

### 4.14.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section is to describe wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities for the planning area. This section is based on information obtained from the City's Wastewater System Master Plan.

### 4.14.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### a. Physical setting

##### *City*

The City's wastewater system provides safe and healthy wastewater collection and treatment for nearly 10 million gallons daily of flow generated by a population of over 113,000 within the City and two satellite areas adjacent to the City. The City operates and maintains approximately 300 miles of collection system piping, 11 sewage lift stations, a tertiary treatment plant, a reclaimed water system, and a state-certified water quality laboratory.<sup>1</sup> The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles RWQCB) monitors regulatory compliance and discharge permit limitations that impact the wastewater system.

The Ventura Water Reclamation Facility (VWRF), located in the harbor area, treats most of the wastewater for the City. This plant was originally designed with a capacity of 14 million gallons per day (mgd) and provides tertiary treatment, effluent filtration, and chlorination/de-chlorination. Average annual flows to the VWRF currently total about 9.5 mgd. The VWRF is currently permitted for 14 mgd and has a secondary treatment capacity of 1 to 12 mgd when the construction in progress is complete (December 2011). Studies are currently underway to evaluate the treatment plan effluent discharge to the Estuary. Discharge restrictions mandated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit may alter the treatment plant capacity.

##### *Project Area*

The City's 2010 Wastewater System Master Plan identifies existing sewer system deficiencies, near-term deficiencies (pending projects January 2007), and ultimate horizon year (2025) deficiencies within the City. The sewer system within the project area consists of a gravity feed system ranging from 6 inches to

---

<sup>1</sup> City of Ventura, 2011-2017 Capital Improvement Plan, January 24, 2011.

42 inches in diameter.<sup>2</sup> The sewer system ultimately connects to the VWRP via the Seaside Transfer Station and force main in Harbor Boulevard. The existing wastewater flow projected for the proposed Westside Community Planning Project area is approximately 1.31 mgd (calculations are provided in **Appendix 4.14.2**).

## **b. Regulatory Framework**

### *Federal*

#### **Clean Water Act**

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 regulates the discharges of pollutants into “waters of the US” from any point or non-point source.<sup>3</sup> Individual permits are issued for certain defined sources of discharge, while non-point source runoff from construction sites and urban development is regulated under a series of general permits. Construction that disturbs 1 acre or more is regulated under the NPDES stormwater program. In the State of California, the program is administered by the local RWQCB.

### *State*

#### **State Water Resources Control Board**

In 2006 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) enacted Order No. 2006-0003, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems (WDR). Any public agency that owns or operates a sewer system more than 1 mile in length that conveys treated or partially treated water to a publicly owned treatment facility works to comply with the WDR in order to reduce sanitary sewer overflows. Compliance with the WDR includes reporting such overflows to the SWRCB and the development of a sewer system management plan, which describes how each agency operates, maintains, and evaluates its collection system.

#### **Regional Water Quality Control Board**

The SWRCB and the RWQCBs are the state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality. In the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act<sup>4</sup> (Porter-Cologne), the California State Legislature declared that the “state must be prepared to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to protect the quality of the waters in the state from degradation.” Porter-Cologne grants the

---

<sup>2</sup> City of Ventura, *Final Downtown/Westside Sewer System Study*, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> 33 Code of Federal Regulations 404.

<sup>4</sup> State Water Resources Control Board, “Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act” California Water Code, Division 7. Water Quality, effective January 1, 2008.

boards authority to implement and enforce water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans to protect the state's groundwater and surface waters.

The proposed project is located within the Los Angeles RWQCB, which sets requirements for sewage disposal from land developments. The requirements provide an explanation of the principal statutory authority and administrative procedures under which the RWQCB will fulfill its responsibilities to protect against pollution, nuisance, contamination, unreasonable degradation of water quality, and violation of water quality objectives, as each may occur from the disposal of sewage from land developments.

### *City*

#### **General Plan**

The following General Plan policies and actions are applicable to the Westside Community Planning Project:

Policy 5B: Improve services in ways that respect and even benefit the environment.

Action 5.6: Require project proponents to conduct sewer collection system analyses to determine if downstream facilities are adequate to handle the proposed development.

Action 5.12: Apply new technologies to increase the efficiency of the wastewater treatment system.

#### **Municipal Code**

Chapter 22 of the City of Ventura Municipal Code provides regulations for sewer service, including sewer connection permits<sup>5</sup> and fees, including fees for new connections to the sewer system.<sup>6</sup> Such fees are established by City Council resolution.

#### **Wastewater System Master Plan**

Building on the shared vision for a well-planned community, the City has developed a Wastewater Master Plan to identify current and future wastewater infrastructure needs for the collection and treatment of its wastewater. The 2010 Wastewater Master Plan addresses the City's infrastructure needs

---

<sup>5</sup> City of Ventura, Municipal Code, Chapter 22.210.

