

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

Extensive development of the project vicinity has been ongoing since the mid twentieth century. Recent large-scale development of the City has taken place south of U.S. 50 and east of Sunrise Boulevard. However, the impacts of development of this area are not included in this cumulative analysis as the environmental conditions of that region are not easily correlated with the proposed project area. The Rancho Cordova General Plan has identified land uses and general redevelopment of the area, primarily centered on planning areas such as the Countryside - Lincoln Village Planning Area (in which the proposed project is located). The City's General Plan encompasses the majority of development in the region. Therefore, the following cumulative analysis includes the cumulative impacts of the proposed project and the City's General Plan.

4.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

AESTHETICS

The General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) identified that the potential introduction of high-rise structures in the downtown area of the City could cause significant and unavoidable cumulative visual impacts within the City. The proposed project is not located within the downtown area, nor does the proposed project include the construction of high-rise buildings. The proposed project is generally similar to existing development in the vicinity. Therefore, the proposed project would have *no impact* on cumulative aesthetic impacts.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Implementation of the General Plan Land Use Map designations was identified in the Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR as contributing to the cumulatively considerable loss of agricultural resources or farmlands. The proposed project does include a defunct orchard. However, agricultural use of the property has not occurred in the recent past and the small site would not support agriculture in the future. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative loss of agricultural land and *no impact* would occur.

AIR QUALITY

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified that past, present, and future development in the area will have significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts to air quality in the area. Mitigation measures within this document have reduced any impact to air quality from the project to a less than significant level. The proposed project will not emit any pollutants at a level higher than allowed by local air district standards. Therefore, the proposed project's

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incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be insignificant and is therefore considered *less than cumulatively considerable*.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified that past, present, and future development in the area will have significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts to biological resources in the area. Mitigation measures within this document have reduced any impact to biological resources from the project to a less than significant level. Therefore, the proposed project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified that past, present, and future development in the area could have significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural resources in the area. No cultural resources were identified in the project area. Mitigation measures included in this document would protect any unknown cultural resources from impacts. Therefore, the proposed project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR concluded that impacts to geology and soils from implementation of the respective projects would be less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed project is consistent with this analysis. Soils underlying the project site are adequate for the proposed project uses and hazards from soil and geological conditions are not significant. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR concluded that impacts to hazards and hazardous materials would be less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed project is consistent with the types of projects identified in the General Plan DEIR and would have the same impacts. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts to water supply as a result of new development in areas of the City that are currently undeveloped. The proposed project is located within a developed portion of the City. Furthermore, water supply is adequate to serve the whole of the developed portion of the City through the year 2030 (City of Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR, 2006; EDAW, 2006). Therefore, the proposed project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified the introduction of dense urban development in previously undeveloped areas as a potential cause of significant and unavoidable environmental impacts within the City. The proposed project is an infill project in a

currently developed portion of the City. Surrounding development consists of buildings of roughly similar height and density. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

MINERAL RESOURCES

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts to mineral resources as a result of development of areas in MRZ-2 zones, areas in which it is judged that a high likelihood of mineral deposits may exist. The proposed project is located within an MRZ-2 zone. However, as the sight is small and surrounded by urban development, removal of aggregate on-site is not feasible, with or without the project. Therefore, the proposed project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

NOISE

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified traffic noise as a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact within the City. Noise impacts from the proposed project would be periodic, temporary in nature, and subject to the City of Rancho Cordova Noise Ordinance regarding construction activities. The proposed project does not include additional major roadways and would therefore not contribute significantly to the cumulative noise impact. Therefore, the proposed project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified increases in population and housing as a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact within the City. The addition of 27 dwelling units is insignificant when compared to the large increase in housing planned in the City by the General Plan outside the cumulative setting. Therefore, the proposed project's incremental contribution to the impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR concluded that impacts to public services from implementation of the respective projects would be less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed project is located within a developed area of the city with established utilities and services. As such, additional infrastructure would not be required to serve the project. Compliance with City Policies, as identified in the General Plan, would reduce the proposed project's incremental contribution to a *less than cumulatively considerable* level.

RECREATION

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR concluded that impacts to recreation from implementation of the respective projects would be less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed project would be required to pay an in-lieu fee to provide for additional park and recreation services. Similar fees combined with parkland dedication in the area would reduce cumulative impacts to recreation. Payment of the in-lieu fee would ensure that the project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

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TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR concluded that impacts to transportation and traffic would be significant and unavoidable. The project proposes 35 single-family residential units and four office units, which would not generate significant traffic that would require modification of the existing circulation system in the area. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The Rancho Cordova General Plan DEIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts to water supply and wastewater infrastructure as a result of increased development of the area. This increased development identified in the General Plan EIR would occur far south and east of the proposed project site. The proposed project is located within a significantly developed portion of the City, in an area that is already served by all key utilities and service systems. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact would be *less than cumulatively considerable*.