

This section summarizes the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project that are identified in environmental issue areas in Section 4.0. Cumulative impacts are the result of combining the potential effects of the projects with other planned developments, as well as foreseeable development projects. The following discussion considers the cumulative impacts of the relevant environmental issue areas.

### 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 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 considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects (as defined by Section 15130). As defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15355, a cumulative impact consists of an impact that is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts. 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.*

In addition, Section 15130(b) identifies that the following three 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 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
- 3) 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.

## 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

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### 5.2 CUMULATIVE SETTING

A general description of the cumulative setting is provided in Section 4.0 (Introduction to the Environmental Analysis and Assumptions Used) as well as **Table 4.0-1** and **Figure 4.0-1**. In addition, each environmental issue area evaluated in the Draft EIR identifies its own cumulative setting.

### 5.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS

Identified below is a compilation of the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the project and future development in the vicinity. As described above, cumulative impacts are two or more effects that, when combined, 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 identified in the technical sections of Section 4.0.

#### SECTION 4.1 AGRICULTURE

**Impact 4.1.3** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development in the Urban Study Areas would contribute significantly to the conversion of important farmland and agriculture/urban interface conflicts. This would be a **cumulative significant** impact.

#### SECTION 4.2 LAND USE

##### Consistency with Relevant Planning Documents in the Planning Area

**Impact 4.2.3** Implementation of the proposed General Plan could impact land use plans or study areas outside of the city limits, but within the Planning Area. This is a **cumulative significant** impact.

##### Land Use Conflicts in the Planning Area

**Impact 4.2.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan would increase the potential for land use conflicts outside of the City and within the Planning Area. This is a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

#### SECTION 4.3 POPULATION/HOUSING/EMPLOYMENT

##### Cumulative Population and Housing Increases

**Impact 4.3.3** The population and housing unit increases at buildout of the General Plan may exceed SACOG's population and housing projections for the Planning Area. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

SECTION 4.4 HUMAN HEALTH/RISK OF UPSET

**Cumulative Hazard Impacts**

**Impact 4.4.5** Implementation of the proposed General Plan and potential development in the Urban Study Areas could result in site-specific hazards being encountered. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

**Cumulative Exposure to Hazards Associated with Facilities Utilizing Hazardous Materials**

**Impact 4.4.6** Implementation of the proposed General Plan and the potential development of the Urban Study Areas could result in the exposure of populated areas to accidental incidents and intentional acts at existing and future facilities utilizing hazardous materials. This is considered a **less than significant cumulative** impact.

SECTION 4.5 TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

**Cumulative Traffic Impacts on Local Roadways and State Highways**

**Impact 4.5.6** Implementation of the proposed General Plan as well as potential development of the Urban Study Areas would contribute to significant impacts on local roadways and state highways under cumulative conditions. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

**Cumulative Transit System, Bicycle and Pedestrian Impacts**

**Impact 4.5.7** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would contribute to a cumulative increase in the demand for transit service as well as bicycle and pedestrian usage. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

SECTION 4.6 NOISE

**Cumulative Traffic Noise Conflicts**

**Impact 4.6.6** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas could result in increased traffic noise conflicts. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

**Cumulative Airport Noise Conflicts**

**Impact 4.6.7** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas could result in noise conflicts with the Sunset Sky ranch Airport. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

**Regional Traffic Noise Impacts**

**Impact 4.6.8** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would result in impacts to regional noise attenuation levels. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

## 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

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### SECTION 4.7 AIR QUALITY

#### Regional Air Plan Impacts

**Impact 4.7.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would exacerbate existing regional problems with ozone and particulate matter. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

### SECTION 4.8 HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY

#### Cumulative Water Quality Impacts

**Impact 4.8.6** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with the potential development of the Urban Study Areas, could contribute to cumulative water quality impacts. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

#### Cumulative Flood Hazards

**Impact 4.8.7** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would increase impervious surfaces and alter drainage conditions and rates in the Planning Area, which could contribute to cumulative flood conditions in the Sacramento River, Cosumnes River, and inland creeks. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

#### Cumulative Water Supply Impacts

**Impact 4.8.8** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas, 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 **cumulative significant** impact.

### SECTION 4.9 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

#### Soil Erosion

**Impact 4.9.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas could contribute to cumulative soil erosion impacts. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

#### Expansive Soils and Seismic Hazards

**Impact 4.9.5** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas could result in cumulative impacts to expansive soils and seismic hazards. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

SECTION 4.10 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Cumulative Biological Resource Impacts**

**Impact 4.10.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would contribute to cumulative impacts associated with significant effects to special-status plant and wildlife species and habitat loss. This would be a **cumulative significant** impact.

SECTION 4.11 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Cumulative Impacts to Prehistoric and Historic Resources**

**Impact 4.11.3** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development in the Urban Study Areas could contribute to the disturbance of known and undiscovered prehistoric and historic resources in the Elk Grove area. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

**Cumulative Impacts to Paleontological Resources**

**Impact 4.11.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas could contribute to the loss of paleontological resources in the Elk Grove area. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

SECTION 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

**Cumulative Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services**

**Impact 4.12.1.2** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would contribute to the cumulative demand for fire protection and emergency medical services. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

**Cumulative Law Enforcement Impacts**

**Impact 4.12.2.2** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would result in the increase of the demand for cumulative law enforcement services. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

**Cumulative Public School Impacts**

**Impact 4.12.3.2** Implementation of the proposed General Plan as well as potential development of the Urban Study Areas, would result in cumulative public school impacts. These cumulative public school impacts are considered **less than significant**.

## 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

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### Cumulative Wastewater Demands

**Impact 4.12.4.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas and growth in the SRCSD service area would result in cumulative wastewater impacts. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

### Cumulative Solid Waste Impacts

**Impact 4.12.5.2** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would result in cumulative solid waste impacts. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

### Cumulative Park and Recreation Demands

**Impact 4.12.6.2** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would result in cumulative park and recreation impacts. These cumulative impacts are considered **less than significant**.

### Cumulative Electrical, Telephone and Natural Gas Impacts

**Impact 4.12.7.3** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development in the Urban Study Areas would result in cumulative electric, telephone and natural gas service impacts. These are considered **less than significant** cumulative impacts.

## SECTION 4.13 VISUAL RESOURCES

### Cumulative Impacts to Visual Resources

**Impact 4.13.4** Implementation of the proposed General Plan along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would result in the further conversion of the region's rural landscape to residential, commercial, and other land uses. This would contribute to the alteration of the visual resources in the region. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.