The County will continue to improve and provide for the safety of the residents of the County by taking immediate steps to modify the subdivision and other appropriate ordinances within the County to incorporate fire safe standards as delineated in the California Department of Forestry publication where they apply to San Benito County.
- b. Adopt and maintain a fire protection plan.
- c. Adopt those "Fire Safe Guides" as they relate to San Benito County's land use planning development, open space, conservation, resource management, circulation, and housing.
- d. Actively support and cooperate with the California Department of Forestry's Range Improvement and Vegetation Management Programs with particular emphasis on their impact on water quality and production, resource management, range management, wildlife habitat management, fire defense improvements and public safety where determined to be appropriate by the County.

San Benito County Subdivision Ordinance Fire Design Standards

Appendix B of the County's Subdivision Ordinance (XIII) provides standards for roadway widths, turn-arounds, defensible space measures such as setbacks, the height of street signs and addresses to increase visibility for quick accessibility, and general water standards for fire hydrants to ensure adequate fire protection water delivery systems are available.

Major Findings

- Structural fire management responsibilities in the county are distributed among the San Benito County Fire Department, the Aromas Tri-County Fire Department, the Hollister Fire Department, and the San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department. When resources are available and under existing aid agreements, CAL FIRE may assist other departments with structural fires and other types of wildland fire calls.
- Current (2010) County policies recommend maintaining a response time of five minutes for first-response fire engines in local responsibility areas and a response time of 15 minutes for first-response fire engines in State responsibility areas. However, according to the County Fire Department 2008 Annual Report, the County's fire response is severely below standards in terms of time, staff, and equipment. The Annual Report also notes that because of aid from other responders, the County Fire Department was able to provide adequate service.
- In 2008 the County Fire Department received calls for 1,019 incidents. The majority of these incidents were medical-related calls (476 calls or 47 percent). Vehicle incidents (13 percent), fires (12 percent), automobiles (11 percent), false alarms (12 percent), and vehicle accidents (13 percent) accounted for the rest of the major incidents

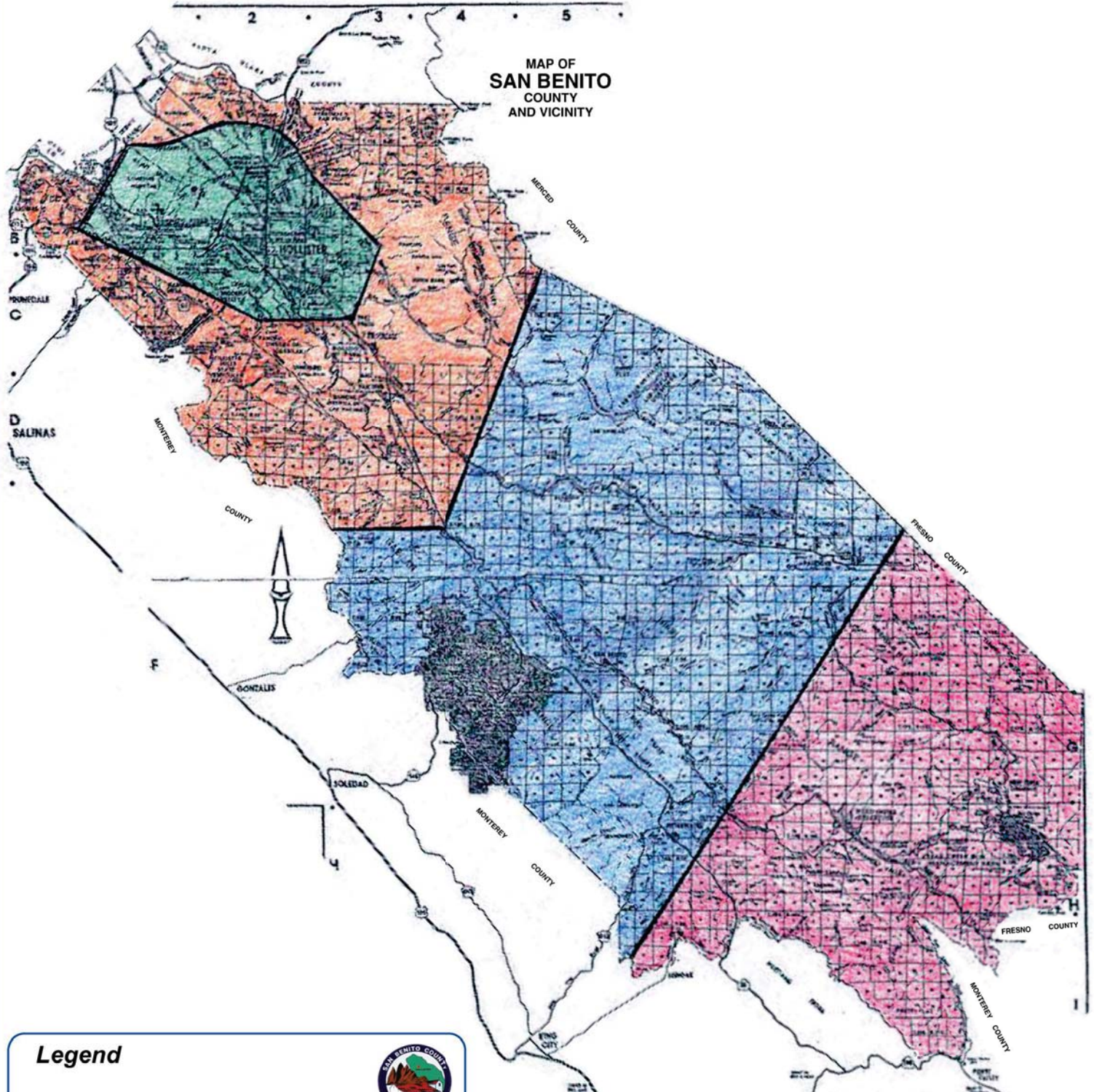
Existing Conditions

There are both urban and wildland fire hazards in San Benito County. This creates the potential for injury, loss of life, and property damage if there is not adequate fire personnel staffing, equipment, and response times. Urban fires primarily involve the uncontrolled burning of residential, commercial, or industrial structures due to human activities. Only structural fires are discussed in this chapter. Wildland fire risk and response are discussed in Chapter 11, Section 3, Fire Hazards, of this Background Report.

Urban Fires and Response Capabilities





Urban fires primarily involve the uncontrolled burning of residential, commercial, and industrial structures due to human-made causes. Factors that exacerbate urban structural fires include substandard building construction, highly flammable materials, delay in response time, and inadequate fire protection services. Much of San Benito County is located within State Responsibility Areas, directly protected by CAL FIRE engines responding from State-owned fire stations. Figure 7-7 shows the State Responsibility Areas (SRA), Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA), and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) in San Benito County.

MAP OF
SAN BENITO
 COUNTY
 AND VICINITY



Legend



-  San Benito Urban Area:
Response time must be 10 minutes or less
-  San Benito Rural Area:
Response time must be 30 minutes or less
-  San Benito Wilderness Area:
Response time must be 90 minutes or less
-  San Benito Remote Wilderness Area:
Response time must be 120 minutes or less

Source: San Benito County EMS Plan, 2007

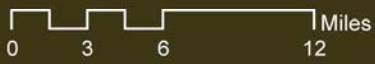


Figure 7-7
 Emergency Response Zones
 in San Benito County

While the San Benito County Fire Department is responsible for fighting urban and structural fires within unincorporated San Benito County, other fire responsibilities are distributed among several agencies including the Aromas Tri-County Fire Department, Hollister Fire Department, and San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department. The following describe the basic capabilities of and infrastructure and equipment managed by the various fire departments and agency stations in the county.

San Benito County Fire Department

The San Benito County Fire Department covers a 1,400-square-mile service area of the unincorporated county not designated as wildlands. The San Benito Fire Department local responsibility area covers approximately 30,698 acres of land primarily consisting of the valley floor around Hollister. The primary responsibility of the County Fire Department is to provide services for structural fires rather than wildland fires. The San Benito County Fire Station, staffed by Company 93, is located at 1979 Fairview Road within the CAL FIRE Hollister Station. Company 93 is staffed with one CAL FIRE Battalion Chief (acting under contract to the County as the County Fire Department's Fire Chief), one Fire Captain/Fire Marshall, three Fire Apparatus Engineers, two firefighters, and 25 paid-call firefighters. Company 93 provides year-round, 24-hour coverage, with two permanent firefighters per shift.

Although the County does not own a fire station, it does own fire equipment, including a water tender, a Type III engine, three Type I engines (one located at the Hollister Station, one given to the San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department for mutual aid, and one reserve engine), and two utility pick-up trucks. In 2008 the County Fire Department received calls for 1,019 incidents. The majority of these incidents were medical-related calls (47 percent), consisting of 476 calls. Vehicle incidents (13 percent), Fire (12 percent), Automobile (11 percent), False Alarm (12 percent), and Vehicle Accident (13 percent) accounted for the rest of the major incident responses. CAL FIRE assisted the County with approximately 128 of these incidents and handled 62 of the incidents. According to the County's 2008 Annual Report, the County fire resources were severely below standards of response, but because of aid from other responders, the County Fire Department was able to provide adequate services.

The San Benito County Fire Department is not principally responsible for the wildland fire protection in the SRA, but responds as initial automatic aid to many of these areas. Wildland fires can be very labor-intensive and vast commitments of resources are often required. A large fire may require the fire apparatus to remain at the scene for several days, causing equipment and staffing problems within the County Fire Department. As such, CAL FIRE often responds to wildland fires and the County provides secondary response, as needed.

SBCFD additionally reviews development plans and building permits for compliance with the Uniform Building Code and San Benito County Fire Code. The County Fire Code (Uniform Fire Code Section 10.301 (c)) requires developers to provide approved water supplies capable of delivering adequate fire flow for fire protection to all premises upon which buildings or portions of buildings are constructed. Water supply may consist of reservoirs, pressure tanks, elevated tanks, water mains, or other fixed systems capable of supplying the required fire flow. In setting the requirements for fire flow, the Fire Chief may be guided by the standards published by the Insurance Services Office, "Guide for Determination of Required Fire Flow."

