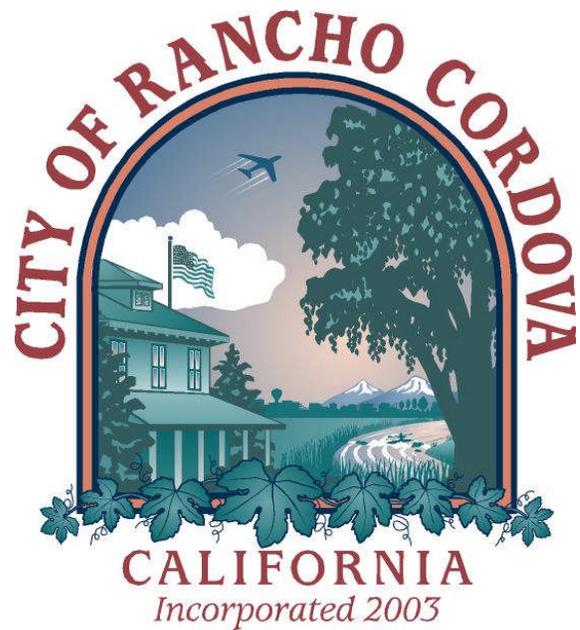


NATURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Notice of Preparation & Initial Study



City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670

May 2008

NOTICE OF PREPARATION &
INITIAL STUDY
FOR THE
NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT
GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA, CALIFORNIA



Prepared by:

THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Phone 916.851.8750
Fax 916.851.8762

MAY 2008

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: May 19, 2008

TO: Responsible Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

FROM: City of Rancho Cordova
Contact: Patrick Angell
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Rancho Cordova Natural Resources Element General Plan Amendment

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Rancho Cordova will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to address the impacts of the proposed amendment to the Rancho Cordova General Plan Natural Resources Element.

The project location, description, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

As specified by the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Rancho Cordova welcomes public input during this review. In the event that no response or request for additional time is received by any Responsible Agency by the end of the review period, the Lead Agency may presume that the Responsible Agency has no response.

The City of Rancho Cordova will hold a Public Scoping Meeting, concerning the preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Natural Resources Element General Plan Amendment, on **June 17, 2008 at 5:30 PM** at Rancho Cordova City Hall. City Hall is located at **2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**.

Comments may be submitted in writing during the review period and addressed to:

Patrick Angell, AICP
Planning Department
City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The comment period closes on:

June 18, 2008

A. PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Rancho Cordova and its General Plan Planning Area (Planning Area) are located in Sacramento County in the north central portion of the State of California (see Figure 1). The City of Rancho Cordova is located entirely within the eastern portion of Sacramento County, covering approximately 20,000 acres. The Planning Area consists of the existing incorporated City and a larger study area (approximately 58,190 acres). The northern boundary of the Planning Area is the American River; the eastern edge of the Planning Area is the Cosumnes River floodplain and the Urban Services Boundary for Sacramento County. The Planning Area ends at Prairie City Road, which is the western boundary of the City of Folsom Sphere of Influence. The communities of Rosemont and Gold River were included in the Planning Area because of their close proximity to Rancho Cordova and the interaction between these communities and future land uses in the City. The Planning Area boundary extends west to Watt Avenue (to include Rosemont) and extends south of Jackson Highway by at least one mile to include entire parcels.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Planning Area is predominately flat with undulating topography near the Cosumnes River floodplain to the south and the American River to the north. The American River Parkway is located along the northern boundary of the Planning Area. Other waterways include Morrison Creek, Laguna Creek, Elder Creek, Buffalo Creek, Frye Creek, Rebel Hill Ditch and the Folsom South Canal. Southern portions of the Planning Area include one of the largest complexes of vernal pools in California. Other natural features in the Planning Area include riparian habitat (primarily located along the American River), oak trees and oak woodlands, grasslands, land areas substantially disturbed from historic gold dredging activities (specifically in the northern and eastern portions of the Planning Area).

U.S. Highway 50 traverses east to west passes through the northern portion of the Planning Area, while State Highway 16 passes through the southern portion of the Planning Area. Sunrise Boulevard, a major thoroughfare running north and south, bisects the Planning Area. Folsom Boulevard, running northeast to southwest, is located in the northern portion of the Planning Area.

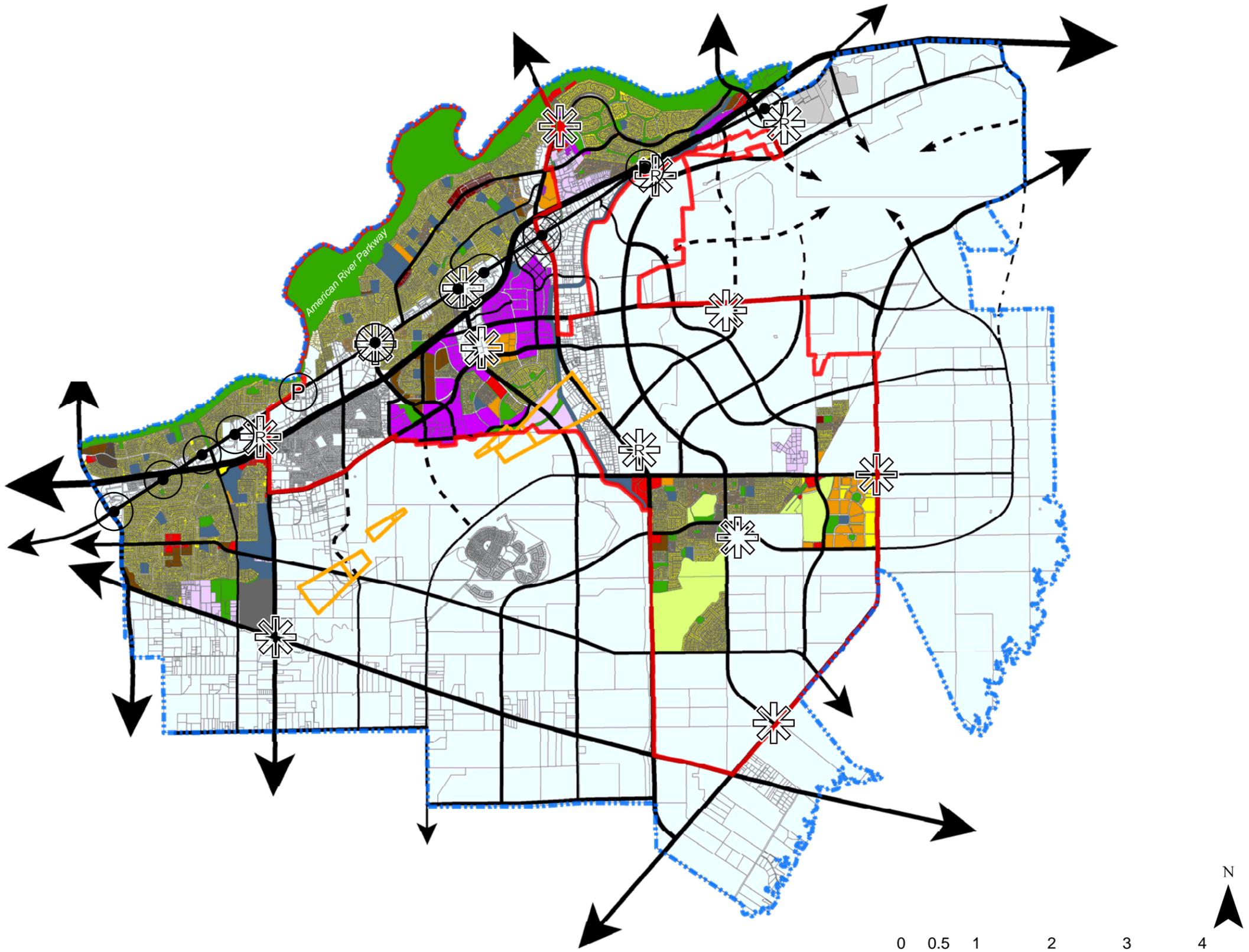
The Planning Area currently includes but is not limited to land uses such as residential, commercial, office, industrial, and agricultural. The majority of developed area is located in the northern portion of the Planning Area with approved and proposed urban development south of Highway 50 and east of Sunrise Boulevard in the south central portion of the Planning Area. While the northern portion of the Planning Area is developed, vast regions to the south and east are primarily undeveloped. The reader is referred to the Rancho Cordova General Plan Draft EIR Section 4.1 (Land Use) for a description of land use and applicable land use plans throughout the Planning Area.

Located in the Planning Area, and a portion within the existing city limits, is the site of the existing Aerojet/GenCorp operations. This area has been used for rocket testing and development operations since the 1950's that resulted in soil and groundwater contamination through much of the area. Also located within the Planning Area, but outside of current city limits, is the former site of Mather Field Air Force Base. The former air base includes the still operating Mather Field Airport.

