



Public/Quasi-Public Facilities and Services Element

INTRODUCTION

This element provides the policy context for the City of South Lake Tahoe to achieve its vision for future public/quasi-public facilities and services. South Lake Tahoe depends on a complex system of public facilities, services, and utilities. Development in the city requires expansion of infrastructure, including water and wastewater systems, utilities, and storm drainage systems. In addition to expanding infrastructure, upgrading and maintaining existing infrastructure poses a large financial burden on the City.

The City also recognizes the importance of adequate public services, such as law enforcement, fire protection, schools, and libraries. Figure PQP-1 shows the location of public facilities and recreation areas in the city. This Public/Quasi-Public Facilities and Services Element provides guidance for the logical and efficient extension and upgrading of services and facilities in South Lake Tahoe. Goals and policies are organized under the following headings:

- Infrastructure Financing and Prioritizing
- Water Supply and Delivery
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Storm Drainage and Water Quality
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Protection
- Schools
- Energy and Telecommunications
- Libraries
- Health and Medical Services
- City-Owned Public Buildings and Facilities
- Snow Removal

Insert Diagram PQP-1

PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES VISION

The following is the City of South Lake Tahoe’s vision for future public/quasi-public facilities and services:

“In 2030 there has been an upgrade and expansion of public and quasi-public services and facilities in South Lake Tahoe. Interagency coordination has been successful at developing water supply infrastructure that provides improved and efficient services and fire flows to all parts of the city. Improved storm drainage systems have helped improve water quality and environmental health. Innovative and “green” infrastructure solutions in particular have helped create more sustainable and efficient solid waste, storm water, and drainage systems. In addition to infrastructure improvements the Lake Tahoe Community College has expanded to provide more classrooms, housing, and facilities that serve the community and foster the intellectual vitality of the community. Public and private partnerships have helped consolidate medical facilities within a core district near the present Barton Memorial Hospital.”

INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AND PRIORITIZING

The policies in this section provide for efficient infrastructure financing and prioritizing throughout the city.

Goal PQP-1

To ensure the timely maintenance, expansion, and upgrade of public facilities and services for the entire community.

Policy PQP-1.1: Infrastructure Expansion in Under-Served Areas

The City shall coordinate and prioritize infrastructure expansion and/or improvements in areas that are under-served.

Policy PQP-1.2: Provider Requirements

The City shall work within available legal means to ensure statutory requirements are met by all providers.

Policy PQP-1.3: Utility Service Agency Coordination Meetings

The City shall conduct periodic coordination meetings with utility service agencies.

Policy PQP-1.4: Public Facility Master Plans

The City shall prepare and annually review and regularly update public facility master plans to ensure compliance with appropriate regional, State, and Federal laws, use of modern and cost-effective technologies, and compatibility with current land use policy.

Policy PQP-1.5: Fair Share Costs on New Developments

The City shall require that new development pay its fair share of the cost of providing new public services and/or the costs of expanding/upgrading existing facilities and services impacted by the new development.

Policy PQP-1.6: Capital Improvement Program

The City shall review and update yearly the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure the implementation and adequacy of the plan.

Policy PQP-1.7: Ultimate Capacity Needs

The City shall ensure, through the development review process, that public facilities and infrastructure are designed and constructed to meet ultimate capacity needs, pursuant to a master plan, to avoid the need for future replacement to achieve upsizing.

Policy PQP-1.8: Financing and Prioritizing Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure

The City shall identify operations and maintenance costs and priorities for existing infrastructure, and identify and develop a fair, equitable, and stable fiscal program to finance the ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.

Policy PQP-1.9: Comprehensive “Green” Infrastructure Strategies 

The City shall create comprehensive “green” infrastructure strategies to address sustainability objectives in the supply and management of energy, solid waste and materials, water, and waste water.

Policy PQP-1.10: Capital Improvement Program Consistency

The City shall require capital improvement programs for all public and private utility service providers to conform and be consistent with the City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan, to the extent allowed by law.

WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

The City of South Lake Tahoe relies on groundwater for the majority of its water supply. The water systems within the city are generally able to meet current demands for domestic service, although there are areas of the city where fire flow and reliability are inadequate and need to be upgraded. While many large diameter transmission pipelines in South Lake Tahoe are relatively new, a significant amount of pipeline in the system is approaching the end of its useful life and in need of replacement. The policies in this section seek to ensure a safe and adequate water supply for existing and future development and to promote water conservation and reuse.

