

This section compiles all of the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project as identified in each of the environmental issue areas contained in Sections 4.1 through 4.13 of this EIR.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) contain an assessment of the cumulative impacts that could be associated with the proposed project. According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(a), "an EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable." " 'Cumulatively considerable' means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects." CEQA Guidelines Section 15065(a)(3). As defined by the Guidelines, "cumulative impacts" refers to two or more effects that, when combined, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. CEQA Guidelines Section 15355. A cumulative impact occurs from:

...the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time. CEQA Guidelines Section 15355(b).

In addition, Section 15130(b) identifies that the following four elements are necessary for an adequate cumulative analysis:

- 1) *Either:*
 - (A) *A list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside the control of the agency; or,*
 - (B) *A summary of projections contained in an adopted general plan or related planning document, or in a prior environmental document which has been adopted or certified, which described or evaluated regional or area wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact. Any such planning document shall be referenced and made available to the public at a location specified by the lead agency.*
- 2) *A definition of the geographic scope of the area affected by the cumulative effect and a reasonable explanation for the geographic limitation used;*
- 3) *A summary of the expected environmental effects to be produced by those projects with specific reference to additional information stating where that information is available; and*
- 4) *A reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects. An EIR shall examine reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.*

Where a lead agency is examining a project with an incremental effect that is not "cumulatively considerable," a lead agency need not consider that effect significant, but shall briefly describe its basis for concluding that the incremental effect is not cumulatively considerable. CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(a).

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

5.2 CUMULATIVE SETTING

The City of Rancho Cordova has used both the list and summary of projections approaches ((1)(A) and (1)(B) above) to consider cumulative impacts in this Draft EIR. The general cumulative setting conditions are based on the existing land use plans in the Sacramento region—specifically, Sacramento County, El Dorado County, Placer County, and the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Galt, Citrus Heights, Roseville and Rocklin, and on consideration of currently known large-scale proposed or approved development projects in the Planning Area and in the nearby region (see **Table 4.0-1**). A more detailed description of the general cumulative setting is contained in Section 4.0 Introduction to the Environmental Analysis and Assumptions Used.

Each technical section of the Draft EIR (Sections 4.1 through 4.13) identifies its own pertinent cumulative setting (i.e., in cases where the nature of the impact warrants adjustment of the setting, in which case the reason for any deviation in the cumulative setting is discussed), and includes a description of the geographic extent of the cumulative setting based on the characteristics of the environmental issue under consideration, as set forth in Section 15130(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

5.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS

Identified below is a list of the cumulative impacts that could result from the implementation of the proposed General Plan and future development within the geographic extent of the cumulative setting for that environmental issue area. As described above, cumulative impacts are two or more affects that, when considered together, are considerable or compound other environmental effects. Each cumulative impact is determined to have one of the following levels of significance: less than significant, significant, or significant and unavoidable. The specific cumulative impacts for each environmental issue area are also identified and analyzed in the corresponding technical sections of the Draft EIR (Sections 4.1 through 4.13).

SECTION 4.1 LAND USE

Cumulative Land Use Effects

Impact 4.1.5 When considered with existing, proposed, planned and approved development in the region, implementation of the Rancho Cordova General Plan has the potential to result to contribute cumulative land use conditions in the region that result in significant impacts to the physical environment. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.2 AGRICULTURE

Cumulative Impacts to Agricultural Resources

Impact 4.2.4 Implementation of the General Plan Land Use Map Book along, with other proposed development in Sacramento County, would contribute to the additional conversion of important farmlands to other uses and may increase agriculture/urban interface conflicts. This is a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.3 POPULATION/HOUSING/EMPLOYMENT

Cumulative Population and Housing Increases

Impact 4.3.3 Buildout in the planning area, under the proposed General Plan Land Use Map, would include substantial population, housing unit and employment increases. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.4 HAZARDS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Cumulative Hazards and Health Risks

Impact 4.4.5 Persons could be exposed to contaminated soil or groundwater during development of previously contaminated sites or sites undergoing remediation. Implementation of the General Plan policies and action items as well as existing regulatory requirements and standards would reduce impacts so that they are considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.5 TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

Cumulative Traffic Impacts on Local Roadways and State Highways

Impact 4.5.6 When considered with existing, proposed, planned and approved development in the region, implementation of the Rancho Cordova General Plan would contribute to cumulative traffic volumes in the region that result in significant impacts to level of service and operations. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Transit System

Impact 4.5.7 Implementation of the proposed General Plan would contribute to the cumulative demand for public transit service (e.g., bus and light rail service). The General Plan's contribution is considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Bicycle and Pedestrian System

Impact 4.5.8 Implementation of the proposed General Plan would contribute to cumulative demands for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The General Plan's contribution is considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.6 AIR QUALITY

Regional Air Quality Impacts

Impact 4.6.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Planning Area would exacerbate existing regional problems with ozone and particulate matter. The proposed General Plan's contribution to these conditions is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

