PS-2.9 The County shall use discretionary permits to manage construction of impervious surfaces in important groundwater recharge areas in order to protect and manage groundwater as a valuable and limited shared resource. Potential recharge area protection measures at sites in important groundwater recharge areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Restrict coverage by impervious materials.
b. Limit building or parking footprints.
c. Require construction of detention/retention facilities on large-scale development project sites overlying important groundwater recharge areas as identified by Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

The County recognizes that detention/retention facilities on small sites may not be practical, or feasible, and may be difficult to maintain and manage.

LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY

GOAL PS-3

ENSURE THAT NEW DEVELOPMENT IS ASSURED A LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY.

Policies

PS-3.1 Except as specifically set forth below, new development for which a discretionary permit is required, and that will use or require the use of water, shall be prohibited without proof, based on specific findings and supported by evidence, that there is a long-term, sustainable water supply, both in quality and quantity to serve the development.

This requirement shall not apply to:

a. the first single family dwelling and non-habitable accessory uses on an existing lot of record; or
b. specified development (a list to be developed by ordinance) designed to provide: a) public infrastructure or b) private infrastructure that provides critical or necessary services to the public, and that will have a minor or insubstantial net use of water (e.g. water facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, road construction projects, recycling or solid waste transfer facilities); or

c. development within Zone 2C of the Salinas Valley groundwater basin, provided the County prepares or causes to be prepared a study for the Board of Supervisors regarding Zone 2C, to be completed no earlier than October 31, 2017 and no later than March 31, 2018 that does the following:
1) evaluates existing data for seawater intrusion and groundwater levels collected by Monterey County Water Resources Agency as of the date the study is commenced;
2) evaluates the total water demand for all existing uses and future uses designated in the General Plan EIR for the year 2030;
3) assesses and provides conclusions regarding the degree to which the total water demand for all uses designated in the General Plan for the year 2030 are likely to be reached or exceeded;
4) evaluates on an annual basis during the study period groundwater elevations and the seawater intrusion boundary;
5) based on historical data and the data produced by the study, evaluates and provides conclusions regarding future trends and any expected movement of groundwater elevations and the seawater intrusion boundary;
6) should the study conclude that i) total water demand for all uses designated in the General Plan for the year 2030 is likely to be exceeded; or ii) groundwater elevations are likely to decline by the year 2030 and iii) the seawater intrusion boundary is likely to advance inland by the year 2030, the study shall make recommendations on measures the County could take to address any or all of those conditions; and
7) addresses such other matters as the Board of Supervisors determines are appropriate.

Within two months following the completion of the study, the Board of Supervisors shall hold an open and noticed public hearing on the results of the study. If the study reaches the conclusions for Zone 2C identified in subsection 6) i or 6) ii and 6) iii, the Board of Supervisors shall adopt one or more measures identified in the study, or other appropriate measures, to address the identified conditions. This exception for Zone 2C shall be a rebuttable presumption that a Long Term Sustainable Water Supply exists within Zone 2C, and the presumption shall remain in effect until and unless the study reaches the conclusion for Zone 2C identified in subsection 6) i or 6) ii and 6) iii. Development in Zone 2C shall be subject to all other policies of the General Plan and applicable Area Plan.

Following completion of the study described herein, and the adoption of measures as may be recommended in the study, if any, the County shall prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors every five (5) years for Zone 2C that examines the degree to which a) total water demand for all uses predicted in the General Plan EIR for year 2030 will be reached; or b) groundwater elevations, the seawater intrusion boundary have changed since the prior reporting period; and c) other sources of water supply are available.

(Amended by Board Resolution 13-028)