Legend

- Estate Residential (0.51-2.0 du/acre = minimum half-acre to 2-acre lots)
- Low Density Residential (2.1-6.0 du/acre)
- Medium Density Residential (6.1-18.0 du/acre)
- High Density Residential (18.1-40.0 du/acre)
- Commercial Mixed Use
- Village Center Mixed Use
- Office Mixed Use
- Light Industry
- Heavy Industry
- Mining
- Public/Quasi-Public
- Parks and Open Space
- Natural Resources

- Local Town Center
- Regional Town Center
- Transit Oriented Town Center
- Light Rail Stations
- Proposed/Potential Light Rail Stations
- Rancho Cordova City Limits
- General Plan Planning Area Boundary
- Mather Airport Safety Zones
- Convention Overlay
- Planning Areas (see Figure LU-2)
- Roads
- Roads Foreseeable After 2030



Source: City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department, 2006



City of Rancho Cordova
Planning Department

Figure 1
Draft General Plan Land Use Map

C. BACKGROUND OF THE RANCHO CORDOVA GENERAL PLAN AND ITS ASSOCIATED EIR

The City of Rancho Cordova commenced preparation of the General Plan in May 2004. Preparation of the General Plan included preparation of technical reports on the land use, demographics, economic conditions, and natural resource conditions of the Planning Area. General Plan visioning and policy provisions were developed by the City through several public workshops and meetings held before the General Plan Advisory Committee, Planning Commission and City Council. The General Plan was adopted June 26, 2006 and includes the State-required elements (Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Conservation, Open Space, Safety and Noise) as well as five additional elements. The adoption of the General Plan included the adoption of the General Plan Land Use Map (see General Plan Land Use Element page 15 and 16) and the associated 16 Planning Area conceptual land plans (see General Plan Land Use Element pages 49 through 94) that set the land use vision of the City, as well as the Roadway System and Sizing Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 11) for roadway improvements, Bikeways and Trails Plan (see General Plan Circulation Element page 15) and Transit System Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 19).

The environmental effects of the adoption and implementation of the General Plan were disclosed and analyzed in the Rancho Cordova General Plan Draft and Final EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2005022137) (referred to as "General Plan EIR"). The Draft EIR identified General Plan policies and action items that provide mitigation of identified significant environmental impacts, as well as identified mitigation measures in the form of additional policies and action items for significant impacts (see Draft EIR pages 2.0-7 through -52). Some General Plan policies, action items and mitigation measures were refined as a result of input during public review as identified in the Final EIR (see Final EIR pages 2.0-8 through -57). However, there were several significant environmental effects that were identified as significant and unavoidable in the areas of land use, agriculture, population/housing/employment, traffic, air quality, noise, aggregate resources, water supply, biological resources, cultural resources, wastewater, and visual resources. The Rancho Cordova City Council adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations with the adoption of the General Plan which identified specific benefits that outweighed these significant impacts, including the following: (see City of Rancho Cordova Resolution No. 116-2006):

- Provision of needed residential dwelling units to meet regional housing needs and provide diverse housing opportunities.
- General Plan provides comprehensive land use and transportation planning that maintains a compact urban form inside the Planning Area and implements Smart Growth principles.
- Economic benefits from the implementation of the General Plan through retention of existing businesses and jobs as well as attraction new jobs and businesses.
- The General Plan would accommodate regional growth by proposing a concentrated development pattern that balances employment, residential, retail and recreational uses, linked to transportation system improvements. Benefits include reduction in vehicle miles traveled in region.
- Provision of significant park acreage as well as establishment of open space for mitigation for impacts on natural resources.

D. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Since adoption of the General Plan, the City has conducted a series of reviews of the General Plan as part of its implementation (required under California Government Code Section 65400) as well as to ensure internally consistency of the elements and policy provisions. The City has identified the following Natural Resource Element policies and action items that in their current form could be interpreted in such a manner that would be counter to General Plan anticipated and planned urban development and transportation system improvements for the entire City identified in the General Plan Land Use Map (see General Plan Land Use Element page 15 and 16) and the associated 16 Planning Area conceptual land plans (see General Plan Land Use Element pages 49 through 94) that set the land use vision of the City, as well as the Roadway System and Sizing Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 11), Bikeways and Trails Plan (see General Plan Circulation Element page 15) and Transit System Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 19). An example of such an interpretation issue occurred in a trial court decision (*California Native Plant Society v. City of Rancho Cordova, et al.*) associated with the interpretation of General Plan Natural Resource Element Actions NR.1.1.3 and NR.1.7.1.

Action NR.1.1.1 - Incorporate large habitat preserves and interconnected wildlife corridors in new development areas to provide ample space for animal movement.

Action NR.1.1.3 - As part of the consideration of development applications for individual Planning Areas containing habitats that support special-status plant and animal species that are planned to be preserved, the City shall require that these preserved habitats have interconnections with other habitat areas in order to maintain the viability of the preserved habitat to support the special-status species identified. The determination of the design and size of the “interconnections” shall be made by the City, as recommended by a qualified professional, and will include consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Action NR.1.7.1 - For those areas in which special status species are found or likely to occur or where the presence of species can be reasonably inferred, the City shall require mitigation of impacts to those species that ensure that the project does not contribute to the decline of the affected species populations in the region to the extent that their decline would impact the viability of the regional population. Mitigation shall be designed by the City in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and shall emphasize a multi-species approach to the maximum extent feasible. This may include development or participation in a habitat conservation plan.

Policy NR.1.10 - The City shall avoid the placement of new roadways within habitat preserves to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy NR.1.11 - In such cases where habitat preserves are crossed by a roadway, or where two adjacent preserves are separated by a roadway, the roadway shall be designed or updated with wildlife passable fencing separating the roadway from the preserve and/or shall incorporate design features that allow for the movement of wildlife across or beneath the road without causing a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians on the roadway.

Policy NR.2.2 - Ensure that direct and indirect effects to wetland habitats are minimized by environmentally sensitive project siting and design, to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy NR.3.2 - In general, the City will encourage the preservation of existing location, topography, and meandering alignment of creeks. Where necessary, and if consistent with other City policies, the creation and realignment of creek corridors shall be constructed to recreate the character of the natural creek corridor. Channelization and the use of concrete within creek corridors shall not be supported.

The following amended language (see underline for text that has been added and strikeout for text that has been deleted) is proposed to be made to these General Plan policy provisions in order to clarify the City's original intent of these policy provisions, to ensure consistency with planned urban development and associated land use patterns and transportation system improvement provided in the Land Use and Circulation elements of the General Plan, and consistency with the impacts and conclusions of environmental effects identified in the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 4.10-43, 4.10-52, 4.10-56, 4.10-60 and -61 and Final EIR pages 3.0-229, -230 and -234). No other amendments to the General Plan elements, policy provisions, land use maps or transportation improvement maps are proposed that would alter the extent of residential and non-residential growth or the development footprint that was evaluated in the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR.

General amendment for the Natural Resources Element – The term “feasible” as used in the Natural Resources Element of the City General Plan shall be defined as follows: “Feasible” means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors.

Action NR.1.1.1 — Incorporate ~~large~~ habitat preserves and interconnected wildlife corridors in new development areas to allow provide ample space for animal movement where feasible and as necessary for viability of protected species.

Action NR.1.1.3 — As part of the consideration of development applications for individual Planning Areas containing habitats that support special-status plant and animal species that are planned to be preserved, the City ~~shall~~ may require that these preserved habitats have interconnections with other habitat areas ~~in order to maintain~~ where feasible and appropriate to promote the viability of the preserved habitat to support the special-status species identified. The determination of the design and size of the “interconnections” shall be made by the City, ~~as recommended by~~ with the consideration of a recommendation from a qualified professional, ~~and will include consultation with the~~ after the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are provided with an opportunity to comment.

Action NR.1.7.1 — For those areas in which special status species are found or likely to occur ~~or where the presence of species can be reasonably inferred~~, the City shall require feasible mitigation of impacts to those species that ensure that the project does not contribute to the decline of the affected species ~~populations in the region to the extent~~ such that their decline would impact the viability of ~~the regional population the~~ species. Feasible mitigation shall be designed determined by the City ~~in coordination with~~ after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) are provided an opportunity to comment, and may shall

emphasize a multi-species approach ~~to the maximum extent feasible~~. This may include development or participation in a habitat conservation plan.

Policy NR.1.10 — ~~The City shall avoid the placement of new roadways within habitat preserves to the maximum extent feasible.~~ shall be discouraged, but is not prohibited. This Policy shall not apply to roadways shown in the Circulation Element or needed to meet goals or policies of the Circulation Element.

Policy NR.1.11 — ~~In such cases where habitat preserves are crossed by a roadway, or where two adjacent preserves are separated by a roadway~~ where a new roadway crosses a habitat preserve or separates two adjacent preserves, the roadway shall include design features, where feasible and appropriate, ~~be designed or updated with wildlife passable fencing separating the roadway from the preserve and/or shall incorporate design features that~~ to allow for the movement of wildlife across or beneath the road without causing a hazard for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians on the roadway.

Policy NR.2.2 — Ensure that direct and indirect effects to wetland habitats are ~~minimized~~ mitigated to the extent feasible by environmentally sensitive project siting and design ~~or other measures, to the maximum extent feasible.~~

Policy NR.3.2 — In general, the City will encourage the preservation of existing location, topography, and meandering alignment of natural creeks. ~~Where necessary, and if consistent with other City policies, the creation~~ The modification, re-creation and realignment of creek corridors shall ~~be constructed to recreate the character of the natural creek corridor-~~ to the extent feasible, appropriate and consistent with other City policies. Channelization and the use of concrete within creek corridors shall ~~not be supported~~ be discouraged, but is not prohibited.

E. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Natural Resources Element General Plan Amendment project (Amendments) has the potential to result in significant impacts to the environment. City staff has prepared an Initial Study for the project, which is attached as Appendix A. Since a Final EIR has previously been certified for the General Plan, the Initial Study analyzes whether further environmental review is required for the Amendments. The Initial Study determines whether a subsequent EIR or supplemental EIR must be prepared for the Amendments under the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168, 15162 and 15163. The Initial Study concludes that the Amendments may potentially result in an increase in impacts to biological resources from those identified in the General Plan EIR and a supplemental EIR should be prepared to analyze those biological impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A- Initial Study

APPENDIX A – INITIAL STUDY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study (IS) prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Natural Resources Element General Plan Amendment (hereafter referred to as “the proposed project”). This IS has been prepared in accordance with the CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. Where no environmental review has been prepared for a project, an Initial Study evaluates whether the project may have a potentially significant impact on the environment and determines whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration should be prepared. However, since a Final EIR has previously been certified for the General Plan and the project proposes a change to the General Plan, this Initial Study analyzes whether further environmental review is required for the proposed project. The Initial Study determines whether a subsequent EIR or supplemental EIR must be prepared for the proposed project under the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168, 15162 and 15163 (see discussion under Section 3.1 in Section 3.0, Project Description).

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. As the proposed project involves the amendment of the City’s General Plan, the lead agency for the proposed project is the City of Rancho Cordova.

1.3 PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Initial Study is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

This document is divided into the following sections:

- **1.0 Introduction** - Provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- **2.0 Project Description** - Provides a detailed description of the proposed project.
- **3.0 Initial Study Checklist** - Evaluates a range of impacts classified as “reviewed under previous document,” “no impact,” “less than significant,” “less than significant with mitigation incorporation,” and “potentially significant” in response to the environmental checklist. The “reviewed under previous document” category means that the impact was addressed in the General Plan EIR and no further environmental review is required due to new or substantially more severe impacts under the standards of PRC Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15163.
- **4.0 Determination** - Provides the environmental determination for the project.
- **5.0 Report Preparation and Consultations** - Identifies staff and consultants responsible for preparation of this document.
- **6.0 References** – Provides a list of references used to prepare the Initial Study.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Rancho Cordova and its General Plan Planning Area (Planning Area) are located in Sacramento County in the north central portion of the State of California. The City of Rancho Cordova is located entirely within the eastern portion of Sacramento County, covering approximately 20,000 acres. The Planning Area consists of the existing incorporated City and a larger study area (approximately 58,190 acres). The northern boundary of the Planning Area is the American River; the eastern edge of the Planning Area is the Cosumnes River floodplain and the Urban Services Boundary for Sacramento County. The Planning Area ends at Prairie City Road, which is the western boundary of the City of Folsom Sphere of Influence. The communities of Rosemont and Gold River were included in the Planning Area because of their close proximity to Rancho Cordova and the interaction between these communities and future land uses in the City. The Planning Area boundary extends west to Watt Avenue (to include Rosemont) and extends south of Jackson Highway by at least one mile to include entire parcels.

2.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Planning Area is predominately flat with undulating topography near the Cosumnes River floodplain to the south and the American River to the north. The American River Parkway is located along the northern boundary of the Planning Area. Other waterways include Morrison Creek, Laguna Creek, Elder Creek, Buffalo Creek, Frye Creek, Rebel Hill Ditch and the Folsom South Canal. Southern portions of the Planning Area include one of the largest complexes of vernal pools in California. Other natural features in the Planning Area include riparian habitat (primarily located along the American River), oak trees and oak woodlands, grasslands, land areas substantially disturbed from historic gold dredging activities (specifically in the northern and eastern portions of the Planning Area).

U.S. Highway 50 traverses east to west passes through the northern portion of the Planning Area, while State Highway 16 passes through the southern portion of the Planning Area. Sunrise Boulevard, a major thoroughfare running north and south, bisects the Planning Area. Folsom Boulevard, running northeast to southwest, is located in the northern portion of the Planning Area.

The Planning Area currently includes but is not limited to land uses such as residential, commercial, office, industrial, and agricultural. The majority of developed area is located in the northern portion of the Planning Area with approved and proposed urban development south of Highway 50 and east of Sunrise Boulevard in the south central portion of the Planning Area. While the northern portion of the Planning Area is developed, vast regions to the south and east are primarily undeveloped. The reader is referred to the Rancho Cordova General Plan Draft EIR Section 4.1 (Land Use) for a description of land use and applicable land use plans throughout the Planning Area.

Located in the Planning Area, and a portion within the existing City limits, is the site of the existing Aerojet/GenCorp operations. This area has been used for rocket testing and development operations since the 1950's that resulted in soil and groundwater contamination through much of the area. Also located within the Planning Area, but outside of current city limits, is the former site of Mather Field Air Force Base. The former air base includes the still operating Mather Field Airport.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.3 BACKGROUND OF THE GENERAL PLAN AND ITS ASSOCIATED EIR

The City of Rancho Cordova commenced preparation of the General Plan in May 2004. Preparation of the General Plan included preparation of technical reports on the land use, demographics, economic conditions, and natural resource conditions of the Planning Area. General Plan visioning and policy provisions were developed by the City through several public workshops and meetings held before the General Plan Advisory Committee, Planning Commission and City Council. The General Plan was adopted June 26, 2006 and includes the State-required elements (Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Conservation, Open Space, Safety and Noise) as well as five additional elements. The adoption of the General Plan included the adoption of the General Plan Land Use Map (see General Plan Land Use Element page 15 and 16) and the associated 16 Planning Area conceptual land plans (see General Plan Land Use Element pages 49 through 94) that set the land use vision of the City, as well as the Roadway System and Sizing Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 11) for roadway improvements, Bikeways and Trails Plan (see General Plan Circulation Element page 15) and Transit System Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 19).

The environmental effects of the adoption and implementation of the General Plan were disclosed and analyzed in the Rancho Cordova General Plan Draft and Final EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2005022137). The Draft EIR identified General Plan policies and action items that provide mitigation of identified significant environmental impacts, as well as identified mitigation measures in the form of additional policies and action items for significant impacts (see Draft EIR pages 2.0-7 through -52). Some General Plan policies, action items and mitigation measures were refined as a result of input during public review as identified in the Final EIR (see Final EIR pages 2.0-8 through -57). However, there were several significant environmental effects that were identified as significant and unavoidable in the areas of land use, agriculture, population/housing/employment, traffic, air quality, noise, aggregate resources, water supply, biological resources, cultural resources, wastewater, and visual resources. The Rancho Cordova City Council adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations with the adoption of the General Plan which identified specific benefits that outweighed these significant impacts, including the following: (see City of Rancho Cordova Resolution No. 116-2006):

- Provision of needed residential dwelling units to meet regional housing needs and provide diverse housing opportunities.
- General Plan provides comprehensive land use and transportation planning that maintains a compact urban form inside the Planning Area and implements Smart Growth principles.
- Economic benefits from the implementation of the General Plan through retention of existing businesses and jobs as well as attraction new jobs and businesses.
- The General Plan would accommodate regional growth by proposing a concentrated development pattern that balances employment, residential, retail and recreational uses, linked to transportation system improvements. Benefits include reduction in vehicle miles traveled in region.
- Provision of significant park acreage as well as establishment of open space for mitigation for impacts on natural resources.

2.4 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

Since adoption of the General Plan, the City has conducted a series of reviews of the General Plan as part of its implementation (required under California Government Code Section 65400) as well as to ensure internally consistency of the elements and policy provisions. The City has identified the following Natural Resource Element policies and action items that in their current form could be interpreted in such a manner that would be counter to General Plan anticipated and planned urban development and transportation system improvements for the entire City identified in the General Plan Land Use Map (see General Plan Land Use Element page 15 and 16) and the associated 16 Planning Area conceptual land plans (see General Plan Land Use Element pages 49 through 94) that set the land use vision of the City, as well as the Roadway System and Sizing Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 11), Bikeways and Trails Plan (see General Plan Circulation Element page 15) and Transit System Map (see General Plan Circulation Element page 19). An example of such an interpretation issue occurred in a trial court decision (*California Native Plant Society v. City of Rancho Cordova, et al.*) associated with the interpretation of General Plan Natural Resource Element Actions NR.1.1.3 and NR.1.7.1.

Action NR.1.1.1 - Incorporate large habitat preserves and interconnected wildlife corridors in new development areas to provide ample space for animal movement.

Action NR.1.1.3 - As part of the consideration of development applications for individual Planning Areas containing habitats that support special-status plant and animal species that are planned to be preserved, the City shall require that these preserved habitats have interconnections with other habitat areas in order to maintain the viability of the preserved habitat to support the special-status species identified. The determination of the design and size of the “interconnections” shall be made by the City, as recommended by a qualified professional, and will include consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Action NR.1.7.1 - For those areas in which special status species are found or likely to occur or where the presence of species can be reasonably inferred, the City shall require mitigation of impacts to those species that ensure that the project does not contribute to the decline of the affected species populations in the region to the extent that their decline would impact the viability of the regional population. Mitigation shall be designed by the City in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and shall emphasize a multi-species approach to the maximum extent feasible. This may include development or participation in a habitat conservation plan.

Policy NR.1.10 - The City shall avoid the placement of new roadways within habitat preserves to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy NR.1.11 - In such cases where habitat preserves are crossed by a roadway, or where two adjacent preserves are separated by a roadway, the roadway shall be designed or updated with wildlife passable fencing separating the roadway from the preserve and/or shall incorporate design features that allow for the movement of wildlife across or beneath the road without causing a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians on the roadway.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Policy NR.2.2 - Ensure that direct and indirect effects to wetland habitats are minimized by environmentally sensitive project siting and design, to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy NR.3.2 - In general, the City will encourage the preservation of existing location, topography, and meandering alignment of creeks. Where necessary, and if consistent with other City policies, the creation and realignment of creek corridors shall be constructed to recreate the character of the natural creek corridor. Channelization and the use of concrete within creek corridors shall not be supported.

The following amended language (see underline for text that has been added and strikeout for text that has been deleted) is proposed to be made to these General Plan policy provisions in order to clarify the City's original intent of these policy provisions, to ensure consistency with planned urban development and associated land use patterns and transportation system improvement provided in the Land Use and Circulation elements of the General Plan (see Draft EIR pages 4.10-43, 4.10-52, 4.10-56, 4.10-60 and -61 and Final EIR pages 3.0-229, -230 and -234). No other amendments to the General Plan elements, policy provisions, land use maps or transportation improvement maps are proposed that would alter the extent of residential and non-residential growth or the development footprint that was evaluated in the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR.