The Insurance Services Office (ISO), the body that rates fire departments and assigns public protection classifications for the establishment of fire insurance rates, suggests that "the built upon area of a city should have a first due engine company within one and one-half (1.5) miles." The higher the Insurance

Rating number, the lower the level of service and the higher the cost for a homeowner's fire insurance. An area with no organized fire protection services is assigned a Class 10 rating.

CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE is a State wildland fire agency established to protect non-Federal, unincorporated lands within California. When available, CAL FIRE also assists the San Benito County Fire Department with other types of fires within the county. Five CAL FIRE stations and bases are located in San Benito County, and a sixth is located on the San Benito/Santa Clara County border (Pacheco). Stations within San Benito County include the Bear Valley Helitack Base in Bear Valley, the Beaver Dam Station near Bitterwater, the Antelope Station in Antelope Valley, and the Hollister Station and the Hollister Air Attack Base in Hollister. The agency has air tankers housed at the Hollister Airport, a bulldozer housed at Hollister Station, and two battalion chiefs dedicated to the operations within the county. One battalion chief acts as the County department head and the other acts as an as-needed chief officer for emergency scene management. The Bear Valley and Bitterwater stations both have heliport facilities. Total on duty staffing at CAL FIRE facilities within the county is a minimum of 24 firefighters responding on seven fire engines, one fire bulldozer, and two battalion chiefs. Additional CAL FIRE resources available to the county include a helicopter with water dropping capabilities and firefighting crew, air tankers, air tactical coordinator, and inmate hand crews.

Aromas Tri-County Fire Department

The Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District (ATCFPD) provides fire protection services within its service area in San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties, and operates under a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with CAL FIRE. ATCFPD provides a constant daily minimum staffing of one Battalion Chief, one Fire Captain, one Fire Apparatus Engineer, and one Firefighter II on the primary response engine. The fire station is located at 492 Carpenteria Road in Aromas. It houses one Type I fire engine, one Type III fire engine, one utility pickup, and one chief's command vehicle. An additional Type III wildland engine is housed at the station and staffed seasonally with a four-person crew. The ATCFPD battalion chief provides back-up chief officer coverage to the SBCFD at no charge to San Benito County.

Hollister Fire Department

Fire protection within the city limits and the city's sphere of influence is provided by the Hollister Fire Department. While the County's fire department provides initial response to certain areas of the city under its automatic mutual aid agreement, the City in turn provides initial response in areas protected by the County on the western boundaries of the city. The Hollister Fire Department (HFD) is an all risk department that responds to emergency medical events, vehicle accidents, hazardous material releases, specialized rescue events, and all types of fires including structures, vehicles, and vegetation. The HFD currently (2010) operates two stations in Hollister. The primary station is located at 110 Fifth Street in Hollister, and staffed with two fire captains, two fire apparatus engineers, and one firefighter. The fire chief and an administrative fire captain (assigned to prevention) are on duty Monday through Friday. The department is also supported with volunteer firefighters. Station 2, located at 1000 Union Road, runs one engine company and is staffed with one fire captain, one fire apparatus engineer, and one firefighter.

San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department

The San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department (SJBVFD) provides fire suppression, emergency medical services (basic life support), fire prevention, public education, and rescue services within San Juan Bautista. The department operates one station in San Juan Bautista. The 100 percent volunteer department consists of a fire chief, two captains, two fire prevention officers, two lieutenants, and 11 firefighters. The department responds to an average of over 320 emergency calls per year that originate from San Juan Bautista and the adjacent San Juan Valley and Canyon.

Fire Prevention and Suppression

Several factors influence the ability of fire departments to provide adequate levels of service within the county. These factors, including housing and population density, accessibility by fire vehicles, and water supply and availability, are discussed below.

Housing Density

Most of the county population lives in low-density housing in rural areas of the county, with higher-density development concentrated in Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and Aromas. Housing and population densities generally decrease with increased distance from these three urban centers, thereby increasing the time necessary for firefighters to respond to an incident.

Accessibility

The northern part of the county is crisscrossed with major traffic arteries that can provide quick response times to urban and wildland fires. However, the southern part of the county is more remote and mainly accessed along SR 25, making fire response times increase as the distance to an urban or wildland fire increases and more roadways, including dirt roads, are required to access fire incidents.

Water Supply and Availability

Rural and outlying areas have the additional problem of insufficient water supplies. Unreliable water sources and delays in water delivery can limit a fire response team's ability to control the spread of a fire. As a result of limited water supplies in rural areas, water must be delivered to the scene of the emergency through the use of water tenders, one of which is owned by the San Benito County Fire Department. However, if a qualified full-time firefighter/driver is not available for immediate dispatch, the delivery of water to the scene may be delayed due to travel time of the dispatched water tender and the time required to drive to rural locations.

SECTION 7.7 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

This section summarizes existing (2010) information regarding the provision of emergency medical services as administered by the San Benito County Emergency Services Department, which includes the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency and the administration of disaster planning and response.

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5 National Incident Management System (NIMS). This Directive requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). This system provides a consistent nationwide template to enable Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity, including acts of catastrophic terrorism. San Benito County has acted to reduce potential damages from disaster events by adopting and complying with National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards.

State

Emergency Services Act. The Emergency Services Act is the State of California's basic law establishing the foundation for emergency response. This Act is contained in the California Government Code beginning with Section 8550. The Act gives the Governor and chief executives of all political subdivisions emergency powers; establishes the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES); assigns emergency functions to State agencies; provides for mutual aid; and authorizes such organizations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the law. This regulatory area applies to OES only.

Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code. This section of the Code provides the statutory authority and describes the duties of the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority and local (County) EMS agencies for the administration and planning of EMS systems. This statute requires the local County EMS agencies to “plan, implement, and evaluate an emergency medical services system consisting of an organized pattern of readiness and response services based on public and private agreements and operational procedures.” The State EMS Authority has developed planning and implementation guidelines, which are used by County EMS Agencies as a planning tool by which to measure and improve all aspects of their EMS system. As set forth in the EMS Act, these EMS System Standards and Guidelines are comprised of the following topic areas: 1) Manpower and training; 2) Communications, 3) Transportation, 4) Assessment of hospitals and critical care centers, 5) System organization and management, 6) Data collection and evaluation, 7) Public information and education, and 8) Disaster response.

Section 1797.254 of the Health and Safety Code. This section requires each Local Emergency Medical Service Agency to submit a five-year plan, and an annual plan to the California EMS Authority. The purpose of the plan is to satisfy legal requirements, but it also provides a framework for the planning and implementation of EMS systems, demonstrates that local EMS systems meet minimum state standards and comply with applicable local laws and regulations, and demonstrates that their systems are well-established, well-managed, and patient-oriented.

California Government Code, Title 2, Chapter 7, Article 9.5, Section 8607, Standardized Emergency Management System. The Standardized Emergency Management System requires local and State governments to use a standard organizational system for responding to disasters in order to receive selected State recovery funds. This regulatory area applies to OES and EMSA.

Title 22 - California Code of Regulations, Division 9 - Prehospital Emergency Medical Services. These regulations provide the enforcement framework from which the State EMS Authority and local County EMS agencies conduct the regulatory aspects of EMS system oversight as defined in the EMS Act. These regulations address: First Aid; Emergency Medical Technicians, Disciplinary Order and Conditions of Probation for EMTs, Trauma Systems, EMS Air Services; Poison Control Centers, EMS Continuing Education, and EMS System Quality Improvement.

Local

San Benito County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Plan (2007). The San Benito County EMS Plan details the County's five-year EMS plan. It includes how the County's EMS plan complies with the California EMS Authority's *EMS Systems Standards and Guidelines*, and Section 1797.254 of the Health and Safety Code. It describes the EMS system's resources, operations, and directories, and it identifies resources available in the system. The plan also assesses the system as it relates to the standards and guidelines, efforts to coordinate the services in the plan more effectively, objectives to improve the minimum standards, and ways to improve the County's framework to provide for the best planning and implementation of the EMS system. The plan is required to be updated every five years and include annual plan updates as necessary.

San Benito County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The County has established written procedures and early assessment as a means of communicating emergency requests, including the distribution of disaster casualties to State agencies and other jurisdictions. Medical response plans for disasters are also addressed under this plan. The plan itself is modeled after the California Office of Emergency Services Multi-Hazard Functional Plan. The County Public Health Department is currently (2010) developing a Public Health Emergency Response Plan that addresses biological, chemical, and nuclear threats.

San Benito County Emergency Transportation Plan (2007). The San Benito EMS Transportation Plan outlines the structure and operations for its pre-hospital care services. The plan determines the number of, and boundaries of, emergency ambulance zones, establishes a process for granting exclusive operating permits to a limited number of Emergency Ambulance Service Providers, identifies the role of basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS), and establishes a process for oversight and regulation of EMS providers by the San Benito County EMS Agency.

San Benito County Strategic National Stockpile Plan (Annex to the County Emergency Operations Plan). The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan was established in the event that a public health emergency or outbreak occurs that could overwhelm the resources of the local community, region, and state. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) manage the SNS Program to provide large quantities of essential medical items to states and communities during such events. For example, if a national threat occurs, a shipment of the SNS known as the 12-hour Push Package would be distributed in 12 hours or less by the Federal government. The package would contain a broad range of materials and authorities to protect and treat several thousand people. The State Department of Health and Safety (DHS) would accept the SNS and send appropriate supplies to the affected areas. In general, the plan would provide staff, pharmaceuticals, and transported materials to treatment sites. The plan also outlines the process the County is taking to acquire a local emergency pharmaceutical cache to be located at Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital. This cache of supplies is currently (2010) located at the Veteran's Memorial Hall until the storage site at the hospital is built.

San Benito County General Plan (Existing)

The County's General Plan contains a Safety Element that describes the Countywide goals and policies in place that are related to safety.

Safety Element (1980)

The Safety Element covers the subject of fire protection and the procedures that must be carried out after any disaster strikes the county to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the county residents. It also provides future steps the County can take to prevent the loss of life, and reduce injuries and property damage. The following goals and policies are related to emergency services.

