

1 INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND NEED

This document is a joint environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) prepared for the Rio del Oro Specific Plan project (the “proposed action” for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] and the “proposed project” for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA]). This EIR/EIS has been prepared by both the City of Rancho Cordova (City), as lead agency under CEQA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District, as federal lead agency under NEPA. The EIR/EIS is a joint document intended to comply with both CEQA and NEPA. See California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (State CEQA Guidelines), Section 15222 (“Preparation of Joint Documents”); and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 40, Sections 1502.25, 1506.2, and 1506.4 (authority for combining federal and state environmental documents). See also 33 CFR Part 230 (USACE NEPA regulations) and 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix B (“NEPA Implementation Procedures for the [USACE] Regulatory Program”).

In its initial form, an EIR/EIS is composed primarily of a draft document known as a draft EIR/EIS (DEIR/DEIS), and the lead agencies’ written responses to public and public-agency comments on the draft document. This DEIR/DEIS evaluates the potential adverse impacts on the human and natural environment resulting from implementation of the proposed Rio del Oro Specific Plan project (proposed project/proposed action), hereinafter referred to as “the project.” The DEIR/DEIS proposes mitigation measures and alternatives that may reduce or avoid the significance of such adverse impacts. Following public review of the DEIR/DEIS a final EIR/EIS (FEIR/FEIS) will be prepared, in which the joint lead agencies will provide responses to significant comments relating to the analysis provided in the DEIR/DEIS.

A specific plan is a legislative development plan prepared in accordance with California planning statutes found in Government Code Section 65450 et seq. and the City’s Specific Plan Ordinance No. 11-2004. The goal of the specific plan is to establish a development framework for land use, resource protection, circulation, public utilities and services, and implementation and design. The project includes adoption of the specific plan itself and implementation of the associated development proposal. This DEIR/DEIS has been prepared under the direction of the City and USACE and in accordance with the requirements of CEQA and NEPA identified above.

This chapter of the DEIR/DEIS provides information on the following:

- ▶ the project requiring environmental analysis (i.e., a synopsis);
- ▶ project purpose and need and project objectives;
- ▶ history and planning context of the project;
- ▶ type, purpose, and intended uses of the DEIR/DEIS;
- ▶ scope and focus of the DEIR/DEIS;
- ▶ agency roles and responsibilities and required permits and approvals;
- ▶ organization of the DEIR/DEIS;
- ▶ documents relied on in the DEIR/DEIS; and
- ▶ standard terminology and acronyms.

1.1 PROJECT REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The project applicant(s), Elliott Homes, Inc., and GenCorp Realty Investments (GenCorp), the parent company of Aerojet General Corporation (Aerojet), are requesting approval of various discretionary entitlements in support of a specific plan for a mixed-use development. The specific plan supports a combination of employment-generating uses, retail and supporting services, recreational uses, and a broad range of residential uses and associated infrastructure and roads on an approximately 3,828-acre site in eastern Sacramento County, south of U.S. Highway 50 (U.S. 50), in the city of Rancho Cordova. The property is located south of White Rock Road, north of Douglas Road, and east of Sunrise Boulevard (see Exhibits 2-1 and 2-2 in Chapter 2, “Alternatives”).

The proposed project (project) includes 11,601 residential units at various densities; more than 6,800,000 square feet of employment-generating uses (village commercial, shopping center, business park, industrial park); public/quasi-public uses; elementary, middle, and high schools; community and neighborhood parks; private recreational uses; stormwater detention basins; open-space areas and open-space preserves; a drainage parkway; greenbelts; major roads with landscaping; and a wetland preserve/mitigation bank.

Several off-site infrastructure facilities (road widening and extensions, sewer interceptors, water and wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater transmission mains, water pipelines and distribution systems and facilities, electrical transmission lines, and water tanks) are proposed to serve project development and are addressed in this DEIR/DEIS.

The project is analyzed in two components: Phase 1, which encompasses approximately the western 1,100 acres owned by Elliott Homes and is estimated to be completed in 2014, and Phases 2–5, which encompass the remaining 2,728 acres owned by GenCorp and are anticipated to reach buildout by 2030.

1.2 PROJECT HISTORY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Historical use of the project site includes grazing, gold mining, and activities associated with the aerospace industry. The project site forms a part of the historic 35,500-acre Mexican land grant *Rancho Rio de los Americanos*—lands that were used historically for grazing since the early 1800s. A large portion of the project site is still being used today as pastureland for cattle grazing. Beginning in the 1920s, most of the land in the project study area was acquired by the Natomas Company for bucket-line dredging of gold-bearing gravel deposits, which continued in the project vicinity through the early 1960s. The mining activities consisted of hydraulic dredging of ancient alluvial deposits to a depth of up to 120 feet. The areas that were mined are distinguished by alternating piles of rocky tailings and lower areas where the finer sediment settled out. Evidence of mining activities, including the piles of dredge tailings, covers approximately 70% of the surface area of the project site. Currently, a portion of the tailings is being processed for sand and gravel.

The site was sold to Aerojet in 1956 for use in development and testing of missile propulsion systems. McDonnell Douglas Corporation (MDC) initially leased the land from Aerojet for its rocket testing activities, and then bought it outright in 1961. MDC ceased operations at the site in 1969; Aerojet reacquired the land in 1984 for use primarily as a buffer zone from White Rock Road for rocket engine testing, but also as a place to burn excess rocket fuel and test small quantities of energetic material. Limited development of the site during this time included construction of paved and unpaved access roads, various structures and buildings, and a limited infrastructure of utilities and drainage improvements. Numerous buildings, roads, and structures associated with the prior use remain on the site today, primarily in the southern/central portion of the project site.