General amendment for the Natural Resources Element – The term “feasible” as used in the Natural Resources Element of the City General Plan shall be defined as follows: “Feasible” means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors.

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Policy NR.1.10 — ~~The City shall avoid the placement of new roadways within habitat preserves to the maximum extent feasible.~~ shall be discouraged, but is not prohibited. This Policy shall not apply to roadways shown in the Circulation Element or needed to meet goals or policies of the Circulation Element.

Policy NR.1.11 — ~~In such cases where habitat preserves are crossed by a roadway, or where two adjacent preserves are separated by a roadway where a new roadway crosses a habitat preserve or separates two adjacent preserves, the roadway shall include design features, where feasible and appropriate, be designed or updated with wildlife passable fencing separating the roadway from the preserve and/or shall incorporate design features that to allow for the movement of wildlife across or beneath the road without causing a hazard for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians on the roadway.~~

Policy NR.2.2 — Ensure that direct and indirect effects to wetland habitats are ~~minimized~~ mitigated to the extent feasible by environmentally sensitive project siting and design or other measures, ~~to the maximum extent feasible.~~

Policy NR.3.2 — In general, the City will encourage the preservation of existing location, topography, and meandering alignment of natural creeks. ~~Where necessary, and if consistent with other City policies, the creation~~ The modification, re-creation and realignment of creek corridors shall ~~be constructed to~~ recreate the character of the natural creek corridor. to the extent feasible, appropriate and consistent with other City policies. Channelization and the use of concrete within creek corridors shall ~~not be supported~~ be discouraged, but is not prohibited.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mandatory Findings of Significance. There are 16 specific environmental issues evaluated in this chapter. The environmental issues evaluated in this chapter include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Circulation
- Utilities and Services Systems

For each issue area, one of five conclusions is made:

- **No Impact:** No project-related impact to the environment would occur with project development;
- **Less than Significant Impact:** The proposed projects would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures;
- **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation:** The proposed projects would result in an environmental impact or effect that is potentially significant, but the incorporation of mitigation measure(s) would reduce the project-related impact to a less than significant level; or,
- **Potentially Significant Impact:** The proposed projects would result in an environmental impact or effect that is potentially significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- **Reviewed Under Previous Document:** The impact has been adequately addressed in City of Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2005022137), and further analysis is not required under Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168, 15162 and 15163.
- **Changed Circumstances or New Information:** The Initial Study considers whether there is substantial changed circumstances or new information of substantial importance (which was not known or could not have been known at the time the General Plan EIR was certified in June 2006) which triggers that standards for supplemental or subsequent environmental review under Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15163. The City is not aware of any substantial changed circumstances or new information that meets these standards for any environmental issues evaluated in this Initial Study. There are not any substantial changed circumstances that would result in a new or substantially more severe significant impact from those analyzed in the General Plan EIR. There is no new information of substantial importance (which was not known or could not have been

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

known at the time of the General Plan adoption in June 2006) that identifies: a new significant impact (condition “A” under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][3]); a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact (condition “B” under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][3]); mitigation measures or alternatives previously found infeasible that would now be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the General Plan; or mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the General Plan EIR which would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment (conditions “C” and “D” under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][3]). The reader is referred to City Resolution No. 116-2006 regarding findings on the feasibility of alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIR. None of the “new information” conditions listed in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3) are present here to trigger the need for a subsequent or supplemental EIR for the proposed project.

The City has received development applications for new projects in the City (e.g., Heritage Falls [Grant Line West Planning Area] and the Arboretum [Grant Line North Planning Area], and the County of Sacramento has proposed a General Plan Update and Land Use Diagram (May 2007) and is processing the proposed Cordova Hills project that includes urban land uses within the City’s General Plan Planning Area (East Planning Area and Jackson Planning Area). However, the environmental impacts of urban development of these areas were programmatically evaluated in the General Plan EIR. Thus, these circumstances and information would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.2 INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

- 1. Project Title:** Natural Resources Element General Plan Amendment
- 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:** Patrick Angell, Environmental Division Manager (916) 361-8384
- 4. Project Location:** Rancho Cordova General Plan Planning Area
- 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
- 6. Current Zoning:** Various
- 7. General Plan and Planning Area:** Various
- 8. APN Number(s):** Various
- 9. Description of the Project:** See Section 2.4 of this IS.
- 10. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See Section 2.2 of this IS.
- 11. Other public agencies whose approval may be required:** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) - None

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the project, involving at least one impact that is a “Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation,” “Potentially Significant,” or potentially new or increased impacts from those analyzed in the General Plan EIR, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities & Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | |

PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with CEQA to determine if the Natural Resources Element General Plan Amendment (hereafter referred to as the “amendments”), as proposed, may have a significant effect upon the environment. Since a Final EIR has previously been certified for the General Plan, the Initial Study analyzes whether further environmental review is required for the proposed project. The Initial Study determines whether a subsequent or supplemental EIR must be prepared for the proposed project under the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168, 15162, and 15163. The discussion below demonstrates that there are potentially increased significant impacts on biological resources from those identified in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “*No Impact*” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A “*No Impact*” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to a project like the one involved (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “*No Impact*” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards.
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) A “*Less than Significant Impact*” applies when the proposed project would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment. This impact level does not require mitigation measures.
- 4) “*Potentially Significant Impact*” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more “*Potentially Significant Impact*” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

- 5) “*Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation*” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “*Potentially Significant Impact*” to a “*Less than Significant Impact*”. The initial study must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- 6) “*Reviewed Under Previous Document*” applies where the impact has been evaluated and discussed in the City of Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2005022137). If the impacts of the proposed project were described in the General Plan EIR and no new or substantially more severe impact would result from the proposed project, then, a determination of “Reviewed Under Previous Document” means that no further environmental review is required under CEQA.
- 7) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program Environmental Impact Report, or other CEQA process, an impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
I. AESTHETICS Would the project:					
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The Rancho Cordova General Plan Environmental Impact Report (GENERAL PLAN EIR) identified that impacts to scenic vistas within the City would be less than significant (GP DEIR, p. 4.13-6).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not create new or substantially more severe significant adverse effects on scenic vistas because they would not change land use designations, the extent of anticipated urban development, or ground disturbance allowed under the General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts to scenic vistas beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR found that there were no highways within the Planning Area that were designated by State or local agencies as "scenic highways" (GP DEIR, p. 4.13-6). Since the GENERAL PLAN EIR already stated that there are no officially designated scenic highways in the Planning Area, the proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in a change to the official scenic designation of any highways. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts to scenic highways beyond the analysis contained in the GENERAL PLAN EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* Impacts relating to the alteration of scenic resources in the City were identified in the General Plan EIR and were predominantly associated with the urbanization of the rural and undeveloped portions of the City and areas east of the incorporated boundaries (GP DEIR, pp. 4.13-8 through 4.13-10). Impacts of the General Plan to visual resources were found to be significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.13-10).

General Plan policies NR.2.2 and NR.3.2 (which are amended as part of the proposed project) were referenced as applicable to these impacts. A further analysis of these changes is provided below.

Policy NR.2.2

The proposed amendments to Policy NR.2.2 clarify the City's intent that impact minimization through measures in addition to project design are a form of mitigation. The performance standard provisions of this policy (mitigation/minimization of impacts to wetland habitats) are retained by this amendment. This amendment is not a substantial change to the existing policy that would require major revisions to the General Plan EIR. It would not result in new significant impact associated with visual character that were not already addressed in the General Plan Final EIR, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impacts 4.13.3 and 4.13.5 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.13-13 and -18, implementation of the General Plan would result significant changes in the visual character of the City and the General Plan Planning Area even with implementation of identified policies, action items and mitigation measures under project and cumulative conditions. Since the proposed project retains the mitigation requirement, it would not result in a substantial increase in severity of this impact.

Policy NR.3.2

The proposed amendments to Policy NR.3.2 clarifies the City's intent of circumstances where modification and realignment of a natural creek may be considered as well as that channelization and use of concrete is discouraged but not prohibited (current policy language simply notes that it "...shall not be supported" which does not clearly identify that there is no prohibition to such an action). The amendments also include the term "feasible" in regards to the ability to re-create the character of a natural creek. The use of the term "feasible" is intended to correlate implementation of this policy to implementation of other policy aspects of the General Plan (e.g., Safety Element Policy S.2.4 and action items S.2.4.1, S.2.4.2 and S.2.4.3), as well as utilizing the definition of "feasible" from CEQA (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15364).

The performance standard provisions of this policy (City's intent and preference for the preservation of natural creeks) are retained by this amendment. The amendment is not a substantial change to the existing Policy. This amendment would not result in new significant impact associated with visual character that were not already addressed in the General Plan Final EIR, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impacts 4.13.3 and 4.13.5 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.13-13 and -18, implementation of the General Plan would result significant changes in the visual character of the City and the General Plan Planning Area even with implementation of identified policies, action items and mitigation measures under project and cumulative conditions. The amendment to the policy would not result in a substantial increase in severity of this impact.

