

APPENDIX F LOCAL GENERAL PLAN POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

This appendix provides excerpts from the general plans for the following counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, and Tuolumne.

F.1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

San Joaquin County contains the lower reaches of the San Joaquin River and the lower reach of the Stanislaus River at its confluence with the San Joaquin River near Vernalis, although the Vernalis community is located in adjacent Stanislaus County.

There is no specific land use designation for riparian areas. Land use categories that extend to the edge of the rivers include: public/institutional, resource conservation, industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural/urban reserve, and general agriculture.

San Joaquin County General Plan (1992)

Listed below are some of the objectives and policies contained in the Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife Habitat Element that are relevant to the proposed action.

Objective 1. To protect and improve the County's vegetation, fish, and wildlife resources.

Objective 2. To provide undeveloped open space for nature study, protection of endangered species, and preservation of wildlife habitat.

The County will strive to achieve these objectives using the following policies.

Policy 5 No net loss of riparian or wetland habitat or values shall be caused by development.

Policy 11 Fisheries shall be protected by:

- (A) reducing the level of pesticides and fertilizers and other harmful substances in agricultural and urban runoff;
- (B) designing and timing waterway projects to protect fish populations; and
- (C) operating water projects to provide adequate flows for spawning of anadromous fish.

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Policy 12 The County shall support restoration plans for anadromous fisheries and shall work with the California Department of Fish and Game and other agencies or organizations in developing such plans.

Policy 13 The County shall encourage the restoration and enhancement of once-productive degraded ecosystems, such as historic salmon runs on the Mokelumne and Calaveras Rivers.

Listed below are the most relevant objectives and policies in the Water Resources and Quality Element.

Objective 1. To ensure adequate quantity and quality of water resources for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

Objective 5. To recognize the surface waters of San Joaquin County as resources of State and national significance for which environmental and scenic values must be protected.

Policy 10 The County shall support properly timed, sufficient flows in the rivers to maintain spawning grounds, fish migration, and resident fish populations.

Policy 12 No water should be exported to other areas of the State unless the current and future needs of San Joaquin County can be met.

Policy 13 Water diversion projects shall protect the fishery, wildlife habitat, and recreation; shall ensure adequate water for County agricultural, municipal and industrial uses; and shall guarantee adequate delta outflows for salinity repulsion.

F.2 STANISLAUS COUNTY

While the New Melones Lake and Don Pedro Reservoir are actually located in Tuolumne County, part of the Stanislaus River and most of the Tuolumne River are located in Stanislaus County. Both of these tributaries join the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County.

There is no specific land use designation for riparian areas. Land use categories that extend to the edge of the rivers include: planned development, urban transition, low density residential, historical, estate, residential, and agriculture. City/County boundaries extend into the rivers.

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Stanislaus County General Plan (1994)

Plan goals relevant to the proposed action are:

Goal 2. Conserve water resources and protect water quality in the County.

Policy 5 Protect groundwater aquifers and recharge areas, particularly those critical for the replenishment of reservoirs and aquifers.

Goal 3. Provide for the long-term conservation and use of agricultural lands.

Goal 10. Protect fish and wildlife species in the County.

Policy 29 Adequate water flows should be maintained in the County's rivers to allow salmon migration.

The general plan also contains an Agricultural Element.

Goal 3. Protect the natural resources that sustain agriculture in Stanislaus County.

Policy 3.6 The County shall encourage the conservation of water for both agricultural and urban uses.

F.3 MERCED COUNTY

While Lake McClure is in Mariposa County, most of the Merced River is located in Merced County, where it joins the San Joaquin River. The Kesterson and San Luis National Wildlife Refuges are located here, as is San Luis Reservoir.

Merced County provided the Open Space/Conservation and Agriculture Elements of their general plan and indicated in their comment letter that these elements will not change in the current plan revision.

Merced County Year 2000 General Plan (1990)

Plan objectives and policies from the Open Space/Conservation Element that are most relevant to the proposed action are:

Objective 1.A Rare and endangered species are protected from urban development and are recognized in rural areas.

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- Policy 9 Significant aquatic and waterfowl habitats should be protected against excessive water withdrawals which would endanger or interrupt normal migratory patterns.

Objective 2.B Surface and groundwater resources are protected from contamination, evaporation and inefficient use.

- Policy 6 Methods to prevent the depletion of groundwater resources and promote the conservation and reuse of water should be encouraged.
- Policy 7 The rehabilitation of irrigation systems and other waterworks to reduce the lost water, and improve the efficient use and availability of water should be promoted.

