

San Jose 2020 General Plan Goals and Policies Related to Water

Industrial Land Use

Goal: Provide sufficient land for a variety of industrial uses that is distributed to provide optimum commute access and to promote a balanced distribution of jobs and housing to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

Policies:

6. Expansion and improvement of heavy industrial uses should incorporate measures to comply with current antipollution and design standards including the City's wastewater minimization program and other pollution reduction programs.

Urban Design

Goal: Require the highest standards of architectural and site design, and encourage the use of "Green Building" techniques for all development projects, both public and private.

Policies:

2. Private development should include adequate landscaped areas. Landscaped areas should utilize water efficient plant materials and irrigation systems. Energy conservation techniques such as vegetative cooling and wind shielding should also be utilized. All landscaped areas should include provision for ongoing landscape maintenance.
6. Design solutions should be considered in the development review process which address security, aesthetics and public safety. Public safety issues include, but are not limited to, minimum clearances around buildings, fire protection measures such as peak load water requirements, construction techniques, and minimum road widths and other standards set forth in relevant City Codes. All development projects should comply with the safety standards established in these referenced codes.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Level of Service

Goals:

1. Provide a full range of City services to the community at service levels consistent with a safe, convenient, sustainable and pleasant place to live, work, learn and play.
2. Achieve the following level of service for these City services:
 - For sanitary sewers, level of service "D".
 - For sewage treatment, to remain within the capacity of the Water Pollution Control Plant.
 - For storm drainage, to minimize flooding on public streets and to minimize property damage from storm water.

Policies:

Level of Service:

7. The City should monitor and regulate growth so that the cumulative sewage treatment demand of all development can be accommodated by San José's share of the treatment capacity of the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant.

8. The City should continue to encourage water conservation and other programs which result in reduced demand for sewage treatment capacity.
9. Reductions in demand for sewage treatment capacity resulting from water conservation programs should be factored into projections of future demand only after several years' experience with such programs.
10. The City should seek the adoption of the above sewage treatment policies by the other tributary agencies served by the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant.

Other Services:

16. Utilize the following Citywide level of service measures as benchmarks to be used to evaluate major General Plan land use and policy changes, such as expansions of the Urban Service Area or land use changes from non-residential to residential:
 - For water supply, prior to the approval of major new development, available water supply should be ensured and documented by the water suppliers. The City recognizes that these performance measures are limited reflections of all City services and may change over time to reflect increasing diversity, new methods of service delivery or to reflect changing needs and priorities that are determined in the budgetary process. The details of these performance measures may also be addressed in the new or existing service planning documents of the relevant City departments that provide these services.

Solid Waste

Goals:

1. Recover the resource value of solid waste and foster the establishment of facilities in San José which constructively use and reinvest such resources in the local economy.
2. Extend the life span of existing landfills by promoting source reduction, recycling, composting and transformation of solid wastes.
3. Locate and operate solid waste sites in a manner which protects environmental resources.
4. Locate and operate solid waste disposal facilities in a manner compatible with existing and planned surrounding land uses.
5. Achieve a high level of public awareness of solid waste issues and alternatives to landfilling.
6. Promote the equitable distribution of Santa Clara County's solid waste disposal capacity among all jurisdictions within the County.

Policies:

Landfill Siting Criteria:

11. Only when solid waste landfills have incorporated adequate mitigation measures should they be located on lands that are susceptible to landslides, faulting, seismically induced ground failure, 100-year flood inundation, salt water inundation, or dam inundation; or which have a high water table, are within a reservoir drainage basin, in wetlands or in areas of granular soils with potential for seismic failure which may result in the introduction of leachate into groundwater aquifers.
12. Solid waste landfills should be designed and operated in a manner that protects surface water and ground water aquifers from contamination by leachate.

AESTHETIC, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Parks and Recreation

Goal: Provide park lands and recreation areas which enhance the livability of the urban environment by providing parks for residential neighborhoods, preserving significant natural, historic, scenic and other open space resources, and meeting the open space and recreation services needs of community residents.

Policies:

5. The development of public and private recreational uses in rural and hillside areas should be low intensity and sensitive to geologic hazards, water resources, natural habitats, and visual impacts, consistent with allowed densities and development standards for residential and other uses.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Riparian Corridors and Upland Wetlands

Goal: Preserve, protect, and restore riparian corridors and upland wetlands within the City of San José's Sphere of Influence.