<sup>6</sup> City of Ventura, Municipal Code, Chapter 22.215.

to support the existing community and the anticipated revitalization and redevelopment efforts.<sup>7</sup> **Figure 4.14.2-1** identifies improvements proposed within the Westside Community Planning Project. This figure does not include the area of any downstream proposed improvements. Collection infrastructure projects were identified for existing conditions, near-term development (pending projects January 2007), and General Plan horizon year (2025) conditions. The projects were then prioritized. However, the exact timing of these recommended projects is dependent upon the level of actual development in the City and the Capital Improvement Plan Priorities listed in the City's CIP Plan.

#### 4.14.2.3 IMPACT ANALYSIS

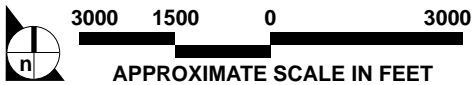
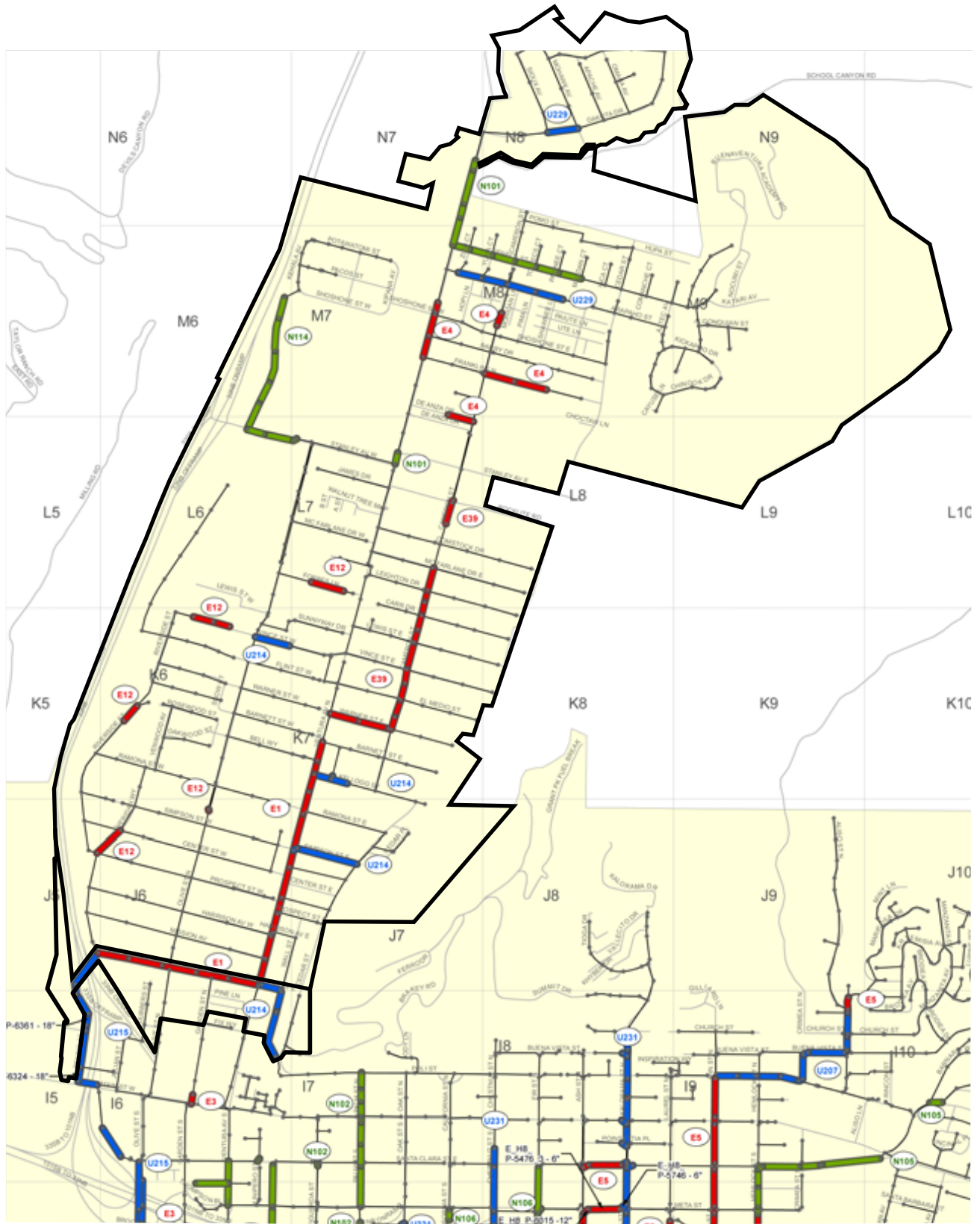
##### a. Thresholds of Significance

Based upon Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* under Section XVII, Utilities and Service Systems, the following significance thresholds are used to evaluate project impacts related to wastewater.