Goal PQP-2	To work with local providers to ensure an adequate and safe water supply and delivery system for the entire community.
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Policy PQP-2.1: Potable Water Demand Reduction  

The City shall explore ways (i.e., study feasibility of infrastructure from storm detention ponds) to reduce demand for potable water through water recycling and reuse of treated water when consistent with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

Policy PQP-2.2: Coordination with Urban Water Management Plan

The City should coordinate with and support the planning efforts of the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD), including all measures contained in the Urban Water Management Plan.

Policy PQP-2.3: New Well Construction

The City shall not allow the construction of any new groundwater wells except to replace existing wells.

Policy PQP-2.4: Sustainable Water Use

The City shall encourage efficient practices that ensure water is used in a sustainable manner.

Policy PQP-2.5: Sustainable Water Distribution

The City shall support local water supply agencies in upgrading public water systems, as needed, to ensure efficient and sustainable water distribution.

Policy PQP-2.6: Water Efficiency 

The City shall encourage residents, visitors, and businesses to use water more efficiently in homes, businesses, and landscapes, and manage runoff that maintains natural hydrological regimes.

Policy PQP-2.7: Water and Wastewater Management Strategy 

The City shall support water and wastewater agencies in developing an innovative water and wastewater management strategy that considers water supply and treatment systems.

Policy PQP-2.8: Recycled Gray Water and Roof Water  

The City shall encourage the use of recycled gray water and roof water for irrigation, where appropriate.

Policy PQP-2.9: Groundwater Basin Protection

The City shall protect the groundwater basin from overdraft or contamination from existing and planned developments use of groundwater, including agriculture.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

The policies in this section seek to increase economic efficiency and performance by reducing the consumption of non-renewable resources. Policies in this section promote waste reduction and the re-use and recycling of materials.

Goal PQP-3

To coordinate with South Tahoe Refuse to provide a reliable and environmentally-friendly solid waste collection and diversion program that encourages recycling and re-use.

Policy PQP-3.1: Reduction, Re-Use, and Recycling

The City shall promote reduction, re-use, and recycling.

Policy PQP-3.2: Improved Recycling Services

The City shall support South Tahoe Refuse in efforts to increase and improve recycling services within the city.

Policy PQP-3.3: Solid Waste Diversion

The City shall work with South Tahoe Refuse to divert solid waste from the landfills including household, commercial, construction, and site/forest clearing waste (including pine needles) to the extent technologically and economically feasible, always keeping in mind the cost to consumers.

Policy PQP-3.4: Exportation of Solid Waste

The City shall require South Tahoe Refuse to export all solid waste out of the Tahoe Basin.

Policy PQP-3.5: Commercial Garbage Pickup and Enclosures

The City should coordinate with South Tahoe Refuse to require mandatory commercial garbage pickup and enclosures for all commercial garbage receptacles.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY

The City has much work to do in the coming years to comply with the City's Municipal NPDES Storm Water permit and to reduce the adverse impacts on Lake Tahoe clarity associated with urban runoff generated within the city. This will require significant financial investment on the part of the City. The City is expected to be required to significantly reduce the fine sediment load it conveys and discharges to Lake Tahoe and surface waters draining to Lake Tahoe, construct and maintain new structural improvements, and implement nonstructural policies to reduce pollutant loads and improve drainage system capacity. The policies in this section seek to improve clarity of Lake Tahoe by improving stormwater management practices. The policies in this section move South Lake Tahoe toward area-wide planning and design of stormwater drainage systems, and work to accelerate urban water quality improvements and achievement of environmental thresholds.

**Goal
PQP-4**

To protect water quality of streams and Lake Tahoe by reducing pollutant loads associated with urban stormwater runoff.

Policy PQP-4.1: Stormwater Management Program

The City shall develop a stormwater management program to minimize increased flows and pollutant loads in urban runoff, improve area-wide stormwater runoff quality, and promote retention and reuse of stormwater runoff.

Policy PQP-4.2: Minimize Stormwater Runoff

The City shall continue to implement programs and policies to address drainage (i.e., excessive water quantity) and pollution (i.e., impaired water quality) problems, by promoting development and retrofits that minimize the discharge of stormwater runoff to the City's stormwater infrastructure.