Policy 1. Roads should be of adequate capacity for use in times of emergency.

Action

- a. In accordance with Government Code Section 65302(i), the County hereby establishes a minimum all weather road width for private driveways serving two or more units as 16 feet.

Policy 2. It will be the County's policy to review on a biannual basis the Emergency Plan of San Benito County.

Action

- a. The County will continue its policy of reviewing the disaster plan every two years.

Policy 3. It will be the County's policy to require that lands which are subdivided and developed in the future to residential or commercial uses be designed and constructed in such a manner that levels of "acceptable risk" identified in Appendix A of the Seismic Safety Element are not exceeded.

It will be the County's further policy that these uses will supply adequate water for normal use and fire suppression. Roads which are suitable for safe passage for emergency vehicles, legible street name signs and two means of access to all parcels except on those with cul-de-sacs 600 feet or less.

Actions

- a. The County will adopt minimum street standards in the subdivision ordinance which will provide a 16-foot all weather road width for private driveways.
- b. Adopt and maintain an appropriate fire protection water standard for application to land development.

Policy 4. It will be the County's policy to update periodically information on existing hazards and reduce the risk from them.

Actions

- a. In areas where substandard water supplies exist, the County will take steps to improve the systems.

- b. In areas of existing and new development, the County will review road signs and require the placement of legible road signs.

Policy 5. It will be the County's policy to maintain local police, fire and health forces in a state of readiness to insure adequate protection for the citizens of San Benito County.

Action

- a. The County will continue its policy of training programs, periodic review of organization and the provisions of supplies, equipment and facilities for use in disaster response.

Policy 6. It will be the County's policy to cooperate with other local, State and Federal agencies in the event of a major disaster.

Action

- a. The County will continue its mutual assistance programs and will work closely with the Cities of San Juan Bautista and Hollister, as well as State and Federal authorities, in assuring emergency preparedness.

San Benito County Ambulance Ordinance 637. San Benito County Ambulance Ordinance 637 was enacted in 1993, in order to provide policies and regulations necessary for the public health and safety regarding ambulance service providers in the county. The ordinance establishes policies and regulations for issuing permits and regulating air and ground ambulances to ensure that competent, efficient and adequate care is provided, and to allow for adequate ambulance services and rates in all areas of the county. The ordinance also allows for the orderly and lawful operation of the County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, and ensures its oversight by the San Benito County EMS Agency.

Major Findings

- The County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency currently (2010) meets most State minimum standards for emergency medical services, but does not meet standards for data management systems, disaster response, and trauma care. As a result, the County has developed short-term and long-term plans to address these deficiencies.
- American Medical Response (AMR) based in Livermore is the current and only emergency ambulance service provider for the county.
- Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital is the only local acute-care hospital in the county. As of 2009 it included 70 licensed beds and one paramedic base station. The hospital was designated a Level IV Trauma Center in 2004, although the hospital has not yet implemented a trauma center. As a result, most trauma cases are transported to centers in neighboring counties, including Saint Louise Regional Hospital in Gilroy, Watsonville Community Hospital in Watsonville, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in Salinas, or Natividad Medical Center in Salinas.
- The five first fire-related responders in the county include the Hollister City Fire Department, the San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department, the San Benito County Fire Department, the

Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District, and the California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

- There are no air ambulance service providers based in the county. There are currently (2010) five different air ambulance service providers permitted to fly EMS missions in the county, including Calstar, Mediflight, Air Med Team, Lifeflight, and Reach.
- The County has one joint dispatch center that includes one primary public safety answering point (PSAP) and one secondary PSAP based at the County Communications Center at the County jail. The primary PSAP is responsible for responding to all 911 emergency calls and dispatching the appropriate agency. The secondary PSAP is responsible for receiving emergency call information from the primary PSAP and dispatch appropriate fire agencies.
- In 2009 there was an average of 1.2 hospital beds per thousand in San Benito County. In 2009 the California average was 1.9 hospital beds per thousand population. Both of these are considerably lower than the national average of 3.2 hospital beds per thousand in the United States in 2008.

Existing Conditions

Emergency Preparedness

An emergency is a life-, property-, or environment-threatening incident, particularly one that occurs suddenly or unexpectedly. The resulting damage is determined by the nature of the incident and the resulting human response. In severe disasters the reaction to an emergency is often the major determinant of the severity of its impact, since mass confusion can cause more damage than the emergency itself. The purpose of emergency preparedness is to minimize threats to public safety by preparing and planning adequate response to potential emergencies. The four phases of emergency management include mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Preventative actions such as building in stable, flood-free areas, proper storage and handling of hazardous materials, fire marshal pre-fire inspections, railroad crossing controls, airport clear zones, and safety education class can save lives and protect property and the environment. In addition, potential hazardous situations that cannot be prevented must be identified, and plans must be prepared for effective responses. Involvement of all sectors of the County ensures that the objectives of emergency preparedness are met, including:

- Saving lives
- Preserving property
- Continued functioning of the social and physical system

The more demand an emergency places on "central facilities" and "lifelines" (e.g., hospitals, police and fire departments, transportation routes, and utilities) the more difficult a coordinated and orderly response becomes. The adverse impacts of an emergency can be reduced if agencies and individuals respond in a comprehensive, rational fashion. The assurance of a rational response requires thorough preparation so that all people understand what to expect in emergency situations. In San Benito County the Emergency Services Department and the Emergency Medical Services Agency is responsible for preparing and planning for response to potential emergencies and medical disasters.

San Benito County Emergency Services Department

The Department of Emergency Services was formed in 2000 through a consolidation of three formerly separate programs: the Communications Department (or County Communications Call Center/911 Call Center), the Office of Emergency Services, and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program. The purpose of the reorganization was to enhance the efficiency, operational readiness, and coordination of related emergency service functions under a centralized administrative structure. Now the primary mission of the Emergency Services Department is to develop and maintain the County's capability to effectively plan for and react to major emergencies and medical disasters. Once the department consolidated, it also became a part of the division of the Health and Human Services Agency (H&HSA).

The Emergency Services Department includes the following programs and services:

Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Planning

This departmental program develops and maintains the San Benito County Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with State guidelines regarding multi-hazard functional planning. It develops standard operating procedures, specific contingency plans, and annexes to the plan; it assists in the development of coordinated emergency plans for outside agencies and jurisdictions; and provides disaster/emergency training exercises. The program coordinates and prepares reports required by the California Office of Emergency Services and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to maintain the County's eligibility to participate fully in State and Federal funding programs.

County Communications Center (9-1-1)

The County Call Center directs the operations of the County Communications Center, including, personnel, budget, and administration. It is centered in the County jail, where personnel process and distribute all messages received throughout both the incorporated and unincorporated county. The County Communications Center serves as the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the entire county area, including the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, which contract for services and contribute funding. The Communications Center provides centralized countywide dispatching for emergency medical, fire, and law enforcement services, and for County Public Works. The center also processes criminal and traffic warrants. See Table 7-8 for the routing of emergency calls received by the Call Center in 2009.

Emergency Medical Services

This division plans, coordinates, and evaluates emergency medical services to ensure that emergency medical care is available and consistent at the emergency scene, during transport, and in the emergency room. The EMS system includes fire departments, ambulance companies, hospitals, police departments, the American Red Cross, and the American Heart Association.

Other Services

In addition, the Emergency Services Department provides training in various aspects of pre-hospital emergency medical care. The Department tests, certifies, and accredits First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians-Paramedics, Mobile Intensive Care Nurses, and

Early Defibrillation Technicians. This ensures that such training reflects the medical standards for pre-hospital care established by the local medical community.

The department also plans and manages activities such as disaster medical preparedness, ambulance contracts and rate structure, communications, multi-casualty incident response, and emergency trauma response in coordination with other agencies.

County Service Area 36

The department also develops and administers the budget for County Service Area 36, which funds Advanced Life Support (ALS or paramedic) ambulance services and enhanced emergency medical services through participating agencies countywide through benefit assessments on property. Currently (2010), the property assessment is limited to \$20 per year per unit of benefit. A single-family dwelling represents one benefit unit.

San Benito County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency

When the San Benito County Emergency Services Department consolidated, the San Benito County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency became a division of the Health and Human Services Agency (H&HSA). The H&HSA is divided into several divisions, one of which is the Public Health Department, which also includes the EMS Agency. The Director of H&HSA serves as the administrator of EMS, and staff consists of a part-time Medical Director, a full-time EMS Services Coordinator, and a part-time secretary. The Emergency Services department is now also a part of the Sheriff's Department. Information on the Sheriff's department is described in Section 7.6, Law Enforcement of this report.

Emergency Medical Services System

Prior to 1986 the San Benito Office of Emergency Services administered the EMS system using only part-time staff, but after 1986 they received grant funds from the California EMS Authority to allow them to hire a full-time coordinator. As a result, the office could more efficiently and effectively cooperate with Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties in the development of a regional EMS system. This regional system became known as the Central Coast EMS Consortium. Once established, it was able to share resources and personnel in the development of key EMS system components, including disaster medical planning, data collection, training, public information and education, procedures development, and advanced life support (paramedic) services. However, in 1990 the EMS Consortium disbanded and each County developed and administered its own EMS agency.

Currently (2010), San Benito County had developed many key components of its EMS system, but it had yet to develop its advanced life support (ALS) services. Therefore, in late 1990 a ballot measure was established to provide funds for a Paramedic Emergency Medical Services Program in San Benito County. The measure was approved by the voters and established County Service Area 36 (CSA 36), which assessed a fee on real property within the county. Both the City of Hollister and San Juan Bautista approved the formation of CSA 36 and the County's EMS system. The system is currently (2010) overseen by the San Benito County Emergency Medical Care Commission, a board-certified emergency physician, and a pre-hospital advisory committee.

The EMS agency has worked with the Emergency Medical Care Commission to develop an EMS plan for review and approval by the State EMS Authority. The last plan was updated in June 2007 and submitted and approved by the State EMS Authority.