In 1994, Aerojet and MDC agreed to investigate certain areas of concern on the project site pursuant to the requirements of a consent order with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and to complete necessary remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater (see Exhibits 3.13-1 and 3.13-2 in Section 3.13, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials”).

As of the date of this writing, there are eight remaining DTSC areas of concern comprising approximately 460 acres. These areas of concern and the groundwater underneath the project site are undergoing various levels of review and/or remedial action. Some areas have been fully investigated, and DTSC has determined that several locations require no remedial action with regard to soil (see Section 3.13, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials”). Approved remedial-action plans are under way in some areas, while others are still in the investigation phase.

During the mid-1990s, while site evaluations were proceeding, Aerojet met with DTSC on numerous occasions to discuss long-range redevelopment plans for the property, including large passive buffer areas that were not utilized in either aerospace or industrial operations. In 1997, DTSC agreed with Aerojet that soils within much of the passive buffer area were indeed clean, should not be included within the consent order, and were suitable for

potential redevelopment use. Currently, approximately 2,728 acres of the site are still under the consent order and are owned by GenCorp (parent company of Aerojet), while approximately 1,100 acres have been removed from the consent order and are owned by Elliott Homes. These 1,100 acres constitute Phase 1 of the project. The remaining 2,728 acres constitute Phases 2–5 of the project.

On July 3, 1998, GenCorp submitted an application to the County of Sacramento (County) for a general plan amendment and rezone on the 1,100 acres subsequently purchased by Elliott Homes in 2001. To accompany the private application, the County Board of Supervisors initiated a planning process for the Rio del Oro project. In addition, a technical advisory team was established, including representatives of various County departments or divisions, to review and comment on the proposed Rio del Oro project and the technical studies that would be needed to support the planning process.

In fall 2003, the City initiated the CEQA process for the proposed Rio del Oro Specific Plan project. Because implementation of the proposed action would require federal discretionary authorization and permits (Department of the Army under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act [ESA]), the project is also subject to the requirements of NEPA. Therefore, the City and USACE initiated the process of preparing a joint EIR/EIS in fall 2003.

Rancho Cordova officially became a city under the laws of the State of California on July 1, 2003. Upon incorporation, the City adopted applicable portions of the County’s general plan and zoning ordinance, as well as applicable community and specific plans, and zoning designations in areas within the newly incorporated city. On August 2, 2004, the City finalized a “Vision Book.” The Vision Book was not an adopted land use plan, but presented ideas consistent with the City’s vision for future growth and development, consistent with policies of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). In May 2005, the City adopted interim Land Use and Circulation Elements. On June 26, 2006, the *Rancho Cordova General Plan* (City General Plan) was adopted.

1.3 PROJECT PURPOSE, NEED, AND OBJECTIVES

The proposed action has been formulated to achieve the purpose, objectives, and needs of the project, as summarized below. NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1502.13) require that an EIS contain a statement of the purpose and need that “briefly specif[ies] the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives, including the proposed action.” State CEQA Guidelines Section 15124(b) requires that the project description contain a clear statement of the project objectives, including the underlying purpose of the project. The statement of purpose and need is important under NEPA in helping USACE (co-lead agency), and the statement of objectives is important under CEQA in helping the City (co-lead agency), to develop a reasonable range of alternatives to the project/action for evaluation in the EIR/EIS.

1.3.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The City and USACE each view the project purpose from the purview of their responsibilities. The City is interested in the orderly development of lands within its planning boundaries. USACE’s interest extends to its permit authority with respect to regulation of waters of the United States.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED: CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA CONSIDERATIONS

Elliott Homes and GenCorp (i.e., the project applicant[s]) are seeking various approvals necessary to develop the Rio del Oro project site, a 3,828-acre former mining and industrial property that is one of the largest undeveloped infill areas within Rancho Cordova, and a key area for focusing new development under the City General Plan. The proposed mix of land uses, with a predominance of housing but commercial and retail uses as well, is intended to help alleviate the City’s current jobs/housing imbalance, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled, citywide congestion, and air pollution over the long term, while also providing sufficient tax revenues to avoid creating fiscal burdens on the newly incorporated City.

By locating a mix of housing types at an infill site south of the American River, an area of Rancho Cordova long planned for development, and proximate to major existing or planned infrastructure such as U.S. 50, light rail along the U.S. 50 corridor, and Section 7 of the Bradshaw Sewer Interceptor, the project would allow the City to reduce the trip distances currently traveled in and out of the Rancho Cordova area by locating residences proximate to existing and future job-generating uses. The current jobs/housing imbalance in the Rancho Cordova area currently adds a heavy traffic burden to the U.S. 50 corridor, American River bridges, and local roadways. The project would also contribute to regional growth management by focusing market demand for development onto an infill site that is both already highly disturbed and contiguous with existing development, thereby reducing long-term development pressures that would otherwise be felt in more environmentally sensitive areas less proximate to existing urban land uses.

The project would transform a site historically used for grazing, dredging and by Aerojet, a major aerospace company, into a mixed-use development. The site would also make an economically viable use of a significant portion of Aerojet's available buffer lands, which are currently zoned for industrial uses for which there is not currently an adequate market demand.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

USACE has determined that the overall project purpose and need are to provide a large-scale mixed-use community within Sacramento County. The applicant has indicated that there is a need for additional residential and commercial development within the City of Rancho Cordova.