Policy PQP-4.3: Stormwater Detention/Retention

The City shall require all projects to either detain or retain stormwater runoff on-site whenever physically possible and economically efficient or, if not possible or efficient, to contribute to the construction and long-term maintenance of off-site water quality measures.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public safety is one of the most important aspects of the quality and enjoyment of a community. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department works in partnership with the community to protect life and property, to provide leadership in solving neighborhood problems, and to enhance the quality of life in South Lake Tahoe. The policies in this section address public safety by setting standards for police service. Public safety is also addressed through innovative programs, such as the design of spaces and buildings to maximize safety, using "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" strategies.

**Goal
PQP-5**

To deter crime and to meet the growing demands for police services in South Lake Tahoe.

Policy PQP-5.1: Police Protection

The City shall continue to provide adequate police protection and law enforcement by maintaining a police department capable of meeting the needs of the entire community today and in the future.

Policy PQP-5.2: Uniformed Crime Report

The Police Department shall continue to use the Uniformed Crime Report as the primary indicator of crime trends within the city, and continue to allocate Police resources or plan the development of infrastructure and facilities accordingly.

Policy PQP-5.3: Necessary Services for Residents

The City shall provide necessary police services for residents, visitors, and businesses by ensuring adequate funding to support City law enforcement operations. The City shall facilitate outreach programs to ensure needs of the community are heard and addressed.

Policy PQP-5.4: Maintaining Service Standards

The City shall strive to maintain appropriate law enforcement staffing levels and provide necessary equipment and vehicles to ensure maximum efficiency within the City's overall budgetary constraints.

Policy PQP-5.5: Response Times

The City shall continue to strive for response times of three minutes or less from the time law enforcement resources are dispatched.

Policy PQP-5.6: Neighborhood Security

The City shall work with residents to establish neighborhood security programs and environmental design strategies to reduce crime.

Policy PQP-5.7: Community Policing Project Program

The City Police Department shall continue to use the Community Policing Project Program to address specific issues within neighborhoods throughout the city.

Policy PQP-5.8: Officer Training

The City shall provide law enforcement officers with training opportunities to stay up-to-date with modern practices.

Policy PQP-5.9: Police Equipment

The City shall maintain Police equipment consistent with best practices, community needs, and industry standards.

Policy PQP-5.10: Sustainable Community Policing

The City Police Department shall continue to utilize and expand the use of bicycles for policing and replace fleet vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles when feasible or when that the technology is adequate.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is a critical component of public safety, especially in South Lake Tahoe where the risk of wildfires is high. The City of South Lake Tahoe provides a fully operational fire protection department providing basic fire protection services and local advanced life support ambulance services. Fire protection depends on several factors including personnel and equipment, available water supply and pressure, response time, and reducing potential fire hazards. Buildings can also be constructed with fire resistant materials, smoke alarms, or sprinkler systems to reduce fire hazards. The policies in this section address public safety by setting standards for fire protection in South Lake Tahoe.

**Goal
PQP-6**

To protect residents, employees, and visitors in South Lake Tahoe from injury and loss of life, and to protect property and businesses from fires.

Policy PQP-6.1: Fire-Safe Development

The City shall develop fire safety programs and incentives for existing communities, new development, and substantially rehabilitated development.

Policy PQP-6.2: Fire Department and Water Provider Coordination

The City shall coordinate efforts with water providers to ensure that fire protection needs and adequate water flows are met throughout the community. The City shall also work with water providers to design systems and processes, and build infrastructure necessary to ensure fire protection.

Policy PQP -6.3: Traffic Control and Calming Measures

The City shall ensure that any traffic controls and traffic calming measures are designed and installed to minimize impacts on emergency vehicle response.

Policy PQP-6.4: Staffing Levels

The City shall ensure that Fire Department staffing levels reflect enough aggregate personnel to perform the needed tasks to control the emergency and provide for life safety of the public and the responders.

Policy PQP-6.5: Equipment Updates

The City shall maintain Fire equipment consistent with best practices, community needs, and industry standards.

Policy PQP-6.6: Fire Response Times

The City shall strive to maintain the following response times:

- **Still Alarms (Single Engine/Apparatus Response).** The responding apparatus shall arrive within a four-minute travel time 90 percent of the time.
- **Fire Incidents (Multiple Apparatus Responses).** The initial responding engine/apparatus shall arrive within a four minute travel time 90 percent of the time, and the remaining assigned engines/apparatus shall arrive within a 10-minute travel time 90 percent of the time.
- **Emergency Medical Responses.** The initial responding fire apparatus shall arrive within a four-minute travel time 90 percent of the time with advanced life support transport (i.e., Paramedic Ambulance) units arriving within a 10-minute travel time 90 percent of the time.