The County's Emergency Medical Services Plan identifies the overall needs and objectives for the County's EMS systems in accordance with State system standards and guidelines. EMS systems consist of manpower and training, communications, transportation, assessments of hospitals and critical care centers, system organization and management, data collection, public information and education, and disaster response. According to the County's EMS system, in 2007 the system met most minimum standards and guidelines, but did not meet standards for data management systems, system design evaluation, disaster response, and trauma care. As a result, the County has developed both short-term and long-term plans to address the deficiencies. For example, in 2004 the San Benito Trauma Plan was approved by the State EMS Authority; however, the implementation has not yet occurred. The Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital in the county does meet the requirements to be designated a Level IV Trauma Center.

Disaster Medical Response

The San Benito County Office of Emergency Services has developed an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that contains a Medical/Health Annex. The Annex identifies the medical and health components to address policies and procedures for providing and maintaining services during major disasters. It applies primarily to major area wide disasters, which create sufficient casualties to overwhelm local response capabilities.

Hazardous Materials Response

The San Benito County Environmental Health Department has developed a Hazardous Materials Response Area Plan. This Plan addresses emergency management of toxic substances, but is not specific to the medical management of toxic substance exposure. The EMS Hazardous Materials Medical Management Protocols, developed by the California EMS Authority and adopted by the San Benito County EMS Agency in 1991, identify the medical management of toxic substances. In addition, the EMS Agency attends and works with the Coastal Region II Operational Area Disaster Medical Health Coordinators to promote collaborative disaster planning among the medical community at large, and integrates such planning with current County efforts.

The EMS Agency continuously works with the San Benito County Public Health Department and local fire agencies to develop a comprehensive medical component to the Hazardous Materials Response Area Plan. This medical component includes up-to-date Hazardous Materials Medical Management Protocols. In addition, the County Public Health Department has developed a Public Health Emergency Response Plan that outlines plans for responses to biological, chemical, and nuclear catastrophic disasters. While there are no hazardous materials response teams based in the county, teams often respond from neighboring counties when incidents occur.

State Mutual Aid System

The foundation of the State of California's emergency planning and response is a statewide mutual aid system, which is designed to ensure that adequate resources, facilities, and other support is provided to impacted jurisdictions when their own resources are inadequate to cope with a given situation. The basis for this system is the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement as provided for in the California Emergency Services Act. This agreement was developed in 1950 and has been adopted by all of California's incorporated cities and 58 counties. The plan is also an extension of the State Emergency Plan (SEP) and the California Disaster Medical Response Plan (CDMRP).

Under this agreement the State created a formal structure whereby each jurisdiction retains control of its own personnel and facilities, but gives and receives help wherever it is needed. State government, on the other hand, is obligated to provide available State resources to assist local jurisdictions during emergencies, and to manage State recovery assistance programs. The State is broken into six mutual aid regions and three administrative regions. San Benito County is in Region II, the Coastal Region, which also consists of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Marin, Sonoma, Solano, San Francisco, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties.

The County implements a similar mutual-aid system plan when certain medical situations occur that go above and beyond emergency response plans for smaller incidents. Emergency response planning for such events always includes all existing County personnel, facilities, and resources, in addition to resources from neighboring counties and State organizations.

Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan

The Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan goes into effect when more casualties are produced than can be managed by normal available resources. However, the exact number that meets this description can vary depending on the medical situation. It also assumes that all involved patients originate from the same scene, as opposed to a widespread incident such as an earthquake or a flood. When an MCI incident occurs, the San Benito County Communications Call Center will notify all responding agencies, ambulance dispatch, the Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital, and the California Highway Patrol to broadcast a possible or "activated" MCI. The declaration in the broadcast would describe the type of incident, the location and best access routes, exposure areas, need for specific types and number of resources, types of injuries, and the designation of the incident.

County Emergency Systems

The following summaries highlight some of the County's emergency response system services that assist the County in preparing, responding to, and mitigating emergency and medical incidents. These include the countywide joint dispatch system, ambulance services, emergency shelters, and hospitals.

Computer-Aided (CAD) Dispatch System

The County manages a computer-aided (CAD) joint dispatch system that tracks all calls for service and response times in both the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the county. All EMS dispatch goes through one primary public safety answering point (PSAP) and one secondary PSAP at the County Communications Center. The primary PSAP is responsible to field all 911 emergency calls for service, and

to dispatch the appropriate agency to respond. The secondary PSAP is responsible to receive emergency call information from the primary PSAP and dispatch appropriate response agencies. As such, the San Benito County EMS system is a single-tier, advanced life-support (ALS) dual response system. All 911 emergency calls for service, except calls originating from the Hollister Hills Vehicular Recreation Area, are responded to by a fire-based BLS First Responder/EMT unit, and a private ALS transport ambulance staffed by at least one EMT paramedic and one EMT (Hafer, 2010).

Ambulance Service Providers

The County has contracted with American Medical Response (AMR) for all paramedical services. They are also the only approved private Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider in the county to deliver its services through ground ambulances under the County's Emergency Ambulance Zone Exclusive Operating Area (EOA). They have been the provider for paramedical services since 2004, and have developed a service area that exclusively covers both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. They are located in Hollister at 1860 Hillcrest Road, and are based out of Livermore, California. AMR has an auto-aid agreement with Westmed Ambulance of Monterey County to provide ambulance life-support (ALS) services to the southwestern portion of San Benito County when necessary. AMR also has similar mutual-aid agreements with Santa Cruz AMR.

There are currently (2010) two full-time ambulances serving the majority of the county on a 24-hour basis. There is a third ambulance available on weekends. As a result, the San Benito EMS Agency developed policies for ambulance coverage when inter-facility transfers occur and there are fewer ambulances available for call response. Monterey County has the closest ambulances in King City. There are currently no EMS aircraft based in San Benito County. Therefore, the County has developed agreements for the use of out-of-county emergency medical air services from Monterey, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

San Benito County also relies on CALSTAR, located at 590 Cohansey Avenue in Gilroy, for private emergency air transport; Stanford Life Flight, located at 300 Pastur Drive in Stanford, for private emergency air transport; Air Med Team, located at 801 D Airport Way in Modesto, for private emergency air transport; Medi-Flight, at 1700 Coffee Road in Modesto, for private emergency air transport; REACH, located at 451 Aviation Boulevard in Santa Rosa, for private emergency air transport; and the California Highway Patrol in Paso Robles for public emergency air transport. Emergency transport is also provided through the Antelope Fire Station in Paicines, the Aromas Tri-County Fire District located in Aromas, the Bear Valley Fire Station, also located in Paicines, the Hollister Air Attack Base, the Hollister Fire Department, the San Benito County Fire Department, the San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation Department in Hollister.

EMS Response Times

Each local EMS agency must develop response time standards for all medical responses. These standards take into account the total time from receipt of a call at the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to the arrival of the responding unit at the scene of the call, including all dispatch intervals and driving time. The State EMS Authority designates response time standards for urban, rural, and wilderness areas. For example, response times for basic life support and CPR must not exceed five minutes for urban areas, 15 minutes for suburban and rural areas, and must occur as quickly as possible for calls from wilderness areas. The response times for early defibrillation-capable responders must not

exceed five minutes for urban areas, and must occur as quickly as possible for suburban areas and wilderness areas. Secondary responders that provide advanced life support and EMS transportation must not exceed eight minutes for calls from urban areas, and must not exceed 20 minutes for calls from suburban and rural areas.

San Benito County currently (2010) meets the minimum emergency medical service response times. Under the County contract the AMR contractor must respond to 90 percent of 911 calls that originate in the San Benito County Urban Area within 10 minutes or less, to calls that originate in the San Benito County Rural Area within 30 minutes or less, and within the Wilderness areas within 90 minutes or less. If a call is made from a County Remote Wilderness Area, response must occur within 120 minutes or less. In general, the county's urban area encompasses the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and these cities' spheres of influence; the rural area extends south of these two city boundaries and immediately to their east and west; the wilderness area is further south towards Pinnacles National Monument; and the remote wilderness area covers much of the far southern portion of the county.

Trauma Center

The San Benito EMS Agency developed a trauma plan for San Benito County, which was approved by the State EMS Authority. However, the implementation of the plan has not been fully accomplished by the Agency. For example, there is no trauma center located in the county. Instead, the San Benito EMS Agency uses air ambulances to transport patients to trauma centers in other counties.

Emergency Shelters

There are four licensed shelters in the county, including the New Idria Mines, which provides a facility for up to 45 persons, San Benito High School, which can accommodate up to 225 persons, San Benito County Jail, which can accommodate 90 persons, and Keystone Seed Company, which has facilities for up to 60 persons.

Advanced Life-Support Systems

Before 1990 only outlying areas of the county had advanced life-support (ALS) services, including Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, which had overlapping service boundaries in San Benito County. Once County Service Area (CSA) 36 was established, funds were available to start up a Paramedic Emergency Medical Services Program, including the administration of paramedic and advanced life-support services. San Benito County also has an automatic aid agreement with Monterey County for ambulance service from Kings City to respond to calls for service in the southwestern portion of San Benito County.

All-Terrain Vehicle Response

The Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area is staffed by Park Rangers who are certified EMTs. They use all-terrain vehicles to respond to medical emergencies within the park. The San Benito County Sheriff Department also has an off-road enforcement unit that uses all-terrain vehicles and a mounted search and rescue unit.

Hospitals

San Benito County includes one local acute-care hospital, the Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital located at 911 Sunset Drive in Hollister. The hospital includes an ambulatory surgery center, 70 licensed beds and two private recovery rooms, a 7,600 square foot outpatient surgery center, a nursing facility, and a testing clinic. Hazel Hawkins is a designated paramedic base station hospital and a Level IV trauma center; however, as mentioned above, the county still lacks a designated trauma center. As a result, most trauma cases are transported to centers in neighboring counties. Depending on the location of the patient and criteria used by the County to establish alternative hospital destinations, patients may be transported to Saint Louise Regional Hospital in Gilroy, Watsonville Community Hospital in Watsonville, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in Salinas, or Natividad Medical Center in Salinas. Generally, San Benito County limits its EMS system ground ambulances to no more than 30 minute transport times when traveling beyond the county lines. Table 7-9 lists the hospitals within San Benito County and the facilities serving the surrounding region.