For these reasons stated above, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts to scenic resources beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* Impacts relating to light and glare were identified in the General Plan EIR and were related to both reflective glare from new structures built under the General Plan and the introduction of new sources of light associated with development and redevelopment of the City (GP DEIR, p. 4.13-13). Areas of the City and the City's Planning Area that are currently undeveloped would see the majority of the impact due to the current lack of reflective surfaces and light sources in undeveloped areas (GP

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

DEIR, p. 4.13-14). Due to design guidelines adopted by the City and adherence to City Policy UD.4.2, impacts of the General Plan due to light and glare were found to be less than significant.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not create any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to light and glare because they would not change land use designations, the extent of anticipated urban development, or ground disturbance allowed under the General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts to light and glare beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:					
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR identified that a significant amount of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance would be lost with urban development of previously undeveloped portions of the City and of the City Planning Area outside the incorporated boundaries (GP-DEIR, p. 4.2-17 through 4.2-18). Impacts from buildout of the General Plan were found to be significant and unavoidable.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in the conversion of any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development, and would therefore, not create any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to this issue. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and this issue will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* Just as with other types of farmland, the GENERAL PLAN EIR identified impacts to farmland currently under Williamson Act Contracts (GP-DEIR, pp. 4.2-22 through 4.2-23). Impacts of the General Plan to Williamson Act land were found to be significant and unavoidable due to the significant loss of such land at buildout of the General Plan.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant losses to lands under Williamson Act contracts, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development allowed under the General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and this issue will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

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- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR stated that impacts could occur to agricultural land uses as a result of urbanization of adjacent areas to operating agricultural operations (GP DEIR, p. 4.2-20). Placing urban development immediately adjacent to agricultural uses can potentially result in interface conflicts between the uses, which could ultimately result in cessation of agricultural uses in those locations (GP DEIR, pp. 4.2-20 through 4.2-21). Impacts to agriculture as a result of these interface conflicts of the General Plan would be significant and unavoidable.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to agricultural interface conflicts, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development allowed under the General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
III. AIR QUALITY Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The Sacramento area is currently out of compliance with federal requirements for 8-hour ozone air quality standards and 1-hour ozone air quality standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in March 2008 adopted new national air quality standards for ground-level ozone, reducing the 8-hour standard from 0.08 PPM to 0.075 ppm. National standards for fine particulate matter (diameter 2.5 microns or less) have also been recently amended for 24-hour and annual averaging periods. The current PM₁₀ standards were retained, but the method and form for determining compliance with the standards were revised. The region is currently in compliance with all other emissions standards. SMAQMD released the final "Sacramento Regional Nonattainment Area 8-Hour Ozone Rate-of-Progress Plan" (Ozone Plan) in February 2006. The "Federal 8-Hour Ozone Reasonable Further Progress Plan" was adopted at a public hearing in March 2008. According to the General Plan EIR, projected buildout of the General Plan Planning Area would be consistent with the assumptions used during preparation of the Ozone Plan (GP FEIR, pp. 4.0-5 through 4.0-6). However, because there currently exist no feasible methods to completely offset air pollutant emission increases from land uses under the General Plan, the impact of the General Plan was considered to be significant and unavoidable (GP FEIR, pp. 4.0-6).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any different land uses than what was previously addressed in the General Plan EIR, so would not result in any differences of substantially more severe significant impacts to the offset of air pollution emissions, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

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- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR identified potential air quality impacts from both construction and operation of new development in the City (GP DEIR, pp. 4.6-17 through 4.6-26). While policies, actions, and mitigation was included in the EIR, development in the Planning Area would still be intensified from current conditions. Therefore, significant and unavoidable impacts were expected as a result of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.6-20 and 4.6-26).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant air quality impacts, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR identified that increases in Ozone precursors (NO_x and ROG) would result in significant and unavoidable impacts on the region's status of nonattainment (GP DEIR, pp. 4.6-17 through 4.6-26). See discussions a) and b) above for more information on the General Plan EIR findings related to ozone precursors.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the region's status of nonattainment in ozone precursors, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* Sensitive receptors are those parts of the population that can be severely impacted by air pollution. Sensitive receptors include children, the elderly, and the infirm. The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts to sensitive receptors due to both mobile and stationary sources of toxic air contaminants (TACs) and odors. Impacts of the General Plan from TACs were reduced by City Policies and Action Items, but the impact remained significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.6-31). Impacts to sensitive receptors from exposure to odors were reduced by City Policies and Action Items to a less than significant level (GP DEIR, p. 4.6-33).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to sensitive receptors, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

Reviewed Under Previous Document. See discussion d) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts due to odors, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Potentially Significant Impact.* The General Plan EIR identified potential direct and indirect impacts to special-status species (those species identified in the checklist above) as a result of the implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-34 through 4.10-48). While City Policies and Action Items would mitigate much of the impact of the General Plan, widespread development of undeveloped portions of the General Plan Planning Area as well as construction of the Circulation Plan would result in a loss of biological resources. Therefore, the General Plan was found to result in significant and unavoidable impacts to special status species (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-43 and 4.10-48).

Although the General Plan EIR identified impacts to special-status species as significant and unavoidable, the proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element may result in an increase in previously disclosed impacts. This issue will be addressed further in the Supplemental EIR.

b) *Potentially Significant Impact.* See discussion a) above for information on potential impacts of the proposed project on special-status species. The General Plan EIR combined discussion of special-status species impacts to include impacts to habitat as well as

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individuals of special-status species. Significant and unavoidable impacts to habitat from the implementation of the General Plan occurred for the same reasons and in the same intensity as impacts to individuals of any special-status species (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-34 through 4.10-48).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element may result in an increase in previously disclosed impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. This issue will be addressed further in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Potentially Significant Impact.* The General Plan EIR addressed potential direct and indirect impacts to Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. (Jurisdictional Waters) as a result of wide-spread development of the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-52 through 4.10-56). Policies and Action Items included in the General Plan would reduce impacts to Jurisdictional Waters, especially Policy NR.2.1 which requires “no net loss” of wetlands (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-56). Because of this local loss of Jurisdictional Waters, the impact of the General Plan was found to be significant and unavoidable (Ibid.).

Although the General Plan EIR identified impacts to federally protected wetlands as significant and unavoidable, the proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element may result in an increase in previously disclosed impacts. This issue will be addressed further in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Potentially Significant Impact.* Impacts to habitat for raptors and other nesting birds were addressed in the General Plan EIR (GP-DEIR, pp. 48 through 4.10-52). Raptors are protected by the California Department of Fish and Game and are considered a special-status species under CEQA. Just as with impacts to habitat for other special-status species, wide-spread development of the City and the General Plan Planning Area would result in a net loss of raptor and nesting habitat and a significant and unavoidable impact was expected (GP DEIR, pp. 52). Discussion of impacts to movement corridors was also included in the General Plan EIR (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-56 through 4.10-61). Development of greenfield areas of the General Plan Planning Area would change the biological condition and characteristics of the area, resulting in changes in animal movement throughout the area (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-56). While City Policies and Action Items would reduce this impact, loss and/or modification of movement corridors would still occur and the impact of the General Plan would be significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-61).

Although the General Plan EIR identified impacts to habitat for raptors and other nesting birds and movement corridors as significant and unavoidable, the proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element may result in an increase in previously disclosed impacts. This issue will be addressed further in the Supplemental EIR.

- e) *Potentially Significant Impact.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts to trees from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-61 and 4.10-62). Development of greenfield areas of the City and the General Plan Planning Area could potentially result in the removal of special-status, landmark, and other trees (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-61). Landmark and oak trees would be adequately protected by City Policies and Action Items, as well as large wooded areas and urban trees. However, some loss of native trees would occur and the overall impact to trees from implementation of the General Plan would be significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-62). While the proposed project would not modify tree protections, it would modify General Plan provisions that protect natural resources. This issue will be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- f) *Potentially Significant Impact.* The General Plan EIR addressed potential impacts related to conflicts between the General Plan and any adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-62 and 4.10-63). While the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) is currently being prepared by the County, the SSHCP has not been adopted (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-63). Therefore, no impact to the SSHCP was expected as a result of the General Plan.

The *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* was released by USFWS. This plan features 33 species of plants and animals that occur exclusively or primarily within vernal pool ecosystems, including the federally listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp. The plan outlines recovery priorities and provides goals, objectives, strategies, and criteria for recovery. Recovery efforts are to be focused on the core areas within each vernal pool region. Core areas are further ranked in Zone 1, 2, or 3 in order of their overall priority for recovery. The Mather Core Area (in which portions of the City and General Plan Planning Area are located) is ranked in Zone 1, meaning that it has the highest priority for recovery. Protection of Zone 1 core areas has been designated as a Priority 1 action by USFWS biologists because they believe that within each Zone 1 core area, species occurrences and suitable vernal pool habitat must be protected to prevent extinction or irreversible decline of at least one species covered in the recovery plan. Habitat to be protected includes both occupied and unoccupied suitable habitat that serves as corridors for dispersal, opportunities to support metapopulation dynamics, reintroduction/introduction sites, and protection of undiscovered populations. Potential conflicts with this document and amendments to the General Plan will be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:					
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified that known and unknown historic resources within the Rancho Cordova Planning Area could potentially be impacted by implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.11-9 through 4.11-14). These impacts were primarily associated with development in undeveloped areas and impacts to unknown resources in portions of the Planning Area that have not been studied. Rancho Cordova Policies mitigated some of the potential impacts to historical resources. However, as many resources could be located within the Planning Area that are previously unknown, accidental impacts may still occur and the impact of the General Plan was considered significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, pp. 4.11-14).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to historic resources, because they would not change land use designations, the extent of anticipated urban development or ground disturbance. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to archaeological resources, because they would not change land use designations, the extent of anticipated urban development or ground disturbance. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified possible impacts to paleontological resources as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.11-14). However, no such paleontological resources were identified in the Rancho Cordova Planning Area and City policy would protect unknown resources. For these reasons, the impact of the General Plan was found to be less than significant (GP DEIR, p. 4.11-15).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to paleontological

resources, because they would not change land use designations, the extent of anticipated urban development or ground disturbance. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The discussion in the General Plan EIR concerning historic resources impacts included discussion of potential impacts to human remains [see discussion a) above]. Impacts were the same in that known resources were adequately protected but unknown human remains outside established cemeteries could potentially be affected. Therefore, significant and unavoidable impacts as a result of the General Plan were expected (GP DEIR, p. 4.11-14).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to unknown human remains, because they would not change land use designations, the extent of anticipated urban development or ground disturbance. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:					
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death, involving:					
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the projects, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a)