1.3.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Outlined below are the main project objectives defined by the project applicant(s) for the proposed Rio del Oro development. These objectives are important for the selection and consideration of CEQA alternatives.

- ▶ Develop a well-integrated mixed-use master-planned community.
- ▶ Provide employment-generating uses, including a regional town center, to the city and the surrounding region that will result in long-term community benefits, including generation of substantial permanent employment opportunities and needed retail uses along the Sunrise Boulevard corridor and fiscal benefits from tax-generating land uses.
- ▶ Provide a diversity of housing types that will help alleviate the existing and future jobs/housing imbalance in the city and surrounding region, with particular emphasis on affordability and proximity to the major employment-generating centers along the U.S. 50 corridor and major existing or planned infrastructure (e.g., light rail and Section 7 of the Bradshaw Interceptor).
- ▶ Provide a pedestrian-friendly, human-scale community environment that provides a safe and pleasant place for people to live, work, and recreate.
- ▶ Provide a balance between the urban environment and existing sensitive biological habitat through retention, enhancement, or creation, where feasible, and by focusing market demand for development into a highly disturbed infill area to reduce long-term development pressures in more environmentally sensitive areas less proximate to existing urban uses.
- ▶ Facilitate the implementation of regional and city transportation circulation linkages (especially Rancho Cordova Parkway and Americanos Boulevard from the project site north to U.S. 50), facilitate the expansion and use of alternative modes of transportation, and integrate the project site with the surrounding development and circulation pattern by creating street and pedestrian/bicycle access throughout the project site to enable trips without depending exclusively on major roads, secondary roads, or the automobile.

1.4 INTENDED USES AND TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1.4.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

According to the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15064[f][1]), preparation of an EIR is required whenever a project may result in a significant environmental impact. An EIR is an informational document used to inform public agency decision makers and the general public of the significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while substantially lessening or avoiding any of the significant environmental impacts. Public agencies are required to consider the information presented in the EIR when determining whether to approve a project.

CEQA requires that state and local government agencies consider the environmental effects of projects over which they have discretionary authority before taking action on those projects (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). CEQA also requires that each public agency avoid or mitigate to less-than-significant levels, wherever feasible, the significant environmental effects of projects it approves or implements. If a project would result in significant and unavoidable environmental impacts that cannot be feasibly mitigated to less-than-significant levels, the project can still be approved, but the lead agency's decision makers must issue a "statement of overriding considerations" explaining in writing the specific economic, social, or other considerations that they believe make those significant effects acceptable.

1.4.2 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

NEPA provides an interdisciplinary framework for federal agencies to develop information that will help them to take environmental factors into account in their decision-making (42 United States Code [USC] 4321, 40 CFR 1500.1). According to NEPA, an EIS is required whenever a proposed major federal action (e.g., a proposal for legislation or an activity financed, assisted, conducted, or approved by a federal agency) would result in significant effects on the quality of the human environment.

Much of the development contemplated by the proposed specific plan is dependent upon federal action because such development would require federal permits for one or more of the following activities: (i) discharges of fill material into waters of the United States, and (ii) activities affecting plant or animal species protected by the ESA (16 USC 1531 et seq.). An EIS is an informational document used by federal agencies in making decisions. An EIS is intended to provide full and open disclosure of environmental consequences prior to agency action; an interdisciplinary approach to project evaluation; objective consideration of all reasonable alternatives; application of measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts; and an avenue for public and agency participation in decision-making (40 CFR 1502.1). NEPA defines mitigation as avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for significant effects of the proposed action (40 CFR 1508.20).

NEPA requires that a lead agency "include (in an EIS) appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives" (40 CFR 1502.14[f]). An EIS shall also include discussions of "means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts (if not fully covered under Section 1502.14[f])." In preparing a record of decision under 40 CFR 1505.2, a lead agency is required to "[s]tate *whether* all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted, and if not, why they were not. A monitoring and enforcement program shall be adopted and summarized where applicable for *any* mitigation." (Italics added.)

The proposed action consists of several individual project components that are related closely enough to be considered a single course of action.

This EIR/EIS contains both program- and project-level components. Phase 1 (Elliott Homes) includes relatively precise development plans, so it may be evaluated in a detailed project-level analysis. The remaining phases (GenCorp) may require further environmental analysis and additional agency approvals when tentative maps are submitted after adoption of the specific plan, particularly if site-specific issues peculiar to certain parcels were not addressed at the broader program level of analysis found in this document.

1.4.3 PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This EIR/EIS includes only program-level or “first-tier” analysis for some purposes, consistent with California Public Resources Code Sections 21093 and 21094, 14 CCR Sections 15152 and 15168, and 40 CFR 1500.4(i), 1502.4(b), and 1502.20. This program-level or “programmatically” analysis evaluates the requested actions as they relate to the proposed land use designations for the overall specific plan (refer to Chapter 2, “Alternatives,” for further detail on the overall project).

The program-level analysis considers the broad environmental effects of the overall specific plan. This program EIR/EIS also identifies performance standards (e.g., setbacks, measures to protect biological and visual resources) and mitigation measures that would apply to all subsequent, future project phases under the specific plan (as conditions of approval) at the Rio del Oro project site. These performance standards would be incorporated into the Rio del Oro Specific Plan to avoid or reduce impacts to the degree feasible. In addition, the program-level analysis addresses the cumulative impacts of development of the project and analyzes a reasonable range of alternative land use maps at an equal level of detail. A No Project Alternative is also analyzed as required by CEQA and NEPA, as well as a No USACE Permit Alternative as required by USACE NEPA regulations.

