maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas or loading docks, or other outdoor work areas;

Impact Summary

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: ***Potentially Significant***
Required Mitigation: ***Mitigation Measure 6.4-1a: Adopt Revised General Plan Policy PFS-4.3 "Stormwater Quality" to Address Storm Drainage System Impacts and Mitigation Measure 6.4-1b: Adopt Revised General Plan Implementation Program PFS-G to Address Storm Drainage System Impacts.***
Level of Significance After Mitigation: ***Less than Significant***

Impact Analysis

Development consistent with the build-out of the General Plan could result in stormwater discharges from material storage areas, vehicle or equipment fueling/maintenance areas, loading docks, or other outdoor work areas. Several policies and implementation measures contained in the General Plan are designed to minimize discharge of polluted runoff.

Detention and implementation of other best management practices (BMPs) are considered the most viable option for minimizing the discharge of pollutants to receiving waters. Pollution associated with increased stormwater and urban runoff would affect local and regional surface and groundwater quality conditions. Unlike sewage, which is transported to a treatment plant, urban runoff may flow untreated through the storm drainage system. Anything thrown, swept, or poured into the street, gutter, or a catch basin (the curbside openings that lead into the storm drainage system) flows directly into ponding basins or local channels and creeks. Pollutant loads can be particularly acute at the beginning of the rainy season, but can be a problem at any time due to the improper disposal of products associated with home, garden, or automotive use. The implementation of BMPs on every project helps to reduce the discharge of pollutants to receiving waters.

Policies and implementation programs included as part of the Proposed Project that would minimize this impact are the same as those described under Impact 6.4-1. However, even with implementation of the above mentioned policies and implementation programs, this impact is considered ***potentially significant.***

Required Mitigation Measures

To address this impact, the City shall implement "Mitigation Measure 6.4-1a: Adopt Revised General Plan Policy PFS-4.3 "Stormwater Quality" to Address Storm Drainage System Impacts and Mitigation Measure 6.4-1b: Adopt Revised General Plan Implementation Program PFS-G to Address Storm Drainage System Impacts", which are more fully described above under the description for Impact 6.4-1.

Significance after Implementation of Mitigation for Impact 6.4-5

The City's implementation of the Sacramento SWMP, and associated Development Standards Plan would address a variety of erosion generating and water quality impacts associated with runoff water that exceeds the capacity of existing storm drainage infrastructure.

As stated above, the City will continue to implement a variety of policies and programs designed to address stormwater quality issues. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project including the adoption of the revised policy and implementation program described above under Mitigation Measure 6.4-1a and Mitigation Measure 6.4-1b would result in a ***less-than-significant*** impact.

6.5 Solid Waste

This section focuses on impacts resulting from the generation, handling, and storage of solid waste materials associated with implementation of the Proposed Project.

Environmental and Regulatory Setting

Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines permits documents of lengthy technical detail to be incorporated by reference in an EIR. Specifically, Section 15150 states that an EIR may "incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public ...." Consistent with the CEQA Guidelines and as a way to avoid creating an overwhelming amount of paper for members of the public and decision-makers to sort through, this draft EIR incorporates by reference information from both the Existing Conditions and Policy Document. Consistent with this approach, the reader is directed to Chapter 4 of the Existing Conditions Report for environmental and regulatory setting information specific to public facilities and services topics (see Appendix B of this draft EIR).

Impact Methodology

Solid waste impacts were evaluated by comparing the expected solid waste generated by the Proposed Project to existing and any planned capacity of the landfills expected to serve the Study Area. Estimates of City-wide average daily solid waste production were calculated using average daily production rates provided by the EPA (4.6 pounds per day) and the estimate of current solid waste production (20,406 tons per year in 2003) provided for the City.

As a result of comments (see Table 1-1 of Chapter 1.0 "Introduction") received during the NOP public scoping phase of the Proposed Project, specific effects from the project relating to solid waste have been considered as part of the impact analysis. For example, the California Waste Recovery Systems suggested that the City should have a solid waste transfer station and that the identification of a transfer station site should be included in the project description of the EIR. To address this concern, the Policy Document includes Policy LU-8.5 "Refuse Transfer Station". This policy requires the City to coordinate efforts with the refuse service provider to locate a new refuse transfer station along the railroad tracks, north of Twin Cities Road.

CHAPTER 8.0
Natural Resources

8.1 Introduction

In preparing the Proposed Project, a common chapter numbering system was used in preparing the key general plan documents to allow readers the ability to easily find related information throughout the various documents. In the Existing Conditions Report, Chapter 8.0 is the "Natural Resources" section. This section provides background information on the existing open space and natural resource conditions of the Study Area, with the draft Policy Document providing the policy framework for the various resources identified under the Proposed Project.