- i) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR stated that significant seismic shaking was not a concern within the Rancho Cordova Planning Area as there are no active faults within Sacramento County and because the City is not located within an Alquist-Priolo earthquake hazard zone (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-19). However, some minor seismic shaking is a possibility as the City is located within a Seismic Zone 3, which is considered an area of relatively low ground shaking potential (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-20). Adherence to City policies as well as the California Building Code (CBC) and the Uniform Building Code (UBC) would ensure less than significant impacts as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-21).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to fault rupture or seismic ground shaking, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental

review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- ii) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion i) above.
- iii) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified that seismic shaking was not a concern in the City [see discussion i) above]. Liquefaction is the process in which water is combined with unconsolidated soils as a result of seismic activities involving ground motions and pressure. Without strong ground motion, liquefaction is unlikely. Additionally, the water table is generally too low in the areas of the City to provide enough moisture for liquefaction to occur (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-20). Therefore, the impact of the General Plan was found to be less than significant.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to liquefaction, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- iv) *No Impact.* The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to landslides, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts related to soil erosion from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.8-21 through 4.8-23). These erosion impacts were generally associated with construction of new roadways and other capital infrastructure and development of undeveloped portions of the City and the Planning Area. Additional impacts were due to increases in runoff due to a net increase in impervious surfaces in the City. However, compliance with the City's Erosion Control Ordinance and the current NPDES permit conditions for the City would ensure that impacts resulting from implementation of the General Plan would be less than significant (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-23).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to soil erosion, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR stated that impacts relating to soil stability as a result of implementation of the General Plan would be minor (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-23). Primary concerns with soil stability in the City are associated with shrink/swell potential – the potential of soils to expand during wet seasons and shrink during dry seasons. Impacts due to soil stability would be mitigated by consistency with the UBC and

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

the CBC (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-24). Therefore, the impact of the General Plan was found to be less than significant.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts relating to soil stability, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion c) above.
- e) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential soils impacts of the General Plan related to the use of alternative wastewater handling systems such as septic systems resulting from development of residential lots of two acres or more (GP DEIR, pp. 4.8-24 through 4.8-26). The portions of the Rancho Cordova Planning Area that could contain such lots exist outside the City boundaries in the outlying Planning Areas. For residential development with lots less than two acres in size, City policy requires the use of the public sewer system (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-26).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to alternative wastewater systems, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials (GP DEIR, pp. 4.4-23 and 4.4-24). Impacts concerned transportation of hazardous materials on the roadway network within the City and the routine use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials related to construction during development and redevelopment in the City. Adherence to General Plan policies and federal, state, and local regulations regarding hazardous material were found to reduce potential impacts of the General Plan to a less than significant level (GP DEIR, pp. 4.4-24 and 4.4-28).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR described potential impacts related to the accidental release of hazardous materials (GP DEIR, pp. 4.4-24 through 4.4-28). Primary sources of potential accidental release concerned PCB-containing transformers, groundwater pollution, and underground storage tanks (USTs). Consistency with City Policies and Action Items, as well as all applicable federal, State, and local regulations would result in a less than significant impact from the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-28).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the accidental release of hazardous materials, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR discussed the siting of public schools as being subject to the siting requirements of the California Department of Education (GP-DEIR, p. 4.4-25). In addition to CEQA review, potential school sites will be reviewed by various agencies to ensure the new school site is safe from toxic hazards (GP-DEIR, p. 4.4-25). General Plan policies and actions will reduce the potential impacts of the General Plan from hazardous materials transport, use, and storage from surrounding uses, including school sites, to a less than significant level (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-28).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to hazardous materials near school sites, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR included information regarding federal and State listed hazardous materials sites as well as a map of such sites (GP DEIR, pp. 4.4-2 through 4.4-10). These sites included leaking underground storage sites, groundwater contamination plumes, PCB contaminated sites related to prior rocket engine testing (Aerojet/Gencorp), and other smaller sites (pp. 4.4-5, 4.4-6). Impact discussions were included in discussions of accidental release of hazardous materials [see discussion b) above] and were found to be less than significant due to compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-28).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to listed hazardous materials sites, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- e) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GP EIR identified potential impacts of development within an airport land use plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-28). The Mather Airport CLUP Safety Restriction Area overlies several portions of the City, restricting development

in those areas to uses allowed within the CLUP. Adherence to General Plan policies, federal regulations, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Mather Airport Planning Area provisions would reduce the potential for safety hazards. Therefore, the General Plan was found to have a less than significant impact (GP FEIR, p. 4.0-29).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to development within an airport land use plan, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- f) *No Impact.* There are no private airstrips within the City. The nearest private airstrip to the General Plan Planning Area is in Rancho Murieta, approximately ten miles to the southeast of the Planning Area boundary. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to private airstrips, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- g) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GP EIR analyzed potential impacts that could impair implementation or physically interfere with the Sacramento County Multi-Hazard Disaster Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-29). The EIR found that implementation of the proposed roadway system within the General Plan would improve city roadway connectivity, allowing for better emergency access to residences as well as evacuation routes and resulting in a net positive effect on implementation success of the Sacramento County Multi-Hazard Disaster Plan. Therefore, the General Plan was found to have a less than significant impact (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-29).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to an impairment or interference of an emergency response plan, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- h) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts of safety hazards associated with wildland fires due to the construction of residential areas adjacent to open space and natural areas (GP DEIR, pp.4.12-9). Adoption of General Plan policies and action items, as well as required project review by the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD), would ensure minimal impacts to residential areas from wildland fires, resulting in a less than significant impact from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-10).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts associated with wildland fires, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:					
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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 (e.g., 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute to the potential for discharge of storm water from material storage areas, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas or loading docks, or other outdoor work areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Create or contribute to the potential for discharge of storm water to impair the beneficial uses of the receiving waters or areas that provide water quality benefit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Create or contribute to the potential for the discharge of storm water to cause significant harm on the biological integrity of the waterways and water bodies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
l) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
m) Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR identified potential surface and ground water quality impacts that would occur as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, 4.9-34 through 4.9-40). Both impacts of the General Plan were found to be less than significant with implementation of City Policies and Action Items as well as compliance with the City’s National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit conditions.

General Plan Policy NR.3.2 (which is amended as part of the proposed project) was referenced as applicable to these impacts. A further analysis of these changes is provided below.

Policy NR.3.2

The proposed amendments to Policy NR.3.2 clarifies the City’s intent of circumstances where modification and realignment of a natural creek may be considered as well as that channelization and use of concrete is discouraged but not prohibited (current policy language simply notes that it “...shall not be supported” which does not clearly identify that there is no prohibition to such an action). The amendments also include the term “feasible” in regards to the ability to re-create the character of a natural creek. The use of the term “feasible” is intended to correlate implementation of this policy to implementation of other policy aspects of the General Plan (e.g., Safety Element Policy S.2.4 and action items S.2.4.1, S.2.4.2 and S.2.4.3), as well as utilizing the definition of “feasible” from CEQA (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15364).

The performance standard provisions of this policy (City’s intent and preference for the preservation of natural creeks) are retained by this amendment. This amendment would not result in new significant impact associated with water quality under project and cumulative conditions already addressed in the General Plan Final EIR, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impact 4.9.1 and 4.9.5 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.9-39 and 4.9-60, implementation of the General Plan policy provisions and continued implementation of the City’s NPDES permit that addresses stormwater quality would mitigate these impacts to less than significant under project and cumulative conditions. Given that the intent of this Policy would not be substantially modified, this impact would remain less than significant.

For the reasons stated above, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project’s impacts to water quality beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GP EIR identified potential ground water supply and recharge impacts (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-43 through 4.9-57). Both the addition of impervious material as well as additional use of groundwater in the region would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to groundwater levels from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-57).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to ground water supply and recharge, because it would not increase groundwater demands or impervious surfaces near areas determined to have groundwater recharge capability (Cosumnes River area). Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project’s impacts

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts due to erosion and siltation as a result of new development in the City and the Planning Area (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-34 through 4.9-39). Adherence to City policies, action items, the conditions of the City's NPDES permit, and the City's Erosion Control Ordinance would result in less than significant impacts related to erosion and siltation as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-39).

General Plan Policy NR.3.2 (which is amended as part of the proposed project) was referenced as applicable to these impacts. A further analysis of these changes is provided below.

Policy NR.3.2

The proposed amendments to Policy NR.3.2 clarifies the City's intent of circumstances where modification and realignment of a natural creek may be considered as well as that channelization and use of concrete is discouraged but not prohibited (current policy language simply notes that it "...shall not be supported" which does not clearly identify that there is no prohibition to such an action). The amendments also include the term "feasible" in regards to the ability to re-create the character of a natural creek. The use of the term "feasible" is intended to correlate implementation of this policy to implementation of other policy aspects of the General Plan (e.g., Safety Element Policy S.2.4 and action items S.2.4.1, S.2.4.2 and S.2.4.3), as well as utilizing the definition of "feasible" from CEQA (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15364).