The project encompasses five separate phases of development. To move forward with a specific phase, the project applicant will submit a tentative subdivision map/improvement plan for each phase. At that time, the City will require compliance with the Rio del Oro Specific Plan performance standards and mitigation measures set forth in the EIR/EIS and incorporated into the Rio del Oro Specific Plan for each tentative subdivision map/improvement plan as conditions of approval. CEQA includes a number of different but complementary means for streamlining environmental review consistent with an approved general plan, specific plan, or zoning action. More than one of these provisions might apply to future entitlements within the approved specific plan area. (See Public Resources Code Section 21083.3 [streamlined review for projects consistent with general plans, community plans, or zoning actions for which an EIR was prepared]; 14 CCR Section 15183 [same]; Public Resources Code Sections 21093 and 21094 [tiering]; 14 CCR Section 15152 [same]; California Government Code Section 65457 [CEQA exemption for residential projects within a specific plan for which an EIR was prepared]; and 14 CCR Section 15182 [same]. See also City Ordinance No. 11-2004 regarding the preparation of specific plans.) The extent of environmental review, if any, for future development entitlements will depend on a number of factors, including the streamlining provision of CEQA that seems most applicable to a particular proposed entitlement; consistency of the development with the adopted specific plan; and the extent to which the programmatic analysis, performance standards, and mitigation measures have anticipated and accounted for the site-specific impacts of the requested entitlements.

In addition, project-level analysis under NEPA is also provided for those areas outside development Phase 1 for which the project applicant (GenCorp) has provided USACE with sufficient information to determine whether to approve a Section 404 permit. These areas are located within 250 feet of several large wetland features generally located in the southern portion of the project site. USACE anticipates that they will be able to complete a Section 404 permit decision for these areas without additional NEPA analysis beyond this EIR/EIS, as long as there are no substantial deviations from proposed uses or the condition of these uses.

1.4.4 PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In addition to the programmatic analysis described above, the EIR/EIS also includes a more detailed project-level analysis of the initial phase (Phase 1) of the proposed Rio del Oro project, which one of the project applicant(s) (Elliott Homes) is currently requesting entitlements to implement. As more fully described in Chapter 2, “Alternatives,” components associated with the proposed 1,100-acre Phase 1 development are analyzed at a project level of detail. The development proposal for this phase of the project contains enough specificity for a site-specific, project-level environmental review under both NEPA and CEQA, and will allow the consideration of discretionary approvals, such as tentative subdivision maps and use permits for this phase of the project. The City’s intention in evaluating Phase 1 at a project level of detail is that no further EIRs or negative declarations will be required for additional regulatory approvals following adoption of the specific plan, barring the occurrence of any of the circumstances described in Public Resources Code Section 21166. USACE similarly intends this document to provide sufficient formal NEPA analysis for development of Phase 1.

1.5 SCOPE AND FOCUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and the State CEQA Guidelines, the discussion of potential effects on the environment in this EIR/EIS is focused on those impacts that the City and USACE have determined may be potentially significant.

To make a preliminary determination of which impacts may be potentially significant, the City prepared an initial study (IS) on the project concept in December 2003 (Appendix A). The IS concluded that the project may have significant effects related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and services systems. On December 12, 2003, the City issued a notice of preparation (NOP) (Appendix B) to inform agencies and the general public that a joint EIR/EIS was being prepared, and invited comments on the scope and content of the document and participation at a public scoping meeting. The NOP was published in the State Clearinghouse and was mailed to approximately 15 state agencies. It was also posted on the City’s website. The NOP was circulated for 30 days as mandated by CEQA. The public-comment period for the NOP closed on February 12, 2004.

On January 30, 2004, USACE issued a notice of intent (NOI) (Appendix B) to inform agencies and the general public that a joint EIR/EIS was being prepared and invited comments on the scope and content of the document. At that time USACE announced that it had developed a public-involvement program allowing opportunities for public participation and involvement in the NEPA process. The NOI also provided information on the dates and times of public scoping meetings. The NOI was published in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 24, on February 5, 2004. The NOI was also posted on the City’s website. There is no mandated time limit to receive written comments in response to the NOI under NEPA.

The City and USACE jointly held two public scoping meetings to solicit input from the community and public agencies to be considered in project design, alternatives selection, and on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS. The meetings were held on February 26, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, and at 6:00 p.m. at the Mills Station light rail station in Rancho Cordova, California. Fourteen people from both the public and private sectors attended the two meetings.

Appendix B of this DEIR/DEIS contains a table listing the substantive comments on the NOP and NOI. Copies of the comment letters follow the table in Appendix B. Comments on the project applicant’s Section 404 permit application that were submitted to USACE are also included in the table.

This DEIR/DEIS includes an evaluation of 16 environmental issue areas and other NEPA- and CEQA-mandated issues (e.g., cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts). The 16 environmental issue areas are as follows:

- ▶ Land use
- ▶ Population, employment, and housing
- ▶ Environmental justice (NEPA)
- ▶ Drainage, hydrology, and water quality
- ▶ Utilities and services systems
- ▶ Public services
- ▶ Geology, soils, and mineral resources
- ▶ Paleontological resources
- ▶ Cultural resources
- ▶ Biological resources
- ▶ Visual resources
- ▶ Parks and recreation
- ▶ Hazards and hazardous materials
- ▶ Traffic and transportation
- ▶ Air quality
- ▶ Noise

CEQA and NEPA allow a lead agency to limit a discussion of the environmental effects in an EIR/EIS when the effects are not considered potentially significant.