TABLE 7-9 HOSPITALS SERVING SAN BENITO COUNTY			
San Benito County 2010			
Hospital Name	Address	City	Number of Beds
Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital	911 Sunset Drive	Hollister	70
Saint Louise Regional Hospital	9400 No Name Uno	Gilroy	93
Watsonville Community Hospital	75 Neilson Street	Watsonville	106
Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital	450 E. Romie Lane	Salinas	269
Natividad Medical Center	1441 Constitution Boulevard	Salinas	172
Total Beds			710

Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Hospital Annual Utilization Data, 2009 Complete Database, Accessed July 16, 2010.

In San Benito County there was an average of 1.2 beds per thousand population in 2009. In 2009 the California average was 1.9 beds per thousand population (OSHPD, 2009). This is considerably lower than the national average of 3.2 beds per thousand in the United States in 2009 (OECD, 2008). However, as shown in Table 7-9, a much higher number of acute-care beds are available in neighboring counties. As the county’s population increases, there will be greater impacts on the county’s hospital bed availability and medical services.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross services the county and the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista by providing welfare and shelter service in the event of an emergency. The Red Cross has the responsibility to provide relief for the disaster-caused needs of people affected by a natural disaster. Its program is conducted through local chapters, and is financed by its own natural disaster programs. The County’s Emergency Services department arranges and manages the organization of the American Red Cross participation within the county.



**FIGURE 7-9
FIRE AND POLICE
STATIONS IN
SAN BENITO COUNTY**

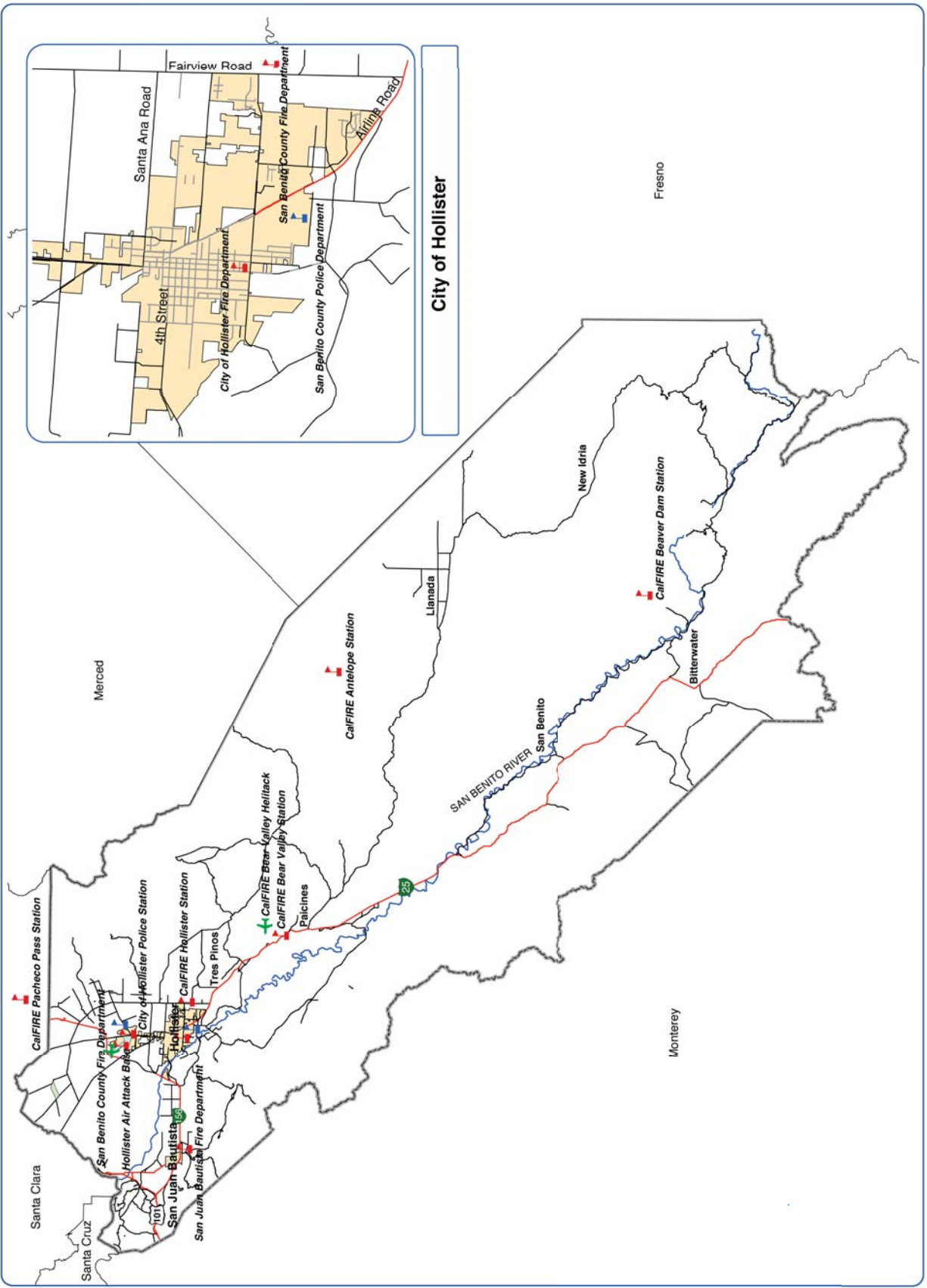
Legend

- Rivers
- San Juan Bautista City Limits
- Hollister City Limits
- County Limits
- Roadways
 - State Highways
 - County Roads
- Fire Facilities
 - Fire Stations
 - Air Attack & Helitack Stations
- Law Enforcement Facilities
 - Police Stations



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

Source: San Benito County Planning and Public Works Department
California Department of Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), 2010



SECTION 7.8 SCHOOLS

Introduction

This section describes the existing (2010) general characteristics of school facilities in San Benito County.

Key Terms

Mello-Roos Bonds (Also known as Special Local Bonds). Schools Districts may form special districts to sell bonds for school construction projects. The bonds, which require approval of two-thirds of the voters, are repaid by property owners located within the special district.

Regulatory Setting

State of California Proposition 1A/Senate Bill 50

Proposition 1A/Senate Bill (SB) 50 (Chapter 407, Statutes of 1998) was a school construction measure that was approved by the voters on the November 3, 1998, ballot. It authorized the expenditure of State general obligation bonds totaling \$9.2 billion, primarily for the modernization and rehabilitation of older school facilities and the construction of new school facilities related to new growth. Of the \$9.2 billion, \$2.5 billion was targeted for higher education facilities and the remaining \$6.7 billion was targeted for K-12 facilities throughout the state.

Of the \$6.7 billion for K-12 schools, \$2.9 billion was for new construction, \$2.1 billion was for modernization of older schools, \$1.0 billion was for districts in hardship situations, and \$700 million was for class size reduction. The new construction money is available through a 50/50 State/local match program. The modernization money is available through an 80/20 State/local match program. There are a number of other program reforms that are not summarized here.

Proposition 1A/SB 50 also implemented significant fee reform by amending the laws governing developer fees and school mitigation in a number of ways:

- It established the base (statutory) amount (indexed for inflation) of allowable developer fees at \$1.93 per square foot for residential construction and \$0.31 per square foot for commercial construction.
- It prohibited school districts, cities, and counties from imposing school impact mitigation fees or other requirements in excess of or in addition to those provided in the statute.
- It also suspended, for a period of at least eight years, a series of court decisions allowing cities and counties to deny or condition development approvals on grounds of inadequate school facilities when acting on certain types of entitlements.

The School Facilities Law of 1986 limited the amount of any fee or other requirement imposed on a development project for the mitigation of impacts on school facilities. Although the law appeared to prohibit denial of a project on the basis of inadequacy of school facilities, three subsequent court decisions held that this prohibition applied only to administrative land use approvals (such as tentative

maps, use permits, and building permits), not to legislative land use approvals (such as general plan amendments and rezoning). These court decisions became known as the Mira-Hart-Murietta trilogy.

In reliance on these decisions, many cities and counties required payment of school fees in excess of the statutory limits as a condition to granting approval of general plan amendments, specific plans, rezoning, and other legislative approvals.

SB 50 overturned the Mira-Hart-Murietta cases by expressly prohibiting local agencies from using the inadequacy of school facilities as a basis for denying or conditioning approvals of any “legislative or adjudicative act . . . involving . . . the planning, use, or development of real property” (Government Code 65996(b)). In other words, the regulations explicitly prohibit local agencies from imposing school impact fees in excess of those provided by the statute in connection with approval of a project. Additionally, a local agency cannot require participation in a Mello-Roos for school facilities; however, the statutory fee is reduced by the amount of any voluntary participation in a Mello-Roos.

Proposition 1A/SB 50 has resulted in full State pre-emption of school mitigation. Satisfaction of the statutory requirements by a developer is deemed to be “full and complete mitigation” in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The law does identify certain circumstances under which the statutory fee can be exceeded. These include preparation and adoption of a “needs analysis,” eligibility for State funding, and satisfaction of two of four requirements identified in the law, including year-round enrollment, general obligation bond measure on the ballot over the last four years that received 50 percent plus one of the votes cast, 20 percent of the classes in portable classrooms, or specified outstanding debt.

Assuming a district can meet the test for exceeding the statutory fee, the law establishes ultimate fee caps of 50 percent of costs where the State makes a 50 percent match, or 100 percent of costs where the State match is unavailable. All fees are levied at the time the building permit is issued. District certification of payment of the applicable fee is required before the City or County can issue the building permit.

Department of Education Standards

The California Department of Education has published the Guide to School Site Analysis and Development in order to establish a valid technique for determining acreage for new school development. Rather than assigning a strict student/acreage ratio, this guide provides flexible formulas that permit each district to tailor its answers as necessary to accommodate its individual conditions. The Department of Education then recommends that a site utilization study be prepared for the site based on these formulas.