Policies:

1. Creeks and natural riparian corridors and upland wetlands should be preserved whenever possible.
2. New public and private development adjacent to riparian corridors should be consistent with the provisions of the Riparian Corridor Policy Study.
3. New development within the Urban Service Area should be set back from the outside edge of riparian habitat (or top of bank, whichever is greater) a distance sufficient to buffer the impacts of adjacent human activities and provide avenues for wildlife dispersal.
4. New development should be designed to protect adjacent riparian corridors from encroachment of lighting, exotic landscaping, noise and toxic substances into the riparian zone.
5. When disturbances to riparian corridors and upland wetlands cannot be avoided, appropriate measures should be required to restore, or compensate for damage to, the creeks or riparian corridors
6. The City encourages appropriate native plant restoration projects along riparian corridors, upland wetlands, and in adjacent upland areas.
7. The City should consider the preparation of a Riparian Restoration Action Plan to assess riparian conditions and identify potential riparian restoration programs and priorities.
8. Natural riparian corridors outside the Urban Service Area should be protected from disturbance associated with development (such as structures, roadways, sewage disposal facilities and overhead utility lines, except those required for flood control or bridging) by a minimum 150 foot setback from the top bank line, wherever feasible.

Bay and Baylands

Goal: Preserve and restore natural characteristics of the Bay and adjacent lands, and recognize the role of the Bay's vegetation and water area in maintaining a healthy regional ecosystem.

Policies:

1. The baylands should be preserved and restored in a manner consistent with the fragile environmental characteristics of this area and the interest of the citizens of San José in a healthful environment.
2. Urban development in the baylands is discouraged unless it can be shown that it results in no net loss of baylands habitat value.
3. The City should cooperate with the County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, California Department of Fish and Game, and other appropriate jurisdictions to prevent the degradation of baylands by discouraging new filling or dredging of Bay waters and baylands.
4. The City, in cooperation and, where appropriate, consultation with other interested agencies, should encourage the restoration of diked historic wetlands, including salt ponds, to their natural state by opening them to tidal action.
5. The City should continue to participate in the Santa Clara Valley Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and take other necessary actions to formulate and meet regional water quality standards which are implemented through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits and other measures.
6. No development which creates adverse impacts on the National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay or results in a net loss of baylands habitat value should be permitted.

Urban Forest

Goal: Preserve, protect, and increase plantings of urban trees within the City.

Policies:

6. Trees used for new plantings in urban areas should be selected primarily from species with low water requirements.

Water Resources

Goal: Protect water resources because they are vital to the ecological and economic health of the region and its residents.

Policies:

1. The City, in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other public agencies, should restrict, or carefully regulate, public and private development in those areas necessary for effective stream flow.
2. Water resources should be utilized in a manner which does not deplete the supply of surface or groundwater or cause overdrafting of the underground water basin.
3. The City should work with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to establish appropriate public access and recreational uses on land adjacent to rivers, creeks, wetlands, and other significant water courses when water quality will be preserved.
4. The City should not permit urban development to occur in areas not served by a sanitary sewer system.
5. The City should protect groundwater recharge areas, particularly creeks and riparian corridors.

6. When new development is proposed in areas where storm runoff will be directed into creeks upstream from groundwater recharge facilities, the potential for surface water and groundwater contamination should be assessed and appropriate preventative measures should be recommended.
7. The City shall require the proper construction and monitoring of facilities storing hazardous materials in order to prevent contamination of the surface water, groundwater and underlying aquifers. In furtherance of this policy, design standards for such facilities should consider high groundwater tables and/or the potential for freshwater or saltwater flooding.
8. The City should establish policies, programs and guidelines to adequately control the discharge of urban runoff and other pollutants into the City's storm drains.
9. The City should take a proactive role in the implementation of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program.
10. The City should encourage more efficient use of water by promoting water conservation and the use of watersaving devices.
11. The City should promote the use of reclaimed water when feasible and appropriate.
12. For all new discretionary development permits for projects incorporating large paved areas or other hard surfaces (e.g., building roofs), or major expansion of a building or use, the City should require specific construction and postconstruction measures to control the quantity and improve the water quality of urban runoff.
13. Efforts to conserve and reclaim water supplies, both local and imported, should be encouraged.

HAZARDS

Fire Hazards

Goal: To incorporate fire safety precautions as an integral consideration in planning development.

Policies:

4. Alternative water resources for fire fighting purposes should be identified for use during a disaster.