1.6 AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.6.1 LEAD AGENCIES

The City of Rancho Cordova is the lead agency for the project under CEQA, and USACE, Sacramento District, is the federal lead agency under NEPA. The City has the principal responsibility for approving and carrying out the project and for ensuring that the requirements of CEQA have been met. USACE has the principal responsibility for making Clean Water Act Section 404 permit decisions and ensuring that the requirements of NEPA have been met. The following are the entitlements requested from the City for the project:

- ▶ adoption and implementation of the specific plan;
- ▶ adoption of a Public Facilities Financing Plan;
- ▶ adoption of a Public Facilities Infrastructure/Phasing Plan;
- ▶ approval of the Phase 1 tentative subdivision map; and
- ▶ approval of a development agreement between the City and the project applicant(s).

The project applicants (Elliott Homes and GenCorp) are requesting these approvals to accommodate proposed development on lands they control (i.e., lands owned). However, some approvals would apply to all lands in the specific plan area. It is anticipated that the City will also rely on this EIR/EIS without further environmental review for approval of other future discretionary entitlements and permits (e.g., small-lot tentative subdivision maps, design review approvals, use permits). The City will rely on this document to the degree that it adequately addresses the impacts of future development on the site (i.e., with respect to Phase 1 and possibly areas within later phases, depending on the circumstances). The proposed action represents a federal action because it would require one or more of the following federal permits and authorizations:

- ▶ Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for discharges into waters of the United States, and
- ▶ ESA Section 7 consultation leading to issuance of a Biological Opinion and possible incidental-take statement for activities affecting endangered species.

1.6.2 TRUSTEE, RESPONSIBLE, AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

Under CEQA, a trustee agency is a state agency that has jurisdiction by law over natural resources that are held in trust for the people of the State of California. One trustee agency, the California Department of Fish and Game, meets that definition with respect to resources potentially affected by the project.

Under CEQA, a responsible agency is an agency other than the lead agency that has legal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project or elements of a project (Public Resources Code Section 21069). Under NEPA, a cooperating agency is any federal agency other than the lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in an action requiring an EIS. Responsible and cooperating agencies are encouraged to actively participate in the CEQA and NEPA processes of the lead agencies, review the CEQA and NEPA documents of the lead agencies, and use the documents when making decisions on the project. Several agencies other than the City and USACE have jurisdiction over the implementation of the elements of the project, as identified below.

FEDERAL COOPERATING AGENCIES

- ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration

STATE TRUSTEE AND RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

- ▶ California Air Resources Board
- ▶ California Department of Education
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Game
- ▶ California Department of Health Services
- ▶ California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- ▶ California Department of Transportation
- ▶ State Water Resources Control Board
- ▶ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- ▶ Native American Heritage Commission
- ▶ State Historic Preservation Officer

REGIONAL AND LOCAL RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

- ▶ Zone 41 Water District
- ▶ Folsom Cordova Unified School District
- ▶ County of Sacramento
- ▶ Sacramento County Water Agency
- ▶ Sacramento County Local Agency Formation Commission
- ▶ Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
- ▶ Sacramento County Municipal Services Agency

1.6.3 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, PERMITS, AND APPROVALS

The following list identifies permits and other approval actions from federal, state, regional, and local agencies for which this EIR/EIS may be used during these agencies' decision-making processes. The following may be under the purview of regulatory agencies other than the lead agencies.

FEDERAL ACTIONS/PERMITS

- ▶ **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States. Consultation for impacts on cultural resources pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Consultation for impacts on federally listed species pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA.
- ▶ **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** reviewing the EIS, filing, and noticing; concurrence with Section 404 Clean Water Act permit.
- ▶ **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** ESA consultation and issuance of incidental-take authorization for the take of federally listed endangered and threatened species.

STATE ACTIONS/PERMITS

- ▶ **California Department of Education:** approval of new school sites for which state funding is sought.
- ▶ **California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento Valley—Central Sierra Region:** potential California Endangered Species Act (CESA) consultation and issuance of take authorization (Fish and Game Code Section 2081), streambed alteration agreement (Fish and Game Code Section 1602), and protection of raptors (Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5).
- ▶ **California Department of Transportation:** possible encroachment permits.
- ▶ **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5):** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction stormwater permit (NOI to proceed under General Construction Permit) for disturbance of more than 1 acre, discharge permit for stormwater, general order for dewatering, and Section 401 Clean Water Act certification or waste discharge requirements.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ACTIONS/PERMITS

- ▶ **Sacramento County Local Agency Formation Commission:** approval of annexation to the service area of Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and County Sanitation District No. 1.
- ▶ **Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District:** authority to construct (for devices that emit air pollutants), health risk assessment, and Air Quality Management Plan consistency determination.

1.7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADDITIONAL STEPS IN THE CEQA/NEPA REVIEW PROCESS

This DEIR/DEIS is being distributed to interested agencies, stakeholder organizations, and individuals. This distribution ensures that interested parties have an opportunity to express their views regarding the environmental effects of the project, and to ensure that information pertinent to permits and approvals is provided to decision makers for the lead agencies, NEPA cooperating agencies, and CEQA responsible agencies. This document is available for review by the public during normal business hours at Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park

Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. The DEIR/DEIS is being distributed for a 60-day review period that will end on February 5, 2007.

Written comments postmarked no later than February 5, 2007, should be sent to the following addresses:

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E-mail: Anna.M.Sutton@spk01.usace.army.mil

If comments are provided via e-mail, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

A public hearing on the DEIR/DEIS will be conducted by the City and USACE at 6 p.m. on January 11, 2007, at Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova. It is not necessary to provide testimony during the public hearing; comments on the DEIR/DEIS will be accepted throughout the meeting and will be recorded at the public comment table. Comments may also be submitted throughout the comment period as described above.