- WW-1      Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- WW-2      Would the project require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- WW-3      Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

---

<sup>7</sup> City of Ventura, 2010 *Wastewater System Master Plan*



SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants – December 2010

FIGURE 4.14.2-1

# Wastewater Collection System Improvement Recommendations

**b. Methodology**

The following analysis was based on the City's 2010 Wastewater System Master Plan, the 2005 Final Downtown/Westside Sewer System Study, and the 2005 General Plan Final EIR. The proposed project wastewater demand was based on a return to sewer ratio. The return to sewer ratio is based on the land use category and is a percentage of the projected water demand (i.e., 69 percent for residential land uses).

**c. Analysis, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts**

*Westside Community Plan Policies*

The Westside Community Plan contains the following goal, policy, and action pertaining to wastewater infrastructure for future development within the planning area in Chapter 12.5, Our Sustainable Infrastructure.

Goal: Minimize the impacts of new development on Westside infrastructure and the Ventura River Watershed through advancing sustainable planning and design practices.

Policy 12 X: Require new development in the Westside Community to provide necessary public infrastructure to sustain anticipated development and maintain current services.

Action 12.5.4: In new development where land use changes and/or increased density occurs, project proponents shall use the City's current Water and Wastewater Master Plans to determine adequate capacity, supply, fireflow, and/or infrastructure improvements.

WW-1 Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? (Class III, Not Significant)

*Analysis*

The VWRf is responsible for disposal of the treated wastewater. The Los Angeles RWQCB regulates the treatment of wastewater at treatment plants and the discharge of the treated wastewater into receiving waters. The VWRf is responsible for adhering to RWQCB regulations as they apply to wastewater generated by the proposed project. The VWRf has been designed to treat typical wastewater flows from different land uses in the City of Ventura. The proposed project would generate wastewater flows typical of the uses currently operating in the Westside Community Planning Project Area. Also, the proposed

project does not propose the development of industrial uses beyond those already envisioned in the General Plan. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to exceed any wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB. Therefore, impacts related to treatment requirements of the VWRf would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are necessary. Impacts would be Class III, Not Significant.

Impacts related to the wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB would be less than significant with implementation of the policies and actions contained in the Westside Community Plan and applicable General Plan policies, and no mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be Class III, Not Significant.

#### *Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation is required.

#### *Residual Impacts*

Class III, Not Significant.

WW-2      Would the project require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (Class III, Not Significant)

#### *Analysis*

The proposed project is located in the western portion of the City of Ventura. The area is predominantly built out.

The City's Wastewater Master Plan designates that the sewer system along Mission Avenue between Ventura Avenue and Sheridan Way as a priority area for infrastructure improvements, as well as a short segment along Ventura Avenue at the School Canyon Road intersection. The area along Cameron Street between Stanley Avenue and Franklin Lane is considered a problem area due to the intrusion of roots. In addition, the area along Dakota Drive between Delaware Drive and Ventura Avenue is considered a problem area due to root intrusion.<sup>8</sup>

Furthermore, the City's Wastewater System Master Plan identifies near term and future buildout deficiencies in addition to existing condition deficiencies. In this way, the City plans to address the

---

<sup>8</sup> City of Ventura, 2010 Wastewater Master Plan, Figure 5-3a.

additional sewer demands of potential future development in areas that may already have deficient infrastructure and proactively identify improvements.

The City's General Plan identifies policies and actions that would be applicable to the Westside Community Plan. Action 5.6 of the General Plan requires that project proponents conduct sewer collection system analyses to determine if downstream facilities are adequate to handle the proposed development. The Westside Community Plan includes Action 12.5.4, which requires that project proponents, where increased density occurs, use the current Wastewater System Master Plan to determine the adequacy of capacity and/or infrastructure improvements. This action would be consistent with General Plan Action 5.6 in that new development would be required to conduct an analysis of the capacity of the downstream sewer collection system.

Implementation of the proposed project's policies and actions, which are consistent with the General Plan, and adherence to applicable General Plan policies, would result in a less than significant impact to sewer facilities.

Impacts related to the construction of new water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities would be less than significant with implementation of the policies and actions contained in the Westside Community Plan and applicable General Plan policies, and no mitigation measures are required. Impacts would be Class III, Not Significant.

#### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

#### ***Residual Impacts***

Class III, Not Significant.

WW-3      Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? (Class III, Not Significant)

#### ***Analysis***

The VWRf is a permitted tertiary treatment plant with a 14 mgd capacity and treats the wastewater generated in the planning area. The planning area's existing wastewater flows are projected at 1.31 mgd

as shown in Table 4.14.2-1, Proposed Project Wastewater Calculations (calculations are provided in Appendix 4.14.2).