Major Findings

- San Benito County has 11 school districts that include 17 elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. The San Benito County Office of Education also operates a Juvenile Hall/Community School and the San Benito County Opportunity School.

- In 2008-2009 the school districts enrolled 11,383 students, who were taught by 523 full-time equivalent teachers, which translate into a pupil-teacher ratio of 22 students for every one teacher. Class size ranged from 9 to 27 pupils, with an overall average of 25 pupils.

Existing Conditions

The San Benito County Office of Education, located in Hollister, coordinates educational services for the residents of the county. The Office of Education acts as an intermediary agency between the California Department of Education and all elementary and secondary school districts in San Benito County. The County Superintendent of Schools is an elected official who administers the operation of the County Office of Education.

The County Board of Education is the policy-making body of the San Benito County Office of Education. The Board includes five persons elected from five supervisorial districts representing all geographical areas of the county. Board responsibilities include budget approval, policy development, expulsion and inter-district appeals, credential registration, instructional material adoption, and program acceptance for State and Federal projects.

The County Committee on School District Organization is an 11-member committee comprised of two members from each of the five County supervisorial districts, and one member serving at-large. Members are elected by school district board representatives from each of the 11 districts in the county. The County Committee considers all proposals to reorganize a school district. Reorganization proposals may include any one of the following:

- Transfer of territory between/among school districts
- School district unification or de-unification
- Dissolution of a school district
- Annexation of all or part of one district to another district
- Establishment/abolishment of trustee areas and increase/decrease in the number of trustees
- Formation of new districts of all types from territory of existing districts

Following presentation of the proposal at a public hearing, the Committee has the authority to make a binding decision or recommendation on the proposed reorganization. All appeals are heard by the State Board of Education.

Districts and Schools

Pre-kindergarten (K) through Grade 12 educational services are offered through nine elementary school districts, one high school district, and one unified district for a total of 11 districts in the county. The San Benito County Office of Education also provides alternative education at Santa Ana Opportunity School, San Andreas Continuation High School, and Pinnacles Community/Court School. The 11 school districts serving the residents of San Benito are shown in Figure 7-8.

The 11 school districts include 17 elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools. The San Benito County Office of Education operates a Juvenile Hall/Community School and the San Benito County Opportunity School. In 2008-2009 the county enrolled 11,383 students. They were taught by 523

full-time equivalent teachers, providing a pupil-teacher ratio of 22 students for every one teacher. The average class size ranged from 9 to 27 pupils, with an overall average of 25.7. (CA Dept. of Education)

Table 7-10 lists the schools in each district, their addresses, the grade levels they serve, and the number of students enrolled at each facility.

TABLE 7-10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS SAN BENITO COUNTY 2010			
School District	School	Grades	Enrollment
Aromas/San Juan Unified	Aromas School 365 Vega Street, Aromas	K-8	440
	San Juan School 100 Nyland Drive, San Juan Bautista	K-8	420
	Anzar High School 2000 San Juan Hwy, San Juan Bautista	9-12	395
Bitterwater-Tully Union Elementary	Bitterwater-Tully Elementary 45980 Airline Hwy, State Hwy 25, King City	K-8	29
Cienega Union Elementary	Cienega Elementary 11936 Cienega Road, Hollister	K-8	27
Hollister	Calaveras Elementary 1151 Buena Vista Rd, Ste 100, Hollister	K-7	564
	Cerra Vista Elementary 2151 Cerra Vista Drive, Hollister	K-5	671
	Gabilan Hills Elementary 901 Santa Ana Road, Hollister	K-8	654
	Ladd Lane Elementary 161 Ladd Lane, Hollister	K-5	681
	R. O. Hardin Elementary 881 Line Street, Hollister	K-5	626
	Sunnyslope Elementary 1475 Memorial Drive, Hollister	K-5	688
	Maze Middle 900 Meridian Street, Hollister	6-8	794
	Rancho San Justo Middle 1201 Rancho Drive, Hollister	6-8	942
	Dual Language Academy 873 Santa Ana Road, #200, Hollister	K-8	120
Jefferson Elementary	Jefferson Elementary 221 Old Hernandez Road, Paicines	K-8	22
North County Joint Union Elementary	Spring Grove Elementary 500 Spring Grove Road, Hollister	K-8	674
Panoche Elementary	Panoche Elementary 31441 Panoche Road, Paicines	K-8	10

TABLE 7-10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS SAN BENITO COUNTY 2010			
School District	School	Grades	Enrollment
San Benito High	San Benito High 1220 Monterey Street, Hollister	9-12	2920
	San Andreas Continuation High 191 Alvarado Street, Hollister	9-12	178
Southside Elementary	Southside Elementary 4991 Southside Road, Hollister	K-8	249
Tres Pinos Union Elementary	Tres Pinos Elementary 5635 Airline Highway, Tres Pinos	K-8	136
Willow Grove Union Elementary	Willow Grove Elementary 11655 Airline Highway, Paicines	K-8	24

Source: California Department of Education, www.cde.ca.gov.

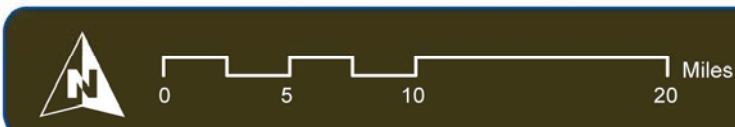
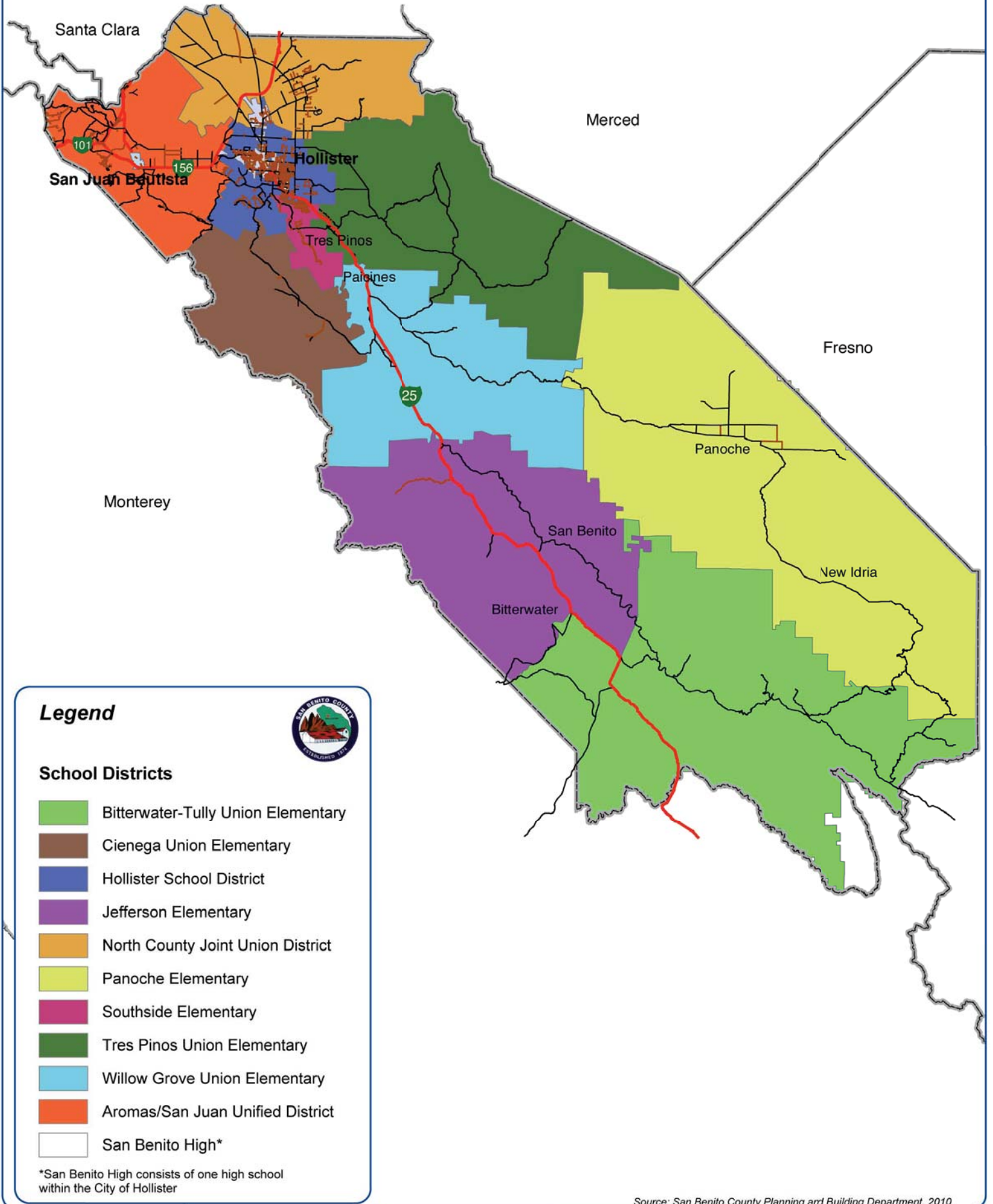


Figure 7-8
School Districts
within San Benito County

SECTION 7.9 OTHER COUNTY SERVICES

Introduction

This section describes the general characteristics of public services provided by San Benito County that are not covered in previous sections. This includes administrative services, general services, public protection services, health and sanitation services, public assistance services, and educational services.

Key Terms

There are no key terms for this section.

Regulatory Setting

State

Section 6300 to 6350, Chapter 5, California Business and Professions Code. The statutes provide for a free county law library, a separate governmental entity, in each of the 58 counties of the state.

Section 101000 et seq., California Health and Safety Code. These codes delineate the powers and responsibilities of the County Health Officer and his/her agents.

Sections 2400 through 24009, Government Code. Establish the Office of Auditors at the County level.

Section 25200, Government Code. Outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors.

Section 26500, Government Code. Establishes the role and duties of the District Attorney's Office.

Sections 26900 through 26923, Government Code. Define the duties of the Auditor's Office.

