
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.