SECTION 4.7 NOISE

Cumulative Traffic Noise

Impact 4.7.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan in combination with regional growth and traffic conditions (pass-through traffic) would increase transportation noise along area roadways. This would be a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Stationary Noise

Impact 4.7.7 Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with regional growth in surrounding communities outside of the Planning Area, would increase stationary noise. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Airport Noise

Impact 4.7.8 Implementation of the proposed General Plan in combination with regional growth in the Planning Area and surrounding communities would subject more noise-sensitive land uses to airport noise. This is considered a less than **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.8 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Cumulative Geologic and Soils Impacts

Impact 4.8.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with existing, planned, proposed and reasonably foreseeable development, would not contribute to cumulative geologic and soil impacts, as the impacts would be site-specific and not additive in character. Thus, the General Plan's contribution would be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Mineral Resources

Impact 4.8.7 Implementation of the proposed General Plan, together with past, present, and probable future projects in the area, would result in a cumulatively significant loss of mineral resources in the region. The General Plan's incremental contribution to the loss of mineral resources is **cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Cumulative Water Quality Impacts

Impact 4.9.5 Implementation of the proposed General Plan and potential development of the Planning Area would include substantial grading, site preparation, and an increase in urbanized development. Increased development would contribute to cumulative water quality impacts and is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Flood Hazards

Impact 4.9.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan would increase impervious surfaces and alter drainage conditions and rates in the Planning Area, which could contribute to cumulative flood conditions along the American River, Sacramento River, Cosumnes River, and local waterways. However, the General Plan contains adequate General Plan policies and action items that address drainage and flooding issues. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Water Supply Impacts

Impact 4.9.7 Implementation of the proposed General Plan would contribute to an increased demand for water supply requiring increased groundwater production and the use of surface water supplies that could result in significant environmental impacts. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.10 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Cumulative Biological Resources

Impact 4.10.8 Implementation of the proposed General Plan, together with past, present, and probable future projects in the Planning Area and larger regional context would result in a cumulatively significant loss of biological resources in the region. The General Plan's incremental contribution to this significant cumulative impact is **cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.11 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, and Human Remains

Impact 4.11.3 Adoption of the Rancho Cordova General Plan along with foreseeable development in the region could result in the disturbance of cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. This contribution is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

Paleontological Resources

Impact 4.11.4 Adoption of the Rancho Cordova General Plan along with any foreseeable development in the region could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations). This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

SECTION 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Cumulative Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Impact 4.12.1.2 Implementation of the General Plan in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development (based on Sacramento County, and the cities of Folsom, Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, Galt, Lodi, and Sacramento General Plans land use projections), would increase the population within the SMFD service area, requiring additional fire and emergency medical services and related facilities. The City's contribution to the need for expanded fire protection services is considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Design-Related Safety Concerns

Impact 4.12.2.3 Implementation of the General Plan and other reasonably foreseeable development in southeastern Sacramento County (based on Sacramento County land use projections) would increase the population within the Planning Area and surrounding area and would require additional law enforcement services and related facilities under cumulative conditions. This is a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Water Service Impacts

Impact 4.12.3.2 Implementation of the General Plan would contribute to the need for additional treatment capacity, storage capacity, and other conveyance facilities to meet cumulative water demands with SCWA, GSWC and Cal-Am. The General Plan's contribution would be **cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Wastewater Impacts

Impact 4.12.4.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in addition to other reasonably foreseeable development in eastern Sacramento County (based on the land use projections established in the Sacramento County General Plan), would substantially increase in wastewater flows and require additional infrastructure and treatment capacity that would result in a physical effect on the environment. This is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Solid Waste Service

Impact 4.12.5.2 The proposed project, in addition to proposed and approved projects in the region area, would generate solid waste that would require expanded collection and disposal services. The project's contribution would be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Public School Impacts

Impact 4.12.6.2 Implementation of the General Plan in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development (based on General Plan land use projections for Sacramento County, Folsom, and Elk Grove) proposed in eastern Sacramento County would result in a cumulative increase in student enrollment and require additional schools and related facilities to accommodate the growth. This is a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Park and Recreation Demands

Impact 4.12.7.3 Implementation of the General Plan in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development would require additional park and recreation facilities within the Planning Area boundaries and CRPD's service area boundaries. This would be a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Electrical, Telephone, and Cable Services

Impact 4.12.8.2 Implementation of the proposed project as well as potential development in the surrounding areas (based on Sacramento County General Plan land use projections) would result in cumulative utility service impacts. The project's contribution would be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.13 VISUAL RESOURCES/LIGHT AND GLARE

Cumulative Visual Resources Impacts

Impact 4.13.5 Implementation of the General Plan will encourage new development and redevelopment activities that would contribute to the cumulative alteration of existing landscape characteristics of the region. This impact is **cumulatively considerable**.