

Goal 16 *PUBLIC UTILITIES*

To meet existing and projected needs, continue to provide and maintain adequate storm drainage, water supply and distribution, and wastewater collection systems. In addition, the City shall continue to work with electric, gas, and communications suppliers to maintain and provide service.

BACKGROUND

State Planning Law requires that Circulation Elements address the movement of people and goods. State Planning Law also requires Circulation Elements to discuss issues related to other forms of transportation, communication and public utilities. This chapter discusses public utilities in the City that have not been addressed in the preceding Chapters.

PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC UTILITIES

POWER FACILITIES

Electricity

Edison Company provides electrical power to the City. The City is served by an electrical distribution system operating at two voltage levels, 4 Kilovolts (Kv) and 16 Kv. The 4 Kv system serves the Downtown. The 16 Kv system primarily serves the remainder of the City. However, as new uses are added Downtown the higher voltage system is used in order to avoid overloading the existing system. Electricity is moved from sources to substations over the City's transmission system. At present the transmission system operates at 60 Kilovolts and is approximately 30% underground. Future facilities will all be underground. As commercial, industrial or residential neighborhoods have funds available or agree to an assessment against their property taxes, transmission lines in other areas of the City will also be placed underground.

Present facilities are adequate to serve both current and projected electrical needs of the City. Minor upgrades and monitoring of existing substations will continue to occur over time.

Natural Gas

Southern California Gas Company (SCG) provides natural gas to the City. In 1995, annual consumption in the City was 2,049,847,600 cubic feet. Approximately 97% of the City uses natural gas for water heating, 94% for space heating, 78% for cooking and 72% for clothes dryers. Natural gas is provided via pipelines. SCG has indicated that it can meet future demands for natural gas in the City. More deregulation and competition are the biggest changes foreseen in the future. However, this will primarily affect manufacturing use of natural gas.

CITY UTILITIES

Storm Drain System

The storm drain system is designed to safely convey water runoff to the ocean. Storm drain facilities used to collect and transport this water include natural watercourses, channels, ditches, gutters, catch basins, inlet structures, pumps, tide gates, and pipes. The Laguna Pump Station is fully automated and assists in pumping runoff from the north side of the freeway to the south side of the freeway. Catch basins, pipes, and inlet structures are cleaned annually to prevent the lines from clogging and to reduce flooding potential. During storm conditions, crews mobilize to respond to clogged drains, damaged facilities, blocked roads, and to protect property. After storms pass, storm debris, mud, and sand are cleaned up and removed from the public right-of-way. There is an annual budget appropriation for repair of and improvements to the system. In addition, the City has recently established a public education program to reduce illegal dumping of hazardous wastes into storm drains. This program includes public education, stenciled signs at drop inlets, and other locations and increased enforcement of violations.

Water Supply and Distribution System

The City of Santa Barbara operates the principal water supply and distribution system that serves City residents and some unincorporated portions of Santa Barbara County, primarily in the Mission Canyon area. A small percentage of City residents are served by other water agencies through special agreements. The City's distribution system is maintained on a 100-year replacement cycle, with a portion of the system replaced each year. Current demand is approximately 13,000 AFY. In the short term, as post-drought usage continues to recover, demand is projected to reach 14,000 AFY by 1999. For the long term (through the year 2015), demand is projected to be between 15,200 AFY and 16,900 AFY depending on the long term effects of demand reduction efforts instituted during the drought. The Long Term Water Supply Program, which includes a safety margin for unanticipated demand increases or supply deficiencies, was adopted by the City Council on July 5, 1994, and includes supplies sufficient to meet a demand of up 18,200 AFY, given a maximum acceptable shortage of 10%.

On an average long term basis, deliveries are expected to be approximately as shown below:

Source of Supply	Average Annual Delivery (AF)
Cachuma Project	8,203
Gibraltar Reservoir	4,310
Mission Tunnel	1,109
Juncal Transfer	300
Groundwater	1,018
State Water Project	2,200
Desalination	141
Reclaimed Water	900
TOTAL	18,181

Wastewater Collection and Treatment System

The City provides wastewater treatment services to City residents through the operation of El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (EEWTP) and a City-wide wastewater collection system. The collection system is maintained on a 100-year replacement cycle, with a portion of the system replaced each year. Wastewater is also received from the Mission Canyon area pursuant to an agreement with Santa Barbara County. Current inflow at EEWTP ranges between 7 and 8 million gallons per day, except during extreme precipitation events of short duration. Future inflows are projected to be approximately 9 million gallons per day. The capacity of El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant is 11 million gallons per day and is sufficient for all anticipated City needs. The plant operates under a discharge permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It has the capacity to reclaim up to 1,200 AFY of wastewater for distribution through the reclaimed water distribution system to major irrigation accounts.

COMMUNICATION UTILITIES

Telephone

Local telephone service in the City is provided by General Telephone (GTE). GTE is in the process of system upgrades involving the use of fiber optics which can carry many more lines than can copper wiring. In addition, all of Santa Barbara County is equipped with digital switching capability. This capability will facilitate transmission of all telecommunications services including voice, video, and data. GTE has indicated that there are no foreseeable problems with the provision of telephone and other telecommunications services to growth areas in the City.