The performance standard provisions of this policy (City's intent and preference for the preservation of natural creeks) are retained by this amendment. This amendment would not result in new significant impact associated with water quality under project and cumulative conditions already addressed in the General Plan Final EIR, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impact 4.9.1 and 4.9.5 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.9-39 and 4.9-60, implementation of the General Plan policy provisions and continued implementation of the City's NPDES permit that addresses stormwater quality (including erosion and siltation) would mitigate these impacts to less than significant under project and cumulative conditions. Given that the intent of this Policy would not be substantially modified, this impact would remain less than significant.

For the reasons stated above, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts to water quality beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts from flooding due to implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-41 through 4.9-43). These impacts were associated with the addition of impermeable surfaces, primarily roads, within the City. City Policies and Action Items would be adequate to reduce any flooding impacts. Therefore, the General Plan EIR found that the impact of the General Plan on flooding would be less than significant (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-43).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to flooding and onsite

drainage patterns, because it would not involve any changes in development patterns under the current General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- e) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a) above.
- f) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussions a) and c) above.
- g) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a) and c) above.
- h) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a), c) and d) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to runoff. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- i) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a) and c) above.
- j) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR discussed impacts related to flooding, which included consideration of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as well as potential hazards associated levee failure (which was determined not to be a reasonably foreseeable event) (GP DEIR, pp. 4.9-41 through 4.9-43). City Policies and Action Items would prevent either an increase in the 100-year floodplain from the result of the construction of any structures as or the placement of housing within the 100-year floodplain. Therefore, impacts from the General Plan were found to be less than significant (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-43).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to flooding, because it would not result in any changes in the placement of development under the current General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- k) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion j) above.
- l) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussions j) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to dam failure or exposure of people to flood hazards. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- m) *No Impact.* The General Plan Planning Area does not contain any large water bodies that could result in seiche, tsunami, or mudflow events. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow events. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:					
a) Physically divide an existing community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the General Plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR described possible impacts related to the division of existing communities (GP DEIR, pp. 4.1-38 through 4.1-40). The General Plan EIR states that development and redevelopment described in the General Plan was specifically designed so that barriers between communities would be prevented. Additionally, City policies and action items were included in the General Plan to further prevent divisions of communities. The General Plan EIR found that impacts of the General Plan to existing communities would be less than significant (GP DEIR, pp. 4.1-39 and 4.1-40).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to the division of an existing community, because it would not change land use patterns or result in barriers. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR included discussion of potential impacts to adopted land use plans, policies, and regulations of other jurisdictional agencies in the area (GP DEIR, 4.1-46 through 4.1-56). Conflicts were identified between the General Plan and the Sacramento County General Plan and the Mather Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Mather CLUP). While City policies were included in the General Plan to reduce these conflicts, significant and unavoidable conflicts were expected as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.1-56; GP FEIR, p. 4.0-4).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to conflicts with adopted land use plans, policies or regulations, because it would not change land provisions of the General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR addressed potential impacts related to conflicts between the General Plan and any adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.10-62 and 4.10-63). While the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) is currently being prepared by the County, the SSHCP has not been adopted (GP DEIR, p. 4.10-63). Therefore, no impact to the SSHCP was expected as a result of the General Plan. The reader is referred to the “Biological Resources” section regarding potential impacts associated with the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon*.

General Plan Action Item NR.1.1.1 and General Plan policies NR.2.2 and NR.3.2 (which are amended as part of the proposed project) were referenced as applicable to these impacts. A further analysis of these changes is provided below.

Action NR.1.1.1

As described under Impact 4.10.1 in Section 3.9 (Biological Resources) of this document, the proposed amendments to Action NR.1.1.1 provide clarification to the earlier version of the Action Item in relation to the intent of this Action Item to the planned land use patterns and roadway improvements in the General Plan, as well as to take into account existing conditions of the City and Planning Area. These amendments are not a substantial change of the existing Action.

Thus, the changes to Action NR.1.1.1 would provide clarification that wildlife movement and preserves would be provided whenever feasible in relation to the General Plan land use pattern and planned transportation improvements and would not result in new significant impact associated with South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impact 4.1.4 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.1-57, the General Plan and proposed South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (the SSHCP has still not been adopted as of the date of this document) would generally be consistent in regards to the preservation of open space areas and policy provisions. Given that the intent of this provision would not be substantially modified, this impact would remain less than significant and will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

Policy NR.2.2

The proposed amendments to Policy NR.2.2 clarify the City’s intent that impact minimization through measures in addition to project design are a form of mitigation. The performance standard provisions of this policy (mitigation/minimization of impacts to wetland habitats) are retained by this amendment. This amendment is not a substantial change to the existing policy that would require major revisions to the General Plan EIR. It would not result in new significant impact associated with South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan already addressed in the General Plan Final EIR, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impact 4.1.4 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.1-57, the General Plan and proposed South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (the SSHCP has still not been adopted as of the date of this document) would generally be consistent in regards to the preservation of open space areas and policy provisions. Given that the intent of this provision would not be substantially modified, this impact would remain less than significant and will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Policy NR.3.2

The proposed amendments to Policy NR.3.2 clarifies the City's intent of circumstances where modification and realignment of a natural creek may be considered as well as that channelization and use of concrete is discouraged but not prohibited (current policy language simply notes that it "...shall not be supported" which does not clearly identify that there is no prohibition to such an action). The amendments also include the term "feasible" in regards to the ability to re-create the character of a natural creek. The use of the term "feasible" is intended to correlate implementation of this policy to implementation of other policy aspects of the General Plan (e.g., Safety Element Policy S.2.4 and action items S.2.4.1, S.2.4.2 and S.2.4.3), as well as utilizing the definition of "feasible" from CEQA (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15364).

The performance standard provisions of this policy (City's intent and preference for the preservation of natural creeks) are retained by this amendment. This amendment would not result in new significant impact associated with South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan already addressed in the General Plan Final EIR, nor would it result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion of Impact 4.1.4 that would trigger a significant impact. As identified on Draft EIR page 4.1-57, the General Plan and proposed South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (the SSHCP has still not been adopted as of the date of this document) would generally be consistent in regards to the preservation of open space areas and policy provisions. Given that the intent of this provision would not be substantially modified, this impact would remain less than significant and will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

For the reasons stated above, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
X. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:					
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts resulting from the loss of availability of mineral resources in the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, pp. 4.8-26 through 4.8-27). Only those areas already identified as either MRZ-2 or as containing existing mining operations were expected to be impacted by development of the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-26). Even with adoption of City Policies and Action Items regarding mineral resources and mining, the General Plan would still have a significant and unavoidable impact (GP DEIR, p. 4.8-27).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to mineral resources, because it would not change land use patterns under the current General Plan. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a) above.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XI. NOISE Would the project result in:					
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR addressed increases in noise levels as a result of buildout of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.7-20 through 4.7-30). Significant and unavoidable impacts were expected due to construction noise, increased traffic noise, and the potential construction of noise generating land uses (GP DEIR, pp. 4.7-22, 4.7-27, 4.7-30). Policies and Actions included in the General Plan would reduce these impacts; however, various factors exist throughout the Planning Area that would make total mitigation impossible. Therefore, the impact of the General Plan remained significant and unavoidable.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the exposure of persons to or the generation of excess noise levels, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR discussed groundborne noise and vibration concurrently with construction related noise impacts [see discussion a) above; also GP-DEIR, pp. 4.7-20 through 4.7-22]. As large-scale construction of various land uses is ongoing in the City and will continue for some time, guided by the General Plan, significant noise and vibration generation is expected. While City Policies and Action Items would reduce the impact of such vibration and noise, significant and unavoidable impacts as

a result of implementation of the General Plan are expected in some cases (GP DEIR, p. 4.7-22).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to groundborne noise and vibration, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified uses that may result in significant stationary (permanent) noise generation (GP DEIR, pp. 4.7-28 through 4.7-30). Uses and equipment that would generate significant permanent noise included loading docks, industrial uses, HVAC equipment, car washes, daycare facilities, auto repair, as well as some recreational uses (GP DEIR, p. 4.7-28). While the impact of these and other significant sources of permanent noise would be lessened by Policies and Action Items included in the General Plan, some impacts would remain and the General Plan EIR found impacts of the General Plan to be significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.7-30).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to stationary noise generation, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the GENERAL PLAN EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion b) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to increases in temporary or periodic noise, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- e) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR analyzed noise impacts related to airports, specifically the Mather Airport located immediately south and west of the City (GP DEIR, pp. 4.7-30 through 4.7-32). Five planning areas within the City were identified as having potential airport-related noise impacts: Mather Planning Area, Jackson Planning Area, Sunrise Boulevard South Planning Area, Rio del Oro Planning Area, and the Aerojet Planning Area (GP DEIR, p. 4.7-30). Single-event noise impacts were also identified for those portions of the City that lie under the primary flight paths for Mather Airport (GP DEIR, p. 4.7-30). For the five planning areas identified above and areas of the City directly under the approach path for Mather Airport the impact of the General Plan was found to be significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.7-32).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to airport-related noise, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