Once all comments have been assembled and reviewed, responses will be prepared to address significant environmental issues that have been raised in the comments. The responses will be included in an FEIR/FEIS.

1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The content and format of this EIR/EIS are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, the requirements of NEPA, the NEPA regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and USACE NEPA regulations, as well as Appendix B to those regulations (NEPA implementation). The EIR/EIS is organized into the following chapters so that the reader can easily obtain information about the project and its specific environmental issues.

Volume I

- ▶ The cover sheet identifies lead and any cooperating agencies, contact information for the lead agency contact person, the title of the project and its location, a brief description of the project, a brief abstract, and comment submission information.
- ▶ The Executive Summary presents an overview of the project and alternatives and associated environmental impacts/consequences; a listing of environmental impacts/consequences and mitigation measures; and impact conclusions regarding growth inducement, irreversible environmental changes, and known areas of controversy and issues to be resolved.
- ▶ Chapter 1, "Introduction and Statement of Purpose and Need," explains the CEQA and NEPA processes; lists the lead, cooperating, responsible, and trustee agencies that may have discretionary authority over the project;

specifies the underlying project purpose, need, and objectives to which the lead agencies are responding in considering the proposed action/project and project alternatives; outlines the organization of the document; and provides information on public participation.

- ▶ Chapter 2, “Alternatives,” presents the proposed project and the alternatives to the proposed project. This chapter constitutes the project description and describes the program and project characteristics and components, supporting on- and off-site infrastructure, and required entitlements for each alternative. This chapter also describes the proposed Rio del Oro Specific Plan and identifies the performance standards that will be incorporated into the specific plan and to which subsequent, tentative maps would be required to adhere to when submitted. This chapter provides an evaluation of each alternative in comparison with the proposed project, and describes alternatives considered but eliminated from further consideration.
- ▶ Chapter 3, “Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures,” is divided into 16 sections. The introduction to Chapter 3 explains the approach to the affected environment (i.e., environmental setting), presents the assumptions used in the environmental analysis, and provides definitions of the types of environmental effects. Each of the remaining sections is devoted to a particular topic area and describes the baseline, or existing conditions, and the regulatory setting, then provides an analysis of impacts at an equal level of detail for all project alternatives and mitigation measures that would avoid or eliminate significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level, where available. This chapter also identifies the cumulative effects of implementing the proposed project or one of the alternatives, against a backdrop of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.
- ▶ Chapter 4, “Other Statutory Requirements,” includes the list of cumulative projects/context for the assessment of cumulative impacts, growth-inducing effects, irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources, relationship between short-term uses of the environment and maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and unavoidable adverse environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives under consideration.
- ▶ Chapter 5, “References and Organizations and Persons Consulted,” provides a bibliography of sources cited in the EIR/EIS and identifies the names and affiliations of persons who provided information used in preparing the document and provides information about public involvement.
- ▶ Chapter 6, “Report Preparers,” lists individuals who were involved in preparing this EIR/EIS.
- ▶ Chapter 7, “Index,” contains the NEPA-required index for easy reference of topics and issues.

Volumes II and III

- ▶ Technical appendices contain the background information that supports the EIR/EIS. Volumes II and III can be found on the CD located in the back of Volume I.

1.9 DOCUMENTS RELIED ON IN PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The authors of this DEIR/DEIS relied on several background documents in reaching many of their conclusions. These documents provide background information, are sources of technical information, or are part of the planning context for the overall planning effort. Some of these documents form the foundation of the technical analysis conducted in this DEIR/DEIS. These documents are as follows:

- ▶ *Draft Rio del Oro Specific Plan* (G. C. Wallace 2004, 2005, 2006)

- ▶ *Section 404 Individual Permit Application for Rio del Oro* (ECORP Consulting 2002)
- ▶ *Wetland Delineation for Rio del Oro, Sacramento County, CA* (ECORP Consulting 2004)
- ▶ *Elliott Homes, Inc., Revised Hazardous Materials Technical Study for the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site and Associated Lands* (Environmental Resources Management 2003)
- ▶ *Master Drainage Study for Rio del Oro* (Wood Rodgers 2003a, 2005a)
- ▶ *Tree Inventory for Rio del Oro Project, Sacramento County, California* (Sierra Nevada Arborists 2003)
- ▶ *Listed Vernal Pool Branchiopods Wet Season Survey, Rio del Oro Property, Sacramento County, CA* (Gibson & Skordal 2000a)
- ▶ *Listed Vernal Pool Branchiopods 2001 Wet Season Survey, Rio del Oro Property, Sacramento County, CA* (Gibson & Skordal 2001)
- ▶ *Rio del Oro, Rancho Cordova, California—Rare Plant Survey, Sacramento County, CA* (ECORP Consulting 2003a, 2003b)
- ▶ *Elderberry Survey—Rio del Oro Property, Sacramento County, CA* (Gibson & Skordal 2000b)
- ▶ *Jurisdictional Delineation, Rio del Oro Property, Sacramento County, CA* (Gibson & Skordal 1999)
- ▶ *Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Rio del Oro Project Area, Sacramento County, California* (Peak & Associates 1999)
- ▶ *Historic Buildings and Structures Inventory, Douglas Missile Test Facility, Rio del Oro Specific Plan Project* (EDAW 2005a)
- ▶ *Determination of Eligibility and Effect for the Proposed Rio del Oro Project Area, City of Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, County, California* (Peak & Associates 2005)
- ▶ *Transportation Analysis for Rio del Oro Development* (Fehr & Peers 2002)
- ▶ *Supplemental Transportation Analysis for Rio del Oro Development* (Fehr & Peers 2003)
- ▶ *Traffic and Transportation Analysis for Rio del Oro Development* (Fehr & Peers 2005)
- ▶ *Draft Rio del Oro Plan Area Water Supply Master Plan, Rancho Cordova, California* (Wood Rodgers 2003b)
- ▶ *Conceptual Sewer Study for Rio del Oro* (Wood Rodgers 2003c, 2003d)
- ▶ *Sewer Master Plan for Rio del Oro, City of Rancho Cordova, California* (Wood Rodgers 2005b)
- ▶ *Wetland Delineation for Rio del Oro* (ECORP Consulting 2004)
- ▶ *Rio del Oro Plan Area Water Supply Master Plan, Draft, Volume 1* (Wood Rodgers 2004)
- ▶ *Rio del Oro Habitat Assessment* (EDAW 2005b)
- ▶ *Rio del Oro Water Supply Assessment* (EDAW 2005c)