Policy PQP-6.7: Training

The City shall provide fire fighters with training opportunities to stay up-to-date with modern practices.

Policy PQP-6.8: Airport Fire Protection

The City shall maintain fire protection services at the Airport consistent with the Airport Master Plan.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

South Lake Tahoe is served by one school district, the Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD), which provides primary, secondary, and high school education services to residents. There are also private schools located within the city limits. The Lake Tahoe Unified School District has experienced a decline in student enrollment since 1995. The declining enrollment results in less revenue for the schools and, in turn, could reduce the District's ability to provide some services to students. Higher education is provided by the Lake Tahoe Community College. The college has plans to expand its campus to better serve the community. The South Lake Tahoe Library is a branch of the El Dorado County Library system. The library serves not only as a receptacle of books, but also an important community gathering place for social and cultural events. This section contains policies for collaboration with the educational providers in South Lake Tahoe.

**Goal
PQP-7**

To coordinate planning efforts with the Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Lake Tahoe Community College, and South Lake Tahoe Library in their efforts to provide for the educational needs of all South Lake Tahoe residents.

Policy PQP-7.1: Development Coordination

The City shall coordinate with the Lake Tahoe Unified School District to ensure that needed school facilities are available for use in a timely manner.

Policy PQP-7.2: Schools as Community Focal Points

The City shall encourage schools to become social focal points within community and neighborhood centers that provide a range of services.

Policy PQP-7.3: School Accessibility to Residential Uses

The City shall coordinate planning efforts with the Lake Tahoe Unified School District and Lake Tahoe Community College to ensure that schools are easily accessible to residential neighborhoods, and that they enhance neighborhoods, minimize transportation requirements and costs, and minimize safety problems.

Policy PQP-7.4: School Off-Street Parking and Pick-Up/Drop-Off Areas

The City shall encourage the design and improvement of school facilities to provide adequate parking and areas for student pick-up and drop-off to minimize safety problems and neighborhood impacts.

Policy PQP-7.5: Public Library Expansion

The City shall coordinate with El Dorado County to expand public library facilities in South Lake Tahoe.

Policy PQP-7.6: Expansion of Lake Tahoe Community College

The City shall support the expansion of curriculum, enrollment, and facilities at the Lake Tahoe Community College (e.g., four-year degree program, fire academy).

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Sierra Pacific Power provides electrical service and Southwest Gas provides gas service to South Lake Tahoe. Both companies offer programs to encourage energy efficiency. The City recognizes the need to shift away from reliance on non-renewable sources of energy and move toward a “green” energy future. The policies in this section seek to increase energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and support local, clean, and renewable energy sources. Additional policies in this section promote telecommunications access for all residents.

**Goal
PQP-8**

To promote provision of adequate levels of utility services by private companies and to ensure that these are constructed in a fashion that minimizes their negative effects on surrounding development and maximizes energy efficiency.

Policy PQP-8.1: Development and Remodel Coordination

The City shall communicate its major development and infrastructure plans with utility companies and coordinate planning to ensure adequate and timely utility connections.

Policy PQP-8.2: Underground Utility Requirement

The City shall continue to require underground installation of electrical distribution utility lines in new and substantially remodeled projects as a condition of permit approval, except where infeasible for operational reasons.

Policy PQP-8.3: Promote Technology

The City shall promote technological improvements and upgrading of utility services in South Lake Tahoe.

Policy PQP-8.4: Coordination with Utility Providers

The City shall coordinate with gas and electricity service providers to site and design gas and electric systems to minimize environmental, aesthetic, and safety impacts to existing and future residents.

Policy PQP-8.5: Digital Communications Infrastructure

The City shall facilitate installation of digital communications infrastructure.

Policy PQP-8.6: Long-Range Public Utility Underground Program

The City shall continue to maintain and implement the City’s Long-Range Public Utility Underground Program in close coordination with utility companies.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

South Lake Tahoe's health and medical services are provided by Barton Memorial Hospital and various private practitioners. Barton Memorial Hospital is an acute care hospital that has served the community for over 40 years. The policies in this section encourage expansion of services at the hospital and consolidation of medical facilities within a core district to better serve the community and provide increased economic benefits to South Lake Tahoe. The policies also address health as it relates to the community's access to healthy, fresh, and local food.

**Goal
PQP-9**

To expand health and medical facilities and services in South Lake Tahoe to serve residents and visitors.

Policy PQP-9.1: Regional Food Network 

The City shall look at a regional food network as an economic development tool to build health and wealth.

