
4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section addresses the proposed project's potential to contribute to cumulative impacts in the region. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15355 defines cumulative impacts as “two or more individual effects that, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.” A project's incremental effects are considered significant if they are “cumulatively considerable” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15065[a][3] and 15130[a]). “Cumulatively considerable” means the incremental effects of the project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and future projects (see also CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section XVII).

4.2 CUMULATIVE SETTING

The Cumulative Setting establishes the area of effect in which the cumulative impact has been identified and inside which it will occur. Different cumulative settings can be established for each individual impact or impact area (checklist area). As the proposed project is a subsequent project identified in the General Plan, and as this MND is tiered from the GP-EIR, the cumulative setting for the proposed project is identical to the cumulative settings identified in the GP-EIR.

4.3 PREVIOUS CUMULATIVE ANALYSIS WITHIN THE CUMULATIVE SETTING

The GP-EIR identified several cumulative impacts where expected development and establishment of the roadway network in the city, when combined with other planned, proposed, and approved development and roadway infrastructure projects in the area, would have a significant impact on the environment. The following impact areas were found in the GP-EIR to have cumulative impacts that would be cumulatively considerable:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality (water supply)
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise (both traffic related and stationary)
- Population and Housing
- Utilities and Service Systems (water treatment and wastewater infrastructure)
- Transportation/Traffic (traffic congestion)

Areas in which cumulative impacts were found in the GP-EIR to be less than cumulatively considerable were:

- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Public Services
- Recreation

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4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Cumulative impacts identified in the GP-EIR as being cumulatively considerable are largely due to increases in dwelling units, residents, and employees. The proposed project would not include the addition of any dwelling units, residents, or employees. However, many of the environmental effects of the proposed project are similar to those encountered with development of residences.

Except for the removal of on-site trees, environmental effects of the proposed project are limited to construction of the proposed project. Once construction of the proposed project is complete, those effects will no longer occur. Therefore, those effects are not considered to contribute to cumulative impacts identified in the General Plan EIR. In respect to the removal of trees on-site, the General Plan EIR identified an overall loss of some trees as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-61 and 4.10-62). Construction of the proposed treatment plant would result in the removal of some existing trees on the project site. The City's Tree Removal Ordinance would require mitigation for the loss of native or landmark trees on the project site. However, trees to be removed by the proposed project may not qualify as native or landmark-status trees.

The proposed project is expected to result in the removal of eight existing trees on the project site. According to the City's Arborist, these trees are predominantly walnut species and are currently in poor condition. According to the proposed project's landscaping plan (see **Figure 7**), once construction of the water treatment plant is complete, the project proponent would plant 11 trees on-site. Considering that the project would result in a net increase of two trees and because those trees would be healthy and maintained over time, it is expected that the proposed project would not contribute to the cumulative loss of trees identified in the GP-EIR. Therefore, full mitigation of the loss of existing on-site trees is provided.