These documents are referenced and elements are discussed and summarized throughout this DEIR/DEIS. Copies of each of these documents, including a hard copy of Volumes II and III, are available from:

City of Rancho Cordova
 2729 Prospect Park Drive
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 Phone: (916) 942-0222
 Fax: (916) 853-1691

1.10 STANDARD TERMINOLOGY, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

1.10.1 STANDARD TERMINOLOGY

The following standard terminology to refer to elements of the projects are used in this DEIR/DEIS.

- ▶ **Specific plan** refers to the Rio del Oro Specific Plan.
- ▶ **Plan area** refers to the Rio del Oro Specific Plan area, also known as “project site.”
- ▶ **Project site** refers to the Rio del Oro project site or specific plan area.
- ▶ **Project** refers to the project as currently proposed, including the combined project site and the area upon which the related off-site improvements are to be located.
- ▶ **Off-site improvements** refers collectively to project elements located outside the identified 3,828-acre specific plan project site.

1.10.2 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this DEIR/DEIS.

Table 1-1 Acronyms and Other Abbreviations	
Term	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ADT	average daily traffic, average daily trips
ADWF	average dry-weather flow
AEP	annual exceedance probability
Aerojet / AJ	Aerojet General Corporation
AFB	Mather Field (formerly Mather Air Force Base)
AFY	acre-feet per year
AF/Ac/Yr	acre-feet per acre per year
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
APE	Area of Potential Effects
AQAP	Air Quality Attainment Plan
ARB	California Air Resources Board
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AT&T	AT&T Inc. (formerly SBC Communications)
ATCM	Airborne Toxics Control Measure
B	beneficial
B.P.	Before Present (technically, before 1950)
BA	biological assessment
BACT	best available control technology
BMP	best management practice
BO	biological opinion
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
BP	Business Park
BRA	Baseline Risk Assessment
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
°C	degrees Celsius
CAA	federal Clean Air Act
CAAA	federal Clean Air Act Amendments
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standards
CaCO ₃	calcium carbonate
Cal-Am	California-American Water Company
Cal/EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal-OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
Canal	Folsom South Canal
CAO	Cleanup and Abatement Order
CBC	California Building Standards Code
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCN	Cloud Condensation Nuclei
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDC	California Department of Conservation
CDE	California Department of Education

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CEQ	U.S. Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CHP	California Highway Patrol
City	City of Rancho Cordova
CIWMA	California Integrated Waste Management Act
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CMP	Coordinated Monitoring Program
CMU	Commercial Mixed Use
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
County	County of Sacramento
CPP	Cosumnes Power Plant
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRPD	Cordova Recreation and Park District
CSD-1	County Sanitation District No. 1
CTR	California Toxics Rule
CVP	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAC	Douglas Aircraft Company
dB	decibels
dbA	A-weighted decibels
dbh	diameter at breast height
DEIR	draft environmental impact report
DEIS	draft environmental impact statement
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
DERA	Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
DHS	California Department of Health Services
DO	dissolved oxygen
DPROS	Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
DS	downstream
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
du/ac	dwelling units per acre
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
E.E.S.	Engineering Evaluation Site
ECORP	ECORP Consulting, Inc.
EIR	environmental impact report
EIR/EIS	environmental impact report/environmental impact statement
EIS	environmental impact statement
EM	existing Morrison Creek
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPS	Economic Planning Systems
ERM	Environmental Resources Management
ES	Elementary School
ESA	federal Endangered Species Act
EZ	existing Zinfandel
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAR	floor area ratio
FCUSD	Folsom Cordova Unified School District
FEIR	final environmental impact report
FEIS	final environmental impact statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIP	Federal Implementation Plan
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
FR	Federal Register
FS	feasibility study
FTMS	Federal Test Method Standard
g	acceleration of gravity
GenCorp	GenCorp Realty Investments
GET	groundwater extraction and treatment
GHG	atmospheric greenhouse gases
GIS	geographic information system
gpm	gallons per minute
GPS	global positioning system
GSWC	Golden State Water Company
HABS	Historic American Buildings Survey
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
HCM	Highway Capacity Manual
HCP	habitat conservation plan
HCS	Highway Capacity Software
HD	High Density Alternative
HDD	horizontal directional drilling
HDR	High Density Residential
HI	Heavy Industrial
HOV	High-Occupancy Vehicle
HS	High School
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
Hz	Hertz (unit of measurement)
IM	Impact Minimization Alternative
in/hr	inches per hour
IOC	Initial Operational Capability
IRBM	Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
IRCTS	Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
IS	Initial Study
ISC	Industrial Source Complex Model
ISEO	Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
JPA	joint powers authority
kV	kilovolt
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
lb/in	pounds per inch
lb/sf	pounds per square foot
LDR	Low Density Residential
L _{dn}	day-night average noise level
L _{eq}	energy-equivalent noise level
LI	Light Industrial
LIM	Land Inventory and Monitoring
L _{max}	maximum noise level (the maximum instantaneous noise level during a specific period)
L _{min}	minimum noise level (the minimum instantaneous noise level during a specific period)
LMNS	Lower Morrison North Creek
LMSS	Lower Morrison South Creek
LOS	level of service
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LSW	Lower Sacramento Watershed
LTC	Local Town Center
LTS	less than significant
LTS(m)	less than significant with mitigation
m	magnitude
MACT	maximum available control technology
MAPA	Mather Airport Policy Area
Mather AFB	Mather Air Force Base (now Mather Field)
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCL	maximum contaminant level