This chapter discusses the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on a variety of natural resources including:

- Hydrology (8.2),
- Biological Resources (8.3), and
- Soils and Agricultural Resources (8.4).

8.2 Hydrology

Hydrology issues include the distribution and circulation of water, both aboveground (surface water) and belowground (groundwater). Water quality deals with the quality of both surface and groundwater resources. Surface water includes all water resources on the surface of the land and includes rivers, lakes, canals, and of course the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). Hydrologic impacts related to the provision of water supply, wastewater, and storm water drainage services are addressed in Chapter 6.0 "Public Facilities & Services" (see Sections 6.2 "Water Supply", Section 6.3 "Wastewater Systems", and Section 6.4 "Storm Drainage"). Hydrologic impacts related to flooding issues are addressed in Chapter 10.0 "Public Health and Safety" (see Section 10.4 "Flooding").

Environmental and Regulatory Setting

As previously described in the "Readers Guide" (see Chapter 1 of this draft EIR), Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines permits documents of lengthy technical detail to be incorporated by reference in an EIR. Specifically, Section 15150 states that an EIR may "incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the

public..." Consistent with the CEQA Guidelines and as a way to avoid creating an overwhelming amount of paper for members of the public and decision-makers to sort through, this draft EIR incorporates by reference information from both the Existing Conditions Report and Policy Document. Consistent with this approach, the reader is directed to Chapter 8.0 of the Existing Conditions Report for environmental and regulatory setting information specific to hydrology and water quality topics (see Appendix B of this draft EIR).

Impact Methodology

The provision of ongoing storm water management is currently being accomplished through requirements set forth in the City of Galt Municipal Code. The City of Galt also submitted its Storm Water Management Plan/Program (SWMP) (as a joint effort with other member agencies of the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership) in November 2000 and a subsequent update in December 2003. The SWMP includes program elements that each permittee will implement to reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), and to effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges into municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) within each permittee's jurisdiction. Each Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (SQIP) is a site-specific modification of the existing comprehensive SWMP required under the previous MS4 permit, Order No. 96-105. The County and the Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, and Galt jointly submitted a SQIP (County SQIP). The City of Sacramento submitted a separate SQIP (City SQIP). The City is required to maintain compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements that evolve over time.

Impacts associated with hydrologic resources were evaluated using information provided in the General Plan Existing Conditions Report (see Appendix B of this draft EIR). This assessment of impacts to hydrologic resources is a qualitative review of the existing hydrologic conditions within the Study Area and a determination of whether the Proposed Project includes adequate provisions to ensure continued protection of these resources.

As a result of comments (see Table 1-1 of Chapter 1.0 "Introduction") received during the NOP public scoping phase of the Proposed Project, specific effects on groundwater resources have been considered as part of the impact analysis. For example, Michael Eaton recommended that the EIR analysis consider specific impacts to groundwater resources and that the City consider working actively with the South Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA) in order to move towards a system of conjunctive water use.

Standards of Significance

The Proposed Project will establish development guidelines against which future projects will be judged for consistency. The significance criteria for this analysis were developed from criteria presented in Appendix G, "Environmental Checklist Form", of the CEQA Guidelines (as amended by the City of Galt to address a variety of water quality issues). The project (or the project alternatives) would result in a significant impact if it would:

- Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (i.e., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted); or
- Violate any water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade water quality.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact 8.2-1: The Proposed Project would have the potential, in the long-term, to deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table.

Impact Summary

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: ***Potentially Significant***
Required Mitigation: ***Mitigation Measure 8.2-1: Adopt General Plan Policy PFS-2.12 "Water Meter Retrofit Program" to Address Water Supply Impacts***
Level of Significance After Mitigation: ***Significant and Unavoidable***

Impact Analysis

Implementation of the Proposed Project (including build out of the Preferred Land Use Alternative and the Circulation Diagram) would result in an increased demand on groundwater supplies for urban and rural uses within the City. Effective implementation of groundwater management practices are necessary to meet future water demands via groundwater extraction, without creating declining groundwater levels, and adversely affecting existing wells. Concerns of declining groundwater levels are heightened by the fact that the City is presently dependent upon groundwater supplies.

The City of Galt relies upon groundwater from the Cosumnes Sub-basin (DWR Groundwater Basin Number 5-22.16) of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin as its sole source of domestic potable water. The Cosumnes Sub-basin is an un-adjudicated basin that supports both municipal and agricultural users.

The publication, *"California's Groundwater – Bulletin 118, Update 2003"*, published by the California Department of Water Resources contains a wide range of information pertaining to groundwater basins and sub-basins throughout California. The information summarized below was derived from the referenced publication.

> *Cosumnes Sub-Basin: "Montgomery Watson Consultants (Montgomery Watson 1993) developed a groundwater model for Sacramento County. A subsequent model was developed for San Joaquin County by Montgomery Watson as part of*