**Table 4.14.2-1  
Proposed Project Wastewater Calculations**

Land Use	Water Demand (gpd) <sup>1</sup>	Water return to Sewer	
		Ratio <sup>2</sup>	Wastewater Flow (gpd)
Retail	5,323	0.80	4,259
Office	8,645	0.80	6,916
Industrial	4,073	0.80	3,258
Residential	603,809	0.69	416,628
Project Total	621,850		431,061
Existing Demand (see Appendix 4.14.2)			1,307,797
Existing Plus Project Total			1,738,858

Note:

<sup>1</sup> The water demand was calculated in Table 4.14.1-1 above.

<sup>2</sup> The water return to sewer ratio for a given land use category is defined as the percentage of water demand that is returned to the sanitary sewer system for that land use category.

gpd = gallons per day

Source: City of Ventura, Wastewater System Master Plan, 2010, Table 2-3.

The proposed project would have a development potential of approximately 1,415 residential dwelling units, 100,641 square feet (sf) of retail, 163,450 sf of office, and 77,000 sf of industrial space. The projected increase in wastewater flows for the project area would be approximately 0.43 mgd, which represents an increase of approximately 25 percent over existing conditions. The projected average annual dry weather flow to the VWRf at the 2025 General Plan planning horizon would be 13 mgd. When the proposed project's wastewater flow projections are added to the projected average annual flow in 2025 of 13 mgd; the total wastewater flow to the VWRf would be 13.43 mgd. This conservative analysis indicates the wastewater flow generated by the proposed project would remain below the currently permitted treatment capacity of 14 mgd. Therefore, the proposed project would not exceed the anticipated treatment capacity of the VWRf.

No specific development projects are proposed or analyzed at the project level in this program EIR at this time. Project-level review will be required for individual projects proposed within the Westside Community Planning Project Area. All new development projects within the project area would connect to the existing wastewater system that transports wastewater effluent to the VWRf. The General Plan contains Action 5.12 which would apply new technologies to increase the efficiency of the wastewater treatment system. The Westside Community Plan contains Action 12.5.4, which requires that new

development where there are changes to land use and/or increased density occur, project proponents shall use the City's current Wastewater Master Plan to determine adequate capacity, and/or infrastructure improvements. The Westside Community Plan would be consistent with the General Plan in that it would promote the conservation of resources and contains policies to improve the project area and downstream sewer system as required with each new development project.

Additionally, future water conservation measures implemented by these new developments as well as ongoing measures by existing customers could reduce per capita water use inside the home, thus generating less sewage and providing adequate wastewater capacity. With the application of the Westside Community Plan, which is consistent with the General Plan, and applicable General Plan policies, impacts would be less than significant regarding the treatment capacity requirements of the VWRP and infrastructure capacity in the collection system.

#### *Mitigation Measures*

No mitigation is required.

#### *Residual Impacts*

Class III, Not Significant.

#### **d. Cumulative Impacts**

The VWRP is a permitted tertiary treatment plant with a current permitted 14 mgd capacity and treats the wastewater generated in the planning area. The City's 2010 Wastewater System Master Plan projects that development under the City's 2005 General Plan would result in 13 mgd of average annual dry weather flow. The City's existing flows total 9.5 mgd. This leaves approximately 3.5 mgd of potential excess wastewater capacity. The City's 2010 Wastewater System Master Plan utilizes the General Plan land use projections to determine ultimate built out wastewater flow demand and subsequently, any existing, near-term (pending projects January 2007), or future deficiencies in the system. Therefore, the majority of the projected growth within the Westside Community Planning Area has already been accounted for in the City's Wastewater System Master Plan.

The project area is mostly built out. All new development projects would connect to the existing wastewater system that transports wastewater effluent to the VWRP. The proposed project would exceed the General Plan projections by 150 residential dwelling units and approximately 49,005 square feet of retail uses, and 54,450 square feet of office uses. The growth projections of the project that exceed those anticipated for the Westside Community Planning area would consequently exceed the growth

projections for the City through 2025. The increases in development permitted by the project would represent an increase in dwelling units of 1.77 percent, an increase in retail square feet of 3.78 percent, and an increase in office space of 4.30 percent. These increases are not substantial, and cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

No specific development projects are proposed or analyzed at the project level in this program EIR at this time. Project-level review will be required for individual projects proposed within the Westside Community Planning Project Area. Furthermore, more individual development proposals within the Westside Community Planning area would be required to comply with applicable goals, policies, and actions contained in the Westside Community Plan and General Plan to ensure that potential impacts are mitigated.

With implementation of the Westside Community Plan goal, policy, and action, and applicable General Plan policies and actions, cumulative impacts would be Class III, Not Significant. Therefore, the Westside Community Planning Project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable, and cumulative impacts would be Class III, Not Significant.