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
MDR	Medium Density Residential
MDC	McDonnell Douglas Corporation
MDO	Medium Density Overlay
mgd	million gallons per day
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mg/L-N	milligrams per liter of nitrate
mg/L-P	milligrams per liter of phosphorous
mL	milliliter
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MMP	Mitigation Monitoring Plan
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
MP	Industrial Office Park
mph	miles per hour
MPN/100 ml	Most probable number per 100 milliliters
MRZ	mineral resource zone
MS	Middle School
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MTP 2025	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
MW	megawatt
MX	motocross
NA	not available, not applicable
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
ND	North Douglas Watershed
NEHRP	National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
NEHRPA	National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Act
NEPA	National Environmental Quality Act
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for hazardous air pollutants
NF	No Federal Action Alternative
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
ng	nanograms
ng/L	nanograms per liter
NGSA	Northern Groundwater Study Area
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
NI	no impact
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO	nitric oxide
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOI	notice of intent
NOP	notice of preparation
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NP	No Project Alternative
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NRC	Noise Reduction Coefficient
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity unit
NWP	nationwide permit
O ₃	ozone
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OAP	Ozone Attainment Plan
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health hazard Assessment
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OMU	Office Mixed Use
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
OS	Open Space/Recreation
OS/P	Open Space/Public
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OU	Operable Unit
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PCBs	polychlorinated biphenyls
PCE	perchloroethylene
pc/mi/ln	passenger cars per mile per lane
PCD	Partial Consent Decree
perc	perchloroethylene

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter; fine particulate matter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter; respirable particulate matter
PP	Proposed Project Alternative
ppm	parts per million
P/QP	Public/Quasi Public
PR	Private Recreation
PRG	Preliminary Remediation Goal
PS	potentially significant
psi	pounds per square inch
QU	Holocene-age surficial deposits
RAP	Remedial Action Plan
RAW	Removal Action Workplan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RD	Remediation Design
RHNP	Regional Housing Needs Plan
RI	remedial investigation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	record of decision
ROG	reactive organic gas
ROW	right-of-way
RT	Sacramento Regional Transit
RTC	Regional Town Center
RWDS	Reports of Waste Discharge
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
RWSP	Eastern County Replacement Water Supply Project
S	significant
SACIGSM	Sacramento County Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model
SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments
SB	Senate Bill
SBC	SBC Communications (now AT&T Inc.)
SCH	State Clearinghouse

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
SCS	U.S. Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service)
SCSD	Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
SCWA	Sacramento County Water Agency
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SEL	sound exposure level
SENEL	single-event noise exposure level
sf	square feet
SF	Single Family Residential
SFID	Rancho Cordova School Facility Improvement District
SFPD	School Facilities Planning Division
SGSA	Southern Groundwater Study Area
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMAQMD	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
SMARA	California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SMFD	Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
sp.	species (singular)
SPA	Specific Plan Area
spp.	species (plural)
SQIP	Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan
SR	State Route
SRCS	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
SRWTP	Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant
SSCHCP	South Sacramento County Habitat Conservation Plan
ssp.	subspecies
State Parks	California Department of Parks and Recreation
STC	Sound Transmission Class
SU	significant and unavoidable
SU(m)	significant and unavoidable with mitigation
SVAB	Sacramento Valley Air Basin
SVRA	State Vehicular Recreation Area
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board (California)

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
t	mine and dredge tailings
T1	Laguna Formation
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TAF	thousand acre-feet
TAZ	traffic analysis zones
TCE	trichloroethene
TCR	Transportation Concept Report
TDF	travel demand forecasting
Teichert	Teichert Aggregates, Inc.
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
tpd	tons per day
TPY	tons per year
U.S. 50	U.S. Highway 50
UBC	Uniform Building Code
UCMP	University of California Museum of Paleontology
URBEMIS	Urban Emissions Model
US	upstream watershed
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USB	Urban Services Boundary
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
V/C	volume-to-capacity
VC	Village Commercial
VELB	valley elderberry longhorn beetle
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
WDR	waste discharge requirement
WFA	Water Forum Agreement
WGOU	Western Groundwater Operable Unit
WRIME	Water Resources and Information Management Engineering, Inc.

**Table 1-1
Acronyms and Other Abbreviations**

Term	Definition
WSA	Water Supply Assessment
WTP	Vineyard Water Treatment Plant
ZDS	Zinfandel Downstream
Zone 40 WSMP	Zone 40 Water Supply Master Plan
ZUS	Zinfandel Upstream Watershed