

SOLID WASTE—SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

■ STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this chapter is to define policies that ensure the healthy, safe, economical, and sustainable collection and disposal of solid waste. The State of California does not include solid waste collection and disposal as a mandatory element or a component of a mandatory element of a general plan. However, Government Code §65303 allows local government to adopt any other elements or address any other subjects that in the judgment of the local government relates to the physical development of the community. Once adopted, non-mandatory elements become a full-fledged part of the general plan with the same legal authority and effect as one of the mandatory elements.

■ CONTEXT

Solid waste from the University Community would be collected by the County and disposed of at the Highway 59 Landfill, approximately three miles from the Community. The Highway 59 Landfill has recently undergone an expansion and has a lifespan of approximately 30 years. The County is continuing to take efforts to ensure compliance with state mandated reductions in solid waste generation established in the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). As part of this effort, the Merced County Solid Waste Regional Agency adopted a Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan in 1995.

■ OVERVIEW

A central theme in sustainable development involves the minimization of the waste stream. The following goals, objectives and policies provide guidance to ensure that the future University Community is a model of source reduction and waste minimization through the implementation of effective programs, recycling efforts, and public education. The following goals, objectives and policies are intended to reflect the goals of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and to support the County's commitment to sustainable development in the University Community.

■ GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goal

An adequate and orderly system for the collection and disposal of solid waste.

Objective

ISW 1.0 To provide an adequate and orderly system for the collection services and adequate pre-collection storage facilities and disposal of solid waste to meet the demands of the University Community.

Policies

ISW 1.1 Require that adequate solid waste collection be provided for commercial, industrial, and residential uses in accordance with state law. (*Imp 2.7*)

ISW 1.2 Provide for the installation and maintenance of trash and recycling receptacles along streets in commercial areas and along major arterials; design receptacles to be aesthetically compatible with the district in which they are located. (*Imp 2.5, 2.6*)

ISW 1.3 Investigate the feasibility of implementation of joint solid waste collection with UC Merced. (*Imp 3.3*)

Goal

A high level of source reduction and waste minimization.

Objective

ISW 2.0 To sustain source reduction, waste minimization, recycling and composting programs that meet or exceed the state-mandated levels reduction established in the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939).

Policies

ISW 2.1 Ensure that future developments are consistent with the requirements of the Merced County Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan. (*Imp 2.7, 5.1*)

ISW 2.2 Ensure that solid wastes from non-residential uses in the University Community are recycled at an approved materials recycling facility. (*Imp 2.7, 5.1*)

ISW 2.3 Encourage the development of curbside recycling of yard wastes and other recyclables. (*Imp 5.10*)

- ISW 2.4** Support programs that promote home composting. *(Imp 5.10)*
- ISW 2.5** Collaborate with UC Merced in the implementation of recycling, composting and source reduction programs. *(Imp 3.3)*
- ISW 2.6** Promote community awareness of recycling and composting program activities and services in collaboration with the City of Merced and UC Merced. *(Imp 5.10)*
- ISW 2.7** Require that developers work with the Integrated Waste Management Board of Merced County to implement recycling programs for construction materials to reduce the amount of waste disposed of at the landfill. *(Imp 2.7)*