Plan objectives and policies from the Agriculture Element that are most relevant to the proposed action are:

Objective 4.A Measures to protect and improve water quality are supported.

- Policy 1 The County favors efforts to ensure adequate surface water supplies to deficient areas.
- Policy 2 The County will encourage farmers to use irrigation methods which conserve water.
- Policy 3 The County will work with other responsible agencies to ensure that sources of water contamination (including boron, salt, selenium and other trace element concentrations) do not enter agricultural or domestic water supplies, and will be reduced where water quality is already affected.

Merced County provided the Open Space/Conservation and Agriculture Elements of their general plan and indicated in their comment letter that these elements will not change in the current plan revision.

F.4 FRESNO COUNTY

The San Joaquin River flows through Fresno County, which also contains the Mendota Wildlife Refuge.

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There is no specific land use designation for riparian areas. Land use categories that extend to the edge of the rivers include: regional parkland, open space, medium and medium high density residential, multi-use open space, and recreational open space.

Fresno County General Plan (1976)

Plan objectives contained in the River Influence Area Element that are relevant to the proposed action are:

Objective 2.01 Preserve and enhance the value of the river environment as a multiple use, open space resource.

Objective 2.02 Maintain the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the area.

Objective 2.03 Protect the quality and quantity of the surface water and groundwater resources.

Objective 2.05 Conserve and enhance the natural wildlife habitat.

Plan objectives contained in the Open Space Element that are relevant to the proposed action are:

Objective 2.03 Preserve and enhance areas of significant natural resources, the retention of which is necessary to maintain the environmental quality and economic potential of the area.

Plan objectives contained in the Natural Vegetation/Wildlife Element that are relevant to the proposed action are:

Objective 2.02 Manage vegetation and wildlife resources in a responsible and productive manner.

Objective 2.03 Protect the habitats of plants and wildlife from unnecessary activities of man.

The County will strive to achieve these objectives using the following policies.

Policy 3.02 Areas that have unusually high value for fish and wildlife propagation should be preserved in a natural state to the maximum possible extent.

Policy 3.03 The County should support State and Federal programs to acquire significant fish and wildlife habitat areas for permanent protection and/or public recreation use.

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- Policy 3.05 Wetlands, riparian habitat, and meadows are recognized as essential habitats for birds and wildlife and should be protected to the maximum extent practicable.
- Policy 3.10 Significant aquatic habitats should be protected against excessive withdrawals which would endanger fish and wildlife or would interrupt normal migratory patterns.

F.5 MADERA COUNTY

Madera County contains the upper reaches of the San Joaquin River, including the Friant Dam and Millerton Lake. The Delta-Mendota Canal meets the San Joaquin River in the southwest region of the county. In the eastern region of the county the Madera Canal runs in a southeasterly direction, meeting the San Joaquin River just below Millerton Lake.

There is no specific land use designation for riparian areas. Land use categories that extend to the edge of the rivers include: agricultural exclusive, agriculture, open space, new growth area, low density residential, and light industrial/business park.

Madera County General Plan (1995)

Listed below are the goals and policies from the Land Use Element that are relevant to the proposed action.

Goal 1.A. To promote the wise, efficient, and environmentally-sensitive use of Madera County land to meet the present and future needs of Madera County residents and businesses.

The County will strive to achieve this objective using the following policy which addresses natural resources.

Policy 1.A.1. The County shall promote the efficient use of land and natural resources.

Listed below are the relevant goals and policies in the Water Resources Element.

Goal 5.C. To protect and enhance the natural quality of Madera County's streams, creeks, and groundwater.

Policy 5.C.7. The County shall protect groundwater resources from contamination and further overdraft by encouraging water conservation efforts and supporting the use of surface water for urban and agricultural uses wherever feasible.

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Policy 5.C.8. The County shall support the policies of the San Joaquin River Parkway Plan to protect the San Joaquin River as an aquatic habitat and a water source.

Listed below are relevant goals and policies from the Wetland and Riparian Areas Element.

Goal 5.D. To protect wetland communities and related riparian areas throughout Madera County as valuable resources.

Policy 5.D.1. The County shall comply with the wetlands policies of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Coordination with these agencies at all levels of project review shall continue to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures and the concerns of these agencies are adequately addressed.