Policy PQP-9.2: Local Food Network 

The City shall provide assistance to local stores and restaurants to connect food establishments with consumers and food producers.

Policy PQP-9.3: Food Storage System 

The City shall encourage locally-owned and ecologically sound food storage and distribution system.

Policy PQP-9.4: Year-Round Public Market 

The City shall encourage and help locate a permanent year-round public farmers market in South Lake Tahoe to serve as a community gathering place.

Policy PQP-9.5: Gardening in Neighborhoods 

The City shall encourage outdoor or outdoor greenhouse gardening in neighborhoods with good soils, access to water, and adequate sunlight while protecting groundwater.

Policy PQP-9.6: Organic Food Supply 

The City shall encourage an organic food supply for local stores, restaurants, and consumers.

Policy PQP-9.7: Public School Health and Well Being

The City shall encourage nutrition education and physical activity in public schools.

Policy PQP-9.8: Health-Related Facilities

The City shall provide an area for health-related facilities that can support and complement Barton Hospital.

CITY-OWNED PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The policies in this section encourage consolidation, joint-use, and energy efficiency upgrades for all City buildings and facilities.

**Goal
PQP-10**

To relocate and consolidate City-owned and operated public buildings while making them more energy efficient.

Policy PQP-10.1: Social Activity Centers

The City shall design new community centers and other types of public facilities as social activity centers.

Policy PQP-10.2: Energy Efficiency in City Buildings and Facilities 

The City shall incorporate energy efficiency standards into all City-owned and operated buildings and facilities.

Policy PQP-10.3: City Government Office Consolidation

The City shall work to consolidate City government offices, where feasible, and develop a centralized “government center” in the Bijou/Al Tahoe Community Plan area.

Policy PQP-10.4: Joint-Use Facilities

The City shall coordinate with other agencies to establish and maintain joint-use facilities in South Lake Tahoe.

Policy PQP-10.5: Vibrant Social Community 

The City shall create a vibrant social community that promotes safety and encourages residents to meet.

Policy PQP-10.6: Public Facility Location 

The City shall locate public facilities near public transit and surrounding neighborhoods.

Policy PQP-10.7: City Hall and Emergency Operations Center

The City shall develop a City Hall with consolidated City departments and services that will also function as the City Emergency Operations Center.

Policy PQP-10.8: City Corporation Yards

The City should consolidate the City corporation yards at one location to maximize efficiency.

Policy PQP-10.9: Facilities Master Plan

The City shall develop a Facilities Master Plan for replacing City-owned buildings.

SNOW REMOVAL

Snow accumulation poses serious public safety and circulation issues in South Lake Tahoe. However, it is logistically and financially difficult to remove snow from many of South Lake Tahoe's sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails during winter months. This in turn makes these facilities unavailable to users during these months. The policies in this section address improved snow removal and storage procedures throughout the city's neighborhoods.

**Goal
PQP-11**

To provide efficient snow removal on public streets and sidewalks to promote safe, year-round access to these facilities.

Policy PQP-11.1: Snow and Ice Removal Plan

The City shall maintain and implement the Snow and Ice Removal Plan.

Policy PQP-11.2: New Building Snow Removal and Snow Storage Accommodation

The City shall continue to require new buildings and site plans to provide for snow removal and snow storage.

Policy PQP-11.3: Property Owner Snow Removal

The City shall continue to require private property owners and occupants to remove snow from any private sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and other areas used for ingress and egress to access the property.

Policy PQP-11.4: Improved Snow Removal on State Highway Sidewalks

The City shall work with Caltrans to resolve snow removal responsibilities on new sidewalks constructed by Caltrans.

Policy PQP-11.5: Improved Snow Removal Equipment

The City shall continue to upgrade and purchase new snow removal equipment for sidewalks and parking lots.

Policy PQP-11.6: Bike and Pedestrian Path Snow Removal

The City shall remove snow on Class I bike paths and pedestrian paths, where feasible, so they can be used year-round.

Policy PQP-11.7: Heated Sidewalks in Commercial and Tourist Centers

The City shall consider the development of heated sidewalks in major commercial and tourist centers for snow melting.

Policy PQP-11.8: Water Quality Impacts from Snow Removal Operations

The City shall consider the use of alternative abrasives and deicers, and other modifications to snow removal practices, to reduce the discharge of fine particulates and other sediment associated with City snow removal operations. The City shall also consider measures to reduce the threats to water quality associated with sediment discharged to City stormwater infrastructure from snow removal operations on private lands.