Section 27700, Government Code. Provides the statutory authority for the Public Defender's Office.

Section 51200-51297.4 Government Code. The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. The assessed value of the land is reduced due to the development restriction, so that landowners enjoy the benefit of lower property taxes.

Section 5849, Part 3.6 Division 5 Welfare and Institutions Code - Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Provides for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to provide increased funding, personnel, and other resources to support County mental health programs and monitor progress toward statewide goals for children, transition age youth, adults, older adults, and families. The Act addresses a broad continuum of prevention, early intervention and service needs, and the necessary infrastructure, technology and training elements that will effectively support this system.

Assembly Bill 233. Effective January 1, 1998, this legislation shifted the responsibility for the trial courts from the counties to the State of California.

Senate Bill 2140. This legislation (the Trial Court Personnel Legislation) transferred employees in the courts from County employees to State of California court employees.

California Tax and Revenue Code. Governs the duties of the Assessor and Tax Collector Offices.

Mental Health Services Act

In November 2004 the voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The Goals of the MHSA are to:

- Reduce long-term adverse impact on individuals, families, and State and local budgets due to untreated mental illness.
- Expand innovative service programs for children, adults, and seniors.
- Reduce stigma associated with being diagnosed with a mental illness.

This Act imposes a 1 percent income tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million. Statewide the Act was projected to generate an estimated \$760 million in revenue during fiscal year 2005-06, \$800 million in 2006-07, and most likely increasing amounts annually thereafter. Much of the funding is provided to county mental health programs to fund programs consistent with their local plans.

Among the largest of the MHSA's proposed six components for creating a better program of mental health delivery system in California is called "Community Services and Supports (CSS)." To access MHSA funding, San Benito County and other mental health programs in California were requested to develop and submit a complete CSS Program and Expenditure Plan describing programs and services to be developed during the first three years of implementation.

The San Benito County CSS Program and Expenditure Plan was approved by the California State Department of Mental Health on June 14, 2006. After the initial three-year period, annual updates have been provided by the County.

Existing Conditions

County Administrative Services

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) is the governing body for San Benito County. The County Administrative Officer (CAO) is appointed by the BOS and is responsible exclusively to the BOS for the general administration of San Benito County. The CAO attends all meetings of the Board and acts as its representative in negotiations with labor unions, other government organizations, businesses, and property owners.

The CAO also oversees the work of all County departments, and coordinates the preparation of the County's proposed annual budget. Throughout the year the CAO monitors revenues and expenditures and exercises discretion over budget administration. The County Administrative Officer is the most senior appointed officer in the county organizational structure. The CAO is also responsible for:

- Clerk of the Board
- Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- Administration of contracts for fire protection with the California Department of Forestry
- Administration of contracts for veterans' services with Monterey County
- Direction of Emergency Services during a major natural or man-made disaster or emergency

Agricultural Commissioner

The County Agricultural Commissioner is charged with the protection and promotion of California's agriculture, protection of the environment, and protection of the public's health and safety. The Agricultural Commissioner also serves as the County Sealer of Weights and Measures, which involves the protection of consumers and industry through the regulation of all weighing and measuring devices used in commercial transactions. The Agricultural Commissioner administers the following programs:

- Pest Exclusion
- Pest Management and Eradication
- Inspection Programs
- Weighing and Measuring Devices
- Weighmaster and Petroleum Inspections
- USDA Wildlife Services - Animal Damage Control
- Pest Detection
- Pesticide Use Enforcement
- Crop Statistics
- Quantity Control
- Mosquito Abatement

County Assessor

The Assessor's Office locates all taxable property in San Benito County, identifies ownership, and prepares an assessment roll with established values for all property subject to property taxation. The Assessor also applies all legal exemptions and exclusions, and forwards assessments to the Auditor-Controller's Agency. These activities are performed in accordance with the California Constitution and the State Revenue and Taxation Code.

In July 2000 the Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of the "California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act)," a program designed to provide an incentive for farmers and ranchers to remain in agriculture. The Act authorizes a city or county, by contract with the landowner, to limit the use of land to agricultural use or as an agricultural preserve in exchange for reduced property taxes. In 2007 584,000 acres of San Benito's total 893,440 acres were under the Land Conservation Act.

County Clerk, Auditor and Recorder, Registrar of Voters

The Office of Auditor was created by the State Legislature under Article II of the State Constitution. The Auditor was incorporated with the Recorder in 1875, and recombined in 1955. The Office of County Recorder was created by the State of California Constitution, Article II, Paragraph 5. In January 1995 the Auditor assumed the functions of County Clerk, Register of Voters, and Elections.

The Auditor receives assessments from the Assessor's Office and assures that the correct tax rate and any special assessments are applied to each property's net taxable value. The Auditor calculates the tax amount and forwards the property tax information to the Treasurer-Tax Collector for billing. Proposition 13 limits the ad valorem property tax rate to 1 percent of the property's net taxable value. Any percentage over 1 percent is allocated to make annual payment on voter-approved general obligation bonds and other bonded indebtedness.

The property tax revenue collected on the basic 1 percent tax rate is divided among the public taxing agencies in San Benito County. It supports local schools, cities, redevelopment agencies, special districts, and San Benito County.

County Clerk

The San Benito County Clerk issues marriage licenses, performs civil marriage ceremonies, manages fictitious business name filings and indexing, issues and renews passports, and qualifies and registers notaries. The Clerk is also responsible for statutory issuance of various oaths and filings.

Recorder

The Recorder's Office records, indexes, and files documents such as property transfer records, financial statements, liens, deeds, certificates of discharge, maps (parcel, subdivision, highway, assessments, and surveys), notices, and marriage, birth, and death certificates. In addition, the office is responsible for examining all documents for compliance with laws for recording and providing the public with general information and certified copies of records. Filing fees, micrographic fees, and documentary transfer taxes are also collected by the office.

All functions of the office are conducted under provisions of the State Constitution, and State and County Codes. The recording operation in San Benito County serves the public and other County departments such as the Assessor, Health Services, Public Social Services, and Regional Planning. Documents on file are vital to the real estate, legal, and banking communities, as well as the general economy of the county.

Registrar of Voters

The County Clerk, Auditor and Recorder Offices serve as Registrar of Voters and Elections. The office is responsible for maintaining voter registration rolls and indexes, as well as conducting regular, special, and statewide elections as prescribed by law.

Treasurer/Tax Collector and Public Administrator

In San Benito County, the Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Public Administrator have been consolidated into a single elective position with a four-year term. The Office of the Treasurer is responsible for cash management, investing, and the safekeeping of all County funds. This office is also the depository for all County, School District, and special district funds. The Office of the Tax Collector is responsible for the billing and collecting of real estate and personal property taxes countywide, including taxes on mobile homes, lot line adjustments, and tax clearances.

The Public Administrator takes charge of the property of persons who have died without an appointed executor or estate administrator, or whose heirs are nonresidents of the State of California or the United States. The Public Administrator also handles indigent burials for the County.

County General Services

Housing and Economic Development

The Housing and Economic Development Department is responsible for assisting with the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the community. This department administers the following County housing programs:

- **The Inclusionary Housing Program (for first-time homebuyers).** The San Benito County Housing and Economic Development Division offers an Inclusionary Housing First-Time Homebuyer (FTHB) Program, which requires that all existing for sale Inclusionary housing program units be resold at an affordable price to low or moderate-income households. The existing inclusionary housing program units are currently located within two separate subdivisions, Riverview Estates and Oak Creek.
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) First-Time Homebuyer (FTHB) Program.** The San Benito County Housing and Economic Development Division is offering first-time homebuyer down payment assistance in the form of a 30-year term, deferred payment, 2 percent simple interest, second loan for first-time homebuyers. The program is offered to eligible very low- and low-income households, which include individuals who currently live or work in San Benito County.

Human Resources and Risk Management

The San Benito County Human Resources Division partners with managers and employees to plan, develop, evaluate, and provide strategies that support a fair and equitable Human Resources system that values employees and maximizes individual and organization performance. The County's workforce is key in providing services to the people who live, work, and visit in San Benito County. The Human Resources Division supports managers, supervisors, and employees to effectively deliver public services. It does this by working with line managers, employee groups, unions, and individuals. The department has a client focus, and is oriented to providing assistance, guidance, and advice to managers and employees in their decision-making. The Human Resources Division provides assistance to the organization and its managers and employees in the following areas:

- Recruitment, Testing, and Selection Activities
- New Employee Orientation
- COBRA
- Organizational Development
- Employee Recognition Activities
- Workers Compensation, Property and General Liability Insurance Administration
- Risk Management, Workplace Safety, and Loss Prevention Programs
- Development and administration of personnel rules, policies, and procedures

- Classification and Compensation of Positions
- Employee Benefits Administration
- Employee Relations Activities
- Skill-Based Training for Employees
- Labor Relations Activities
- Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance
- Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance

Planning and Building

The Planning and Building Department assists the residents, landowners, farmers, and business owners in San Benito County in land use planning, zoning, land division, building permits, and building inspections. The department goals are to ensure the orderly and balanced growth and development of San Benito County while maintaining its quality of life and natural environment.

The Planning Department partners with citizens and others in the implementation, maintenance, and monitoring of the adopted General Plan that guides public and private decisions regarding new development. The department also serves as staff to the San Benito County Planning Commission, and assists the Commission and the San Benito County Board of Supervisors in long-range planning for San Benito County by maintaining the General Plan and coordinating planning efforts with other local, State, and Federal agencies that affect San Benito County and its residents. The department administers the County's Zoning, Subdivision, Environmental Review, Nuisance Abatement, and Surface Mining Reclamation Ordinances.

The Building Division reviews plans and issues building permits for compliance with the adopted Building Code, Fire Code, National Electric Code, Plumbing Code, and various other building codes. Code Enforcement reviews all property for property maintenance, compliance with the sign ordinance, adopted conditions of approval, local, State and Federal law, and zoning, building and engineering codes.