Policy 5.D.7. The County shall support the management of wetland and riparian plant communities for passive recreation, groundwater recharge, nutrient catchment, and wildlife habitats. Such communities shall be restored, where possible.

Policy 5.D.8. The County shall support the goals and policies of the San Joaquin River Parkway Plan to preserve existing habitat and maintain, enhance, or restore native vegetation to provide essentially continuous riparian and upland habitat for wildlife along the river between Friant Dam and the Highway 145 crossing.

Listed below are the goals and policies adopted by Madera County to preserve fish and wildlife habitat.

Goal 5.E. To protect, restore, and enhance habitats that support fish and wildlife species so as to maintain populations at viable levels.

Policy 5.E.1. The County shall identify and protect critical nesting and foraging areas, important spawning grounds, migratory routes, waterfowl resting areas, oak woodlands, wildlife movement corridors, and other unique wildlife habitats critical to protecting and sustaining wildlife populations.

Policy 5E.5. The County shall support the maintenance of suitable habitats for all indigenous species of wildlife through maintenance of habitat diversity.

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Policy 5.E.7. The County shall support the preservation or reestablishment of fisheries in the rivers and streams within the county, whenever possible.

Listed below are the goals and policies relevant to the proposed action.

Goal 5.H. To preserve and enhance open space lands to maintain the natural resources of the county.

Policy 5.H.1. The County shall support the preservation and enhancement of natural land forms, natural vegetation, and natural resources as open space. To the extent feasible, the County shall permanently protect as open space areas of natural resource value, including wetlands preserves, riparian corridors, woodlands, and flood plains.

Policy 5.H.3. The County shall support the maintenance of open space and natural areas that are interconnected and of sufficient size to protect biodiversity, accommodate wildlife movement, and sustain ecosystems.

F.6 MARIPOSA COUNTY

Mariposa County contains the upper reaches of the Merced River, which include the McSwain Dam and the New Exchequer Reservoir.

There is no specific land use designation for riparian areas. Land use categories that extend to the edge of the rivers include: public domain, mountain general, public sites, mountain preserve, mountain transition, general forest, commercial resort, and town planning area.

Mariposa County General Plan (1989)

Listed below are the policies and goals from the Conservation Element that are relevant to the proposed action.

The overall guiding policy is as follows:

To provide a program for the conservation and development of natural resources in Mariposa County.

The following is one of the goals supporting this policy.

Goal D. To provide for the identification, delineation, description, and maintenance of vegetative types and related wildlife habitats in order to maintain the inherent diversity of both

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vegetation and wildlife species in Mariposa County for the recreational, commercial, and aesthetic enjoyment of both present and future residents and visitors to the County.

The overall guiding policy of the Open Space Element is as follows:

To enhance the natural open space resources of Mariposa County to include preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreational resources, and open space for public health and safety, for the benefit of present and future residents of the County and visitors to the area.

Some of the specific policies supporting this goal are:

- Policy 1. To encourage the preservation of the County's natural wildlife, wildlife habitat, and water resources through a combination of land use policies and development standards.
- Policy 2. To establish policies and standards which provide for, and support, the managed production of natural resources in the County.

F.7 TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Tuolumne County contains the upper reaches of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers. The Stanislaus River system includes the New Melones Reservoir, and the New Don Pedro Reservoir is part of the Tuolumne River system.

There is no specific land use designation for riparian areas. Generalized land use categories that extend to the edge of the rivers include: urban, nonurban residential/business, timberland, agriculture, and public.

Tuolumne County General Plan (1996)

Listed below are goals and policies contained in the Water Resources Element that are relevant to the proposed action.

- Goal 4.L. Conserve the quality and quantity of the County's water resources, while protecting the rights of the land owner.
- Policy 4.L.8. Participate in the State and Federal sponsored CAL-FED program to develop comprehensive and long-term solutions to the problems of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (bay-delta) which is nationally recognized as both an important feature of the State's

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environment and an important component of the State's water supply system by promoting improved management of watersheds in Tuolumne County to contribute to long-term bay-delta recovery and protection.

Policy 4.L.9. Recognize that clean water is essential to the public health, safety, and welfare; fosters economic development and job creation; protects the environment; maintains fish and wildlife; and supports recreation.

Goal 4.M. Conserve public water resource areas with high recreational value for future public use.

Policy 4.M.2. Provide public access to the County's public waterways, lakes, and reservoirs in compliance with State statutes while protecting private property rights and maintaining the biological, scenic, and historical integrity of these features and lands adjacent to these features.

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