

ELEMENT VI

Public Services, Facilities, and Finance

VI. Public Services, Facilities, and Finance

Public services include administrative services (Town government administration, permitting, inspection, etc.), road maintenance, police and fire protection, emergency medical service and ambulance, school, libraries, water supply, sewage collection, treatment and disposal, drainage and flood control, and solid waste collection and disposal. Road maintenance issues are addressed in the Circulation Element, and park facility and recreation program issues are addressed in the Parks and Recreation Element.

As noted in Section 5 of the *General Plan Update Technical Background Report*, municipal services are provided Loomis residents by a variety of separate agencies, with only administrative services and road maintenance being provided by the Town itself. The Town contracts with the Placer County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by the Loomis Fire Protection District, Penryn Fire District, South Placer Fire District, and/or the California Department of Forestry, depending on the location of a fire within the Town. The school facilities serving Loomis residents are provided by the Placer Union High School District, and Loomis Union School District. The Loomis Branch Library is part of the Auburn-Placer County Library system. The areas of the Town where a public water system is available are served by the Placer County Water Agency (the areas not served presently rely on private, on-site wells). Sewage collection, treatment and disposal services are provided by the South Placer Municipal Utility District in areas of the Town where the facilities have been installed; residents in other areas rely upon on-site sewage disposal systems. Drainage facilities within the Town are maintained by the Town itself, and the Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is responsible for developing flood control management strategies within the County. Solid waste management services are provided by the Auburn Placer Disposal Service to households that choose to subscribe to the service; and the Western Placer Waste Management Authority provides the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill (WRSL) disposal site.

Public Services Issues

- *Many non-residential and rural residential lots on the periphery of the Town use septic systems and well water. Increasing development under these conditions may degrade ground water quality.*
- *Some of the Town's public school facilities are over permanent capacity and in need of modernization efforts.*

Goals

1. To achieve and maintain high levels of public services and facilities for Loomis residents, when appropriate through coordination with outside service agencies.
2. To assist local school districts as feasible in providing adequate educational facilities for Loomis students, and cooperate in developing joint community and recreational uses.

Policies

1. Loomis will work toward achieving and maintaining acceptable levels of municipal services, including public safety, roadway maintenance, and administrative services. Loomis will cooperate with regional public service agencies to attain adequate service levels for water distribution, sewerage services, flood management, and solid waste collection.
2. Non-residential and higher density residential development shall not be expanded into areas lacking public services infrastructure until existing vacant land with these services within the Town limits is utilized, or proposed development ensures the extension of necessary infrastructure through actual construction or payment of fees.
3. Loomis shall work with the school districts (Placer Union High School District and Loomis Union School District) in reviewing district land use decisions involving the provision of adequate educational facilities for Loomis students.
4. Proposed development shall be connected to public water supply and sewage disposal systems as follows:
 - a. Any dwelling unit proposed within 300 feet of existing community water supply or sewage disposal service shall be connected to that service prior to occupancy, except where the Town Manager determines that connection is infeasible because of elevation differences or insufficient line capacity. The 300-foot distance shall be measured from the property line of the subject parcel that is nearest to the existing water supply or sewage disposal service.
 - b. All development proposed in nonresidential land use designations shall be connected to the community water supply and sewage disposal systems prior to occupancy.
 - c. Residential subdivisions proposing parcels of 2.2 acres or less shall be connected to the community water supply and sewage disposal systems prior to occupancy.
5. Loomis shall continue to work with the Town's solid waste collector (Auburn Placer Disposal Service) in improving the recycling program within the Town.
6. The Town should support source reduction and recycling efforts through the use of recycled products in all Town departments, whenever economically and technically feasible.
7. If in the future adequate landfill space cannot be found to meet the Town's needs, no new development shall be approved until such time as adequate landfill space is identified.
8. New construction and reconstruction/restoration shall consider energy conservation in the selection of building materials, building orientation, and landscaping.
9. The Town shall identify the potential for energy conservation measures for the use of renewable energy sources and alternatives to fossil fuels.
10. The Town shall actively participate in the energy conservation programs of the local, state, and federal agencies.

11. The Town shall consider the use of alternative energy sources for all public facilities.

Local Finance Issues

- *The increased levels of public and community services desired by community residents are dependant on property and sales tax revenues, the Town's primary sources of discretionary General Fund revenues.*
- *Certain types of proposed development may not generate sufficient municipal revenues (e.g., property taxes, sales taxes, transient occupancy tax, etc.) to pay for the cost of the public services the development may require.*
- *The fact that Loomis is served by several special districts and agencies that assess their own taxes and fees aside from the Town, means that all agencies providing public facilities and services within the Town compete, to some extent, for key revenues.*

Goals

To maintain a fiscally healthy municipality, with new development contributing adequately to maintain current levels of service.

Policies

1. New development shall be required to contribute toward the maintenance of existing levels of public services and facilities--through fees, dedications, or other appropriate means.
2. Loomis shall explicitly consider the fiscal impacts on the Town when making decisions about changes to municipal services or capital facilities that would likely result in increased Town staff levels. The Town Council shall make findings that these impacts were considered and that funding to support increased staff levels appears reasonably available in such cases.
3. A fiscal impact analysis shall be required for proposed General Plan amendments.
4. Loomis shall support the development of new commercial and industrial activities to increase the Town's discretionary revenues (which provides funds for capital projects and improved municipal services), provided that the new land uses are consistent with the Town's distinct, rural character.

Implementation Measures

Within one year of the adoption of this General Plan or as soon as possible, the Town will conduct a study of its fees in relation to the costs to the Town of providing the services for which the fees are charged, and will update its fees as determined by the Council to be appropriate.