Public Works

The Public Works Department provides maintenance and construction services on the county's extensive road and bridge infrastructure, maintenance of County buildings and grounds, management of three County parks, and mapping and review of development plans. The County maintains 416 miles of roadway from the Santa Clara County line in the north to the Monterey County line in the south, and from Fresno and Merced Counties on the eastern border to the Monterey County line on the west. The department also manages reservations at several local parks, and handles the County's Encroachment and Transportation Permits. The County's Subdivision Ordinance (jointly with the Planning and Building Department) and Grading Ordinance are administered through the Public Works Department.

Integrated Waste Management

The Integrated Waste Management Department is responsible for oversight of landfill operations and the County refuse/recycling contract. This department also serves as lead agency for the San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency, which consists of the unincorporated county and the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. The department is also responsible for compliance with

State of California mandated waste diversion goals of 50 percent as required by AB 939. The Integrated Waste Management Department also implements the countywide Household Hazardous Waste program and Small Quantity Generator program for qualifying business hazardous waste.

The San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with Federal and State mandated regulations that ensure public health and safety related to refuse and household hazardous waste. The department's activities consist of:

- Landfill operations oversight and regulatory compliance
- Refuse and recycling contract oversight
- Household Hazardous Waste program
- Small Quantity Generator program
- Public education on waste diversion and household hazardous waste

County Public Protection Services

County services and departments designated as public protection services include Child Support, Courts, District Attorney's Office, Marshall, and Probation. For a discussion of law enforcement in San Benito County, refer to Section 7.6, Law Enforcement, of this Background Report. Information regarding fire protection is included in Section 7.7, Fire Protection. Emergency medical services provided in the county are described in Section 7.8, Emergency Medical Services.

Child Support

San Benito County's child support services are administered in cooperation with Santa Cruz County through the Santa Cruz/San Benito County Regional Department of Child Support Services. The department's activities include:

- Establishing court orders for paternity, child support, and medical coverage
- Locating the non-custodial parent and his/her assets to enforce court orders
- Maintaining accounts of payments paid and past due
- Modifying court orders when appropriate
- Enforcing court orders for child, family, and medical support; and spousal support in conjunction with child support
- Facilitating the electronic transmission of child support withholding payments from employers to the California State Disbursement Unit

Courts

In 1998 the State passed AB 233 which required a comprehensive restructuring of the trial courts and their funding. The law shifted responsibility for the courts from the County to the State effective January 1, 1998. Assembly Bill 233 also established a Task Force on Trial Court Employees and Court Facilities. As a result, on January 1, 2001, employees in the courts were transferred from County employees to court employees. In 2002 the State finalized trial court funding reform and provided for the transferring of the responsibilities of the trial court facilities to the State.

The Superior Court of San Benito County is located in Hollister. The Court handles cases related to small claims, civil matters, and probate filings. The County also offers Family Court Services Mediator and Facilitator services in Hollister.

District Attorney

The Office of District Attorney was established by the Constitution of the State of California, Government Code Section 26500, to provide prosecution and enforcement services in adult and juvenile criminal matters. The District Attorney's Office works with every component of the criminal justice system and the community to protect the innocent, convict and appropriately punish the guilty, and to protect the rights of victims and witnesses.

Probation

The Probation Department serves to protect the community, provide services to the Court and other justice agencies, and assist clients to change criminal behavior. Adult services include:

- Adult Supervision
- Drug Intensive Supervision
- Restitution for Crime Victims
- Deferred Entry of Judgment
- Community Service Program
- Family Preservation Program
- Intensive Supervision
- Treatment Referrals
- Court Report Services
- Domestic Violence Program
- Electronic Monitoring Program

Juvenile Services include:

- Juvenile Supervision
- Juvenile Placement Services
- Restitution for Crime Victims
- Juvenile Traffic Court
- Home Supervision
- Intensive Supervision
- Treatment Referrals
- Court Report Services
- Court School Truancy Programs
- Electronic Monitoring Program

The Probation Department provides these legally-mandated and court-ordered services in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Penal Code, Welfare and Institutions Code, Family Code, Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Probate Code, and Government Code.

County Health and Sanitation Services

Health and Human Services

Established in 1940, the Public Health Division is the official governmental health agency for San Benito County. This division implements all local, State, and Federal goals, and mandates for health improvements. It also provides services and enforces regulations set forth in the California Health and Safety Code, and fulfills the Core Public Health Functions through the performance of the Essential Public Health Services as part of the Federal Public Health Functions Project. The department provides the following services:

- Child Health Disability Program
- Communicable Diseases
- Medical Marijuana
- Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health
- Tobacco Education
- Vital Records

Environmental health services include the continued assessment, preservation, and improvement of environmental conditions and circumstances that affect the health and safety of the San Benito community. The Environmental Health Department manages permitting in the following areas:

- Animal bites and vectors
- Ground water protection
- Sewage disposal
- Tattoo program
- Consumer protection
- Pools and spas
- Syringe disposal home use

The County's Hazardous Materials Unit Programs include the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Area Plan, established pursuant to Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code, Titles 19 and 26 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR 1910, and the San Benito County Code Section 7B. The objectives of the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Area Plan are to describe procedures for the management of a threatened release or an actual release of hazardous materials; to establish an emergency organization of several jurisdictions; and to provide coordination in planning for all phases of a hazardous materials incident.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

The San Benito County Behavioral Health Department provides specialty mental health services to residents of San Benito County, including those eligible for Medi-Cal. Services to aid these individuals are provided by a multidisciplinary team, including psychiatrists, psychologists, Marriage and Family Therapists, Clinical Social Workers, Registered Nurses, Case Managers, and Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialists. The department provides the following services:

- Crisis Intervention
- Psychological Assessment
- Acute Hospitalization
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Medication Evaluation
- Mental Health Services

- Case Management
- School Services
- Information and Referral

The department also offers assistance to residents with substance abuse issues. The department provides education, prevention, evaluation, and outpatient intervention programs, and makes referrals to residential treatment of substance as appropriate. The Friday Night Life and Club Live School programs offer assistance to the youth of the county. The department also has a contract affiliation with Lifestyles Management, and offers a program that meets certain court-ordered substance abuse education and prevention courses.

The Network of Care for Behavioral Health is a website resource available through the department providing information about behavioral health services, laws, and related news, as well as communication tools and other features. A County toll-free 24-hour Crisis Service line is available and linked to the website, as well as contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and other local and State resources.

Office of Emergency Services

Information regarding Emergency Services is provided in Section 7.8, Emergency Medical Services, of this document.

County Public Assistance Services

San Benito County provides Veterans Services to the county's veterans who served their country in the Armed Forces, as well as their families and survivors.

Veterans Services

San Benito County contracts with Monterey County for Veterans Services. The Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) provides advocacy, assistance, and services designed to enhance the lives of the county's veterans, their families, and their survivors. They assist in obtaining entitlements and services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), U.S. Department of Defense, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), and local programs for eligible veterans and their families. Services available include:

- Benefits Claims Assistance: Claims advocacy for veterans, their survivors or dependents
- Telephonic Claims Assistance: Veterans assistance by telephone
- Special Outreach Services: Services to those severely disabled, socially disadvantaged, and senior citizen veterans whose needs would otherwise go unmet
- County Veterans' Van Program: Free van transportation to the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto and the San Jose VA Outpatient Clinic
- Special Liaison Service: Transfers from a local health care facility to a VA Hospital
- Notary Public services available at no cost for veterans and their immediate family members

- Survivors Assistance: Claims assistance for all veterans' survivors to include casualty reporting, SBP, DIC, burial, and VA death insurance claims

County Education Services

County services designated as education services include the County's Libraries and Cooperative Extension. For a discussion of public education in San Benito County, refer to Section 7.9, *Schools*, of this document.

Library

The San Benito County Free Library was founded by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors in 1917. Originally housed in the old County Courthouse, it was moved in 1927 to a section of the Veteran's Memorial Building on San Benito Street. In August 1959 the County decided to consolidate the County library with the Hollister Public Library, and in September 1960 the two libraries were moved into a newly completed library building in Hollister.

The Friends of the San Benito County Free Library is a member of the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, and the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners. Organized in February 1980 by County Librarian Jo Barrios Wahdan, their mission is to serve as a development resource and to advocate for the library. With the formation of this group came jointly sponsored library programming for a variety of age levels.

Services at the library are available on weekdays. The library is a member of the Monterey Bay Cooperative Library System (MOBAC), a multi-type library consortium of 19 full members (public, academic and special) and several networking members in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. MOBAC began in 1969 as a public library cooperative, and by 1985 had grown to include academic and special libraries as equal members in the organization. It is now one of 15 cooperative library systems in California and is funded in part by the State through the California Library Services Act, and by fees collected from member libraries.

The San Benito County Library Bookmobile operates three days each week, with stops scheduled at various schools, convalescent and nursing facilities, apartment facilities, the Tres Pinos Post Office, and the Visitors Center at Pinnacles National Monument.

The San Benito County Free Library also offers an Adult Literacy Program. The program receives major funding from the California Library Literary Services, a program of the California State Library, and is supported by a volunteer tutor staff.

The Kids' Place Program provides services geared toward children, and the Teen Space Program is designed for teenagers. These programs, available through the library's website, offer Homework Help, online activities and games, and information on local events geared to the appropriate age group. Other online resources available through the library include Career and Job Resources, and access to a wide variety of Reference Tools, including World Book Encyclopedia.

UC Extension, CES, 4H Program and Farm Advisors

The University of California Extension offers research-based information to rural areas. The Cooperative Extension works to provide local educational programs in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, youth development, family and consumer sciences, and community resource development. The system was established at the Federal level by the Smith Lever Act of 1914 and at the State and county levels by acts of the California Legislature in 1915.

The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) is a statewide network of campus-based Agricultural Experiment Station researchers and Cooperative Extension specialists located on the Berkeley, Davis, and Riverside campuses. They work collaboratively with county-based Cooperative Extension advisors located in 50 county offices throughout the state.

The San Benito County Division is dedicated to creating, developing, and delivering knowledge and practical information in agricultural, natural, and human resources through programs and services on:

- Livestock and Range Management
- 4H Youth Development
- Pomology (research-based program for tree fruit and nut producers)
- Natural Resources