- f) *No Impact.* The nearest private airport to the General Plan Planning Area is Rancho Murrieta Airport, approximately 7.8 miles away to the southeast. Pursuant to Federal Aviation Regulations, aircraft flying over the Planning Area are under the control of Mather Airport and Sacramento Approach Control. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to private airports, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:					
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* In the General Plan EIR the General Plan was found to result in substantial increases in the number of dwellings, residents, and employees in the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, pp. 4.3-10 through 4.3-14). These increases were higher than those previously anticipated by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). Substantial population growth is expected and significant and unavoidable impacts of the General Plan were identified (GP-DEIR, p. 4.3-14).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to substantial population growth inducement, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts due to the displacement of people and housing as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.3-14). These impacts were primarily due to the installation of infrastructure such as streets (Ibid). Consistency with State and federal laws relating to displacement of existing residents and housing would ensure that impacts of the General Plan would be less than significant (Ibid.).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the displacement of people and housing, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion b) above.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:					
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR analyzed the impact of the General Plan on fire protection services and the resulting environmental impact of any additional infrastructure required (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-5 through 4.12-9). As the General Plan would result in substantial growth, additional fire stations and other infrastructure would be required to serve the increased number of dwellings and urban land uses (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-5 and 4.12-6). Consistency with City Policies and Action Items would result in a less than significant impact of the General Plan to the environment from construction and provision of additional infrastructure and facilities.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to fire protection services, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts related to the need for additional police protection infrastructure and facilities (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-16 through 4.12-20). Just as with fire protection, the substantial growth predicted in the General Plan EIR would require additional police protection infrastructure and facilities (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-16 and 4.12-17). Consistency with City Policies and Action Items would result in less than significant impacts resulting from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-17).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to police protection services, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts to all four school districts servicing the General Plan Planning Area as a result of substantial growth expected during the life of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-77 through 4.12-80). While additional schools would be required as growth in the General Plan Planning Area continues, consistency with City Policies and Action Items, as well as required CEQA and State Board of Education review of future school sites would result in less than significant impacts resulting from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-80).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to schools or school districts, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential environmental impacts related to the provision of additional parks to serve the growth anticipated in the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-89 through 4.12-96). Adherence to City Policy and Action Items as well as the requirements of the Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD) would ensure less than significant impacts from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-95 and 4.12-96).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to parks, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- e) *No Impact.* See discussions a) through d) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to other public facilities, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XIV. RECREATION					
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion d) of checklist XIII, Public Services above for information on the proposed project's impacts related to parks and recreation. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in an increase to the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks. The proposed amendments would not create any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to existing neighborhood and regional parks, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- b) *No Impact.* See discussion a) above. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element do not include the inclusion of any recreational facilities. The proposed amendments would not create any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the inclusion of new recreational facilities, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC Would the project:					
a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The GENERAL PLAN EIR analyzed traffic impacts to the existing roadway network in the General Plan Planning Area as a result of the population, dwelling unit, and employee increases expected to occur with implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, pp. 4.5-27 through 4.5-45). Several new roadways and improvement of existing roadways was described in the General Plan in order to address the additional expected traffic load. However, even with these improvements and adherence to City Policies and Action Items the impact of the General Plan would remain significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.5-42).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to existing traffic, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion a) above.

c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR analyzed safety and hazards impacts related to the provision of land uses within the Mather Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Mather CLUP) and their impact on safety related to air traffic in and out of the airport (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-28 and 4.4-29). The General Plan established the Mather Planning

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Area that corresponds to the Master Plan boundaries of the Mather Airport. Policies included in the General Plan were more stringent than the safety restrictions of the Mather CLUP (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-28). Consistency with City Policies and Action Items as well as the requirements of the Mather CLUP would ensure less than significant impacts from implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.4-29).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to airport-related safety, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR analyzed potential impacts related to roadway safety as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.5-48). The City's design standards for roadways, as well as the land use planning and other City Policies, would ensure that impacts of the General Plan related to roadway safety are less than significant (Ibid.).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to roadway safety, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- e) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified impacts related to emergency access within the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, p. 4.5-48). As the roadway network in the City was to be improved and additional routes were to be added by the General Plan, impacts were found to be less than significant (Ibid.).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to emergency access, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- f) *No Impact.* The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element does not include provisions for parking spaces, so would not result in inadequate parking capacity. The proposed amendments would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to parking, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development or City parking standards. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- g) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR analyzed potential impacts to transit, pedestrian, and bicycle provisions within the City (GP DEIR, pp. 4.5-49 through 4.5-53). Development of the City's Transit Master Plan and the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle

Master Plan would ensure that impacts of the General Plan to these provisions would be less than significant (GP DEIR, pp. 4.5-49 and 4.5-50).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to alternative transportation, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts relating to the capacity of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) treatment facilities to treat wastewater flows from the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-45 through 4.12-51). Current capacity at the SRWTP is adequate to meet projected growth by 2020; however growth beyond that point will require expansion of existing capacity which could result in environmental impacts (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-47). Because of this, the GENERAL PLAN EIR identified the impact of the General Plan as significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-51).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to wastewater treatment requirements, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

b) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* In addition to required expansion in treatment capacity, the General Plan EIR identified potential impacts associated with the construction of additional wastewater conveyance infrastructure (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-45 through 4.12-51). CSD-1 has planned expansion of sewerage infrastructure into the General Plan Planning Area and the environmental effects of this expansion were addressed in an EIR

(GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-46 and 4.12-47). However, increased growth expected with implementation of the General Plan will require more infrastructure than that currently planned by CSD-1. Therefore, the impact of the General Plan was found to be significant and unavoidable (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-51).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to wastewater conveyance, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- c) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussion c) in checklist VII, Hydrology and Water Quality for information on stormwater drainage facilities and their associated environmental effects. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities. The proposed amendments would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to storm water drainage facilities, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.
- d) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential environmental impacts related to available water supplies and the increased demand in the City and the General Plan Planning Area (GP DEIR, pp. 4.9-43 through 4.9-57). According to the analysis in the General Plan EIR, adequate supplies of water exist through buildout of the current incorporated boundaries of the City (GP DEIR, p. 45). However, new sources of water will be required to serve buildout conditions for those portions of the General Plan Planning Area that lie outside current City boundaries. Significant environmental effects may occur from the acquisition of these additional sources. Therefore, significant and unavoidable impacts of the General Plan are expected (GP DEIR, p. 4.9-57).

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to available water supplies, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- e) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* See discussions a) and b) above.
- f) *Reviewed Under Previous Document.* The General Plan EIR identified potential impacts related to the capacity of local landfills and those landfills to which solid waste from the City and the General Plan Planning Area are shipped (GP DEIR, pp. 4.12-60 through 4.12-63). Current capacity exists at all landfills that serve the General Plan Planning Area and expansion in capacity is not expected to be required (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-61). Consistency with City Policies and Action Items as well as federal, State, and local laws and ordinances would ensure less than significant impacts as a result of implementation of the General Plan (GP DEIR, p. 4.12-63).

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to the capacity of local landfills, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

- g) *No Impact.* The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not involve the generation of solid waste. The proposed amendments would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to the generation of solid waste, because they would not change land use designations or the extent of anticipated urban development that would generate solid waste. Therefore, no further environmental review is required for the proposed project's impacts beyond the analysis contained in the General Plan EIR and these impacts will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE					
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

- a) *Potentially Significant Impact.* As demonstrated in checklist IV above, the proposed amendments may result in *potentially significant* impacts related to biological resources. These issues will be discussed in the Supplemental EIR.
- b) *No Impact.* The proposed amendments provide clarifications to the long-term natural resource policy provisions under the General Plan and does not involve short-term environmental goals and could impact long-term environmental goals. This issue will not be discussed in the Supplemental EIR.
- c) *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element may result in cumulatively considerable impacts. These issues will be addressed further in the Supplemental EIR.
- d) *Less Than Significant Impact.* Refer to Checklist discussions I through III, VI through IX, XI through XIII, and XV and XVI. The proposed amendments to the General Plan Natural Resources Element would not result in any substantial adverse effects on human beings, directly or indirectly. These issues will not be addressed in the Supplemental EIR.

4.0 DETERMINATION

4.0 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, a **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** is appropriate (i) because all significant and unavoidable effects of the proposed project have been previously examined in a Program EIR prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15176, and (ii) because, with respect to any potentially new or additional significant environmental effects associated with the proposed project that have not been previously examined in the Program EIR, revisions to the proposed project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponents that clearly reduce such new or additional significant environmental effects to less-than-significant levels. In addition, I find that a **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** is also appropriate because the proposed project would not cause any significant environmental effects (i) that are "peculiar to the project or the parcel," (ii) that were not analyzed as significant effects in the prior EIR for the Rancho Cordova General Plan, or (iii) that, due to substantial new information not known at the time the Program EIR was certified, are more severe than discussed in the prior Program EIR. [See State CEQA Guidelines, § 15183, subd. (c)]
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment that cannot be reduced in effect by changed to the proposed project, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect(s) on the environment due to increased impacts on biological resources than those addressed in an earlier EIR. All other significant effects: 1) have been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) have been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. A **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects on biological resources that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, all potentially significant effects: (a) have been analyzed and adequately addressed in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, or (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, previous Mitigated Negative Declaration, or this Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

Signature: _____

Date: 5/19/08

Printed Name: Patrick Angell

For: City of Rancho Cordova

5.0 REPORT PREPARATION AND CONSULTATIONS

5.0 REPORT PREPARATION AND CONSULTATIONS

5.1 REPORT PREPARATION

Paul Junker	Planning Director
Patrick Angell	Environmental Division Manager
Catherine Lee	Environmental Planner

6.0 REFERENCES

REFERENCES

City of Rancho Cordova. *City of Rancho Cordova General Plan*. Rancho Cordova, CA. June 2006.

City of Rancho Cordova. *City of Rancho Cordova General Plan Final EIR (SCH #2005122037)*. Rancho Cordova, CA. June 2006.

City of Rancho Cordova. *City of Rancho Cordova General Plan Draft EIR (SCH #2005122037)*. Rancho Cordova, CA. March 2006.

Sacramento County. *Sacramento County Draft General Plan Update*. Sacramento, CA June 2007.