Because of the rapid increase in facsimile machines, cellular phones, pagers, and computer modems across the state, the number of telephone lines has increased at an astounding rate during the last few years. In the Santa Barbara area alone, growth was 8,000 lines in 1995, a substantial increase over the past several years and more than could be directly accounted for by population and employment growth. In addition, new competition in the local market will result in certain blocks of prefixes in each area code being assigned to different telephone companies, further depleting the availability of phone lines. In addition, as of June 1, 1996, GTE is now able to enter the long distance market. This will facilitate GTE's ability to provide Internet access and cable television programming to its customers in the future. The 805 area code that serves the Santa Barbara area is planned to be divided in the future.

Cable

While cable television services are not technically considered public utilities and are not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, such services are an important part of the community and have the potential to assist in reducing traffic in Santa Barbara. Cox Communications provides cable television service to the City of Santa Barbara. Cable service is available to all City residents and is used by 30,700 customers in the City and approximately 65,000 in the South Coast. Cox is continuing its South Coast infrastructure investment program which has totaled more than \$20 million over the past five years. Cox has also completed a state-of-the-art electronics and signal facility in Goleta. This upgrade has increased the company's channel capacity and increased service reliability and picture quality. Through Cox, the City and County are able to provide live television coverage of City Council, Board of Supervisors, and Planning Commission meetings, as well as special events that occur in the community. Cox is exploring the possibility of conducting tests later in 1995 for interactive data services such as video-conferencing, electronic mail, interactive participation in community forums, and other computer related services.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

ELECTRIC AND GAS FACILITIES

16.1 Ensure that adequate electrical systems are provided to meet the needs of Santa Barbara residents, industrial uses, and businesses.

16.1.1 Work with the Edison Company to maintain and improve current levels of service and meet future demands, assuring the development of three phase power throughout the M-1 zones.

16.1.2 Prior to approval of new or expanded structures that have the potential for significant energy use, contact the Edison Company to identify the adequacy of supplies.

16.1.3 As appropriate and feasible and based upon demand, work with the Edison Company to plan for and provide recharging stations for electric vehicles.

16.1.4 Where possible, place gas lines, electrical lines, and equipment underground.

16.2 Ensure that an adequate gas supply is provided to meet the needs of Santa Barbara residents and businesses.

16.2.1 Continue to work with Southern California Gas Company and other providers to maintain and improve current levels of service and meet future demands.

16.2.2 Prior to approval of new or expanded structures that have the potential for significant energy use, contact Southern California Gas Company or other providers to identify the adequacy of supplies.

CITY UTILITIES

16.3 Provide a storm drainage system that is able to support the permitted land uses while preserving the public safety.

16.3.1 Maintain and improve, as necessary, the existing public storm drains and flood control facilities.

- 16.3.2 Coordinate with County and Regional agencies in the maintenance and improvement of storm drain facilities in order to protect the City's residents, property, and structures from flood hazard (e.g. Highway 101 or railroad crossings and Laguna Creek).
- 16.3.3 Ensure that adequate storm drain facilities are in place to serve new or expanded uses.
- 16.3.4 Encourage the use of methods, such as the use of pervious surfaces and percolation ponds, that help to reduce the amount of runoff.
- 16.3.5 Require structures located in designated flood hazard areas to comply with local, State, and Federal building and safety standards.
- 16.3.6 Explore methods to educate and inform the public of the potential impacts of dumping dangerous/hazardous materials into the storm drains.
- 16.4 Provide an adequate water supply system to meet the needs of existing and future residents and businesses.**
- 16.4.1 Manage and enhance the City's water supply facilities to accommodate existing and projected population levels as identified in the Long Term Water Supply Program.
- 16.4.2 Require the incorporation of water conservation techniques in the design of new work projects in order to reduce the demand on available water resources.
- 16.4.3 Ensure that there is sufficient water capacity and supply prior to approving new development projects or expansions to existing projects.
- 16.5 Provide a safe, efficient, and cost effective wastewater collection and treatment system that is able to meet the needs of permitted land uses.**
- 16.5.1 Collect and treat wastewater to meet local, Regional, State, and Federal Standards.
- 16.5.2 Monitor existing and projected demands on the wastewater system and ensure that adequate capacity exists.
- 16.5.3 Prior to allowing the development of new structures, ensure that adequate capacity exists. If capacity does not exist, identify means and costs involved in meeting the increased demand.

- 16.5.4 Improve and upgrade the wastewater treatment and collection system to mitigate existing deficiencies and meet the needs of projected growth.

COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

16.6 Ensure adequate telecommunication and cable services are provided to meet the needs of Santa Barbara residents and businesses.

- 16.6.1 Work with communication service providers to maintain current levels of service and meet future demands.
- 16.6.2 Promote the development of telecommuting and teleconferencing info/infra structure and facilities to help reduce the number of automobile trips.
- 16.6.3 Promote implementation of new communication technologies (e.g. fiber-optic lines with higher speed and wider band-width utilization).

MAINTENANCE OF TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY FACILITIES

16.7 Ensure that utility and transportation facilities are well maintained and located, so as not to impede pedestrians or traffic, and are aesthetically pleasing.

- 16.7.1 Encourage and work with utility providers and transportation providers to maintain their facilities in a clean and safe manner.
- 16.7.2 Continue the graffiti removal and enforcement program working closely with transportation and utility providers to ensure graffiti removal from their facilities.
- 16.7.3 Expand public and private street and parking lot cleaning, maintenance, and improvement programs.