
4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

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

4.2 CUMULATIVE SETTING

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

4.3 PREVIOUS CUMULATIVE ANALYSIS WITHIN THE CUMULATIVE SETTING

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

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

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

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

4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Cumulative impacts identified in the GP-EIR as being cumulatively considerable are largely due to increases in dwelling units, residents, and employees. The proposed project would not include the addition of any dwelling units, residents, or employees, as it is primarily for the annexation of the City of Rancho Cordova's Sphere of Influence. At this time, there are no cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed project. The GP-EIR programmatically addressed the environmental impacts of construction and redevelopment of land uses within the annexation area. As future projects are brought forward to the City, the City will determine, at that time, whether additional CEQA analysis is required pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines.