

This section summarizes the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project that are identified in the environmental issue areas in Section 4.0. Cumulative impacts are the result of combining the potential effects of the proposed project with other recently approved developments, planned developments, and reasonably foreseeable development projects in the project region. 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 is not required to consider that effect significant, but must briefly describe its basis for concluding that the incremental effect is not cumulatively considerable.

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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, the cumulative setting for environmental issue area evaluated in the Draft EIR (DEIR) is described in the section specific to the issue area.

5.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS

Identified below is a compilation of the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed project and other approved and proposed 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 cumulatively considerable, potentially cumulatively considerable, or cumulatively considerable. The specific cumulative impacts for each environmental issue area are identified in the corresponding technical sections of Section 4.0.

SECTION 4.1 LAND USE

Higher Intensity Development/Cumulative Land Use Conflicts

Impact 4.1.2 Implementation of the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, in addition to other reasonably foreseeable development in the region, would result in development that would change existing land uses patterns and intensity. The project would have a **less than cumulatively considerable** contribution to cumulative land use conflict.

SECTION 4.2 POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND HOUSING

Cumulative Population Growth

Impact 4.2.3 The proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, along with other approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development, could induce population growth in the region. The proposed project would have a **less than cumulatively considerable** contribution to this impact.

SECTION 4.3 BIOLOGICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Cumulative Biological Resource Impacts

Impact 4.3.5 The development of this project would contribute cumulatively to the loss of biological resources in the region and the ongoing urbanization in southern Sacramento County. This would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to impacts to biological resources. However, implementation of mitigation measures identified in Section 4.3 would reduce the project's contribution to the cumulative impact to **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Cumulative Geologic and Soil Impacts

Impact 4.4.2 Implementation of the proposed project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development would not contribute to cumulative geologic and soil impacts, as the impacts would be site-specific. This would be a **less than cumulatively considerable** contribution to this impact.

SECTION 4.5 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

Cumulative Intersection Operations

Impact 4.5.3 Implementation of the proposed Sheldon Road/SR 99 Project, in combination with other planned, approved and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in a decline in LOS at nine intersections under cumulative conditions. Therefore the project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution to intersection operations. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Roadway Segment Operations

Impact 4.5.4 Implementation of the proposed project, in combination with other planned, approved and reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in cumulatively significant impacts to levels of service along two roadway segments. This impact is considered **cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.6 NOISE

Contribution to Cumulative Noise Levels

Impact 4.6.6 Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant contribution to cumulative noise levels at nearby land uses. This is a **less than cumulatively considerable** contribution to this impact.

SECTION 4.7 AIR QUALITY

Regional Air Plan Impacts

Impact 4.7.4 Implementation of the proposed project in combination with growth throughout the air basin would exacerbate existing regional problems with ozone and particulate matter. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Potential Increase in Long-Term Atmospheric Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Impact 4.7.5 The project, in addition to existing, approved, proposed and reasonably foreseeable development in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, may contribute to an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Earth's atmosphere. Higher concentrations of GHGs have been linked to the phenomenon of

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climate change. This would be a **cumulatively considerable** impact on the state's GHG reduction efforts.

Cumulative Effects of Global Climate Change on the City of Elk Grove

Impact 4.7.6 The impacts of global climate change would cumulatively result in the potential decrease in water supply, increase in air pollutants, and increase in health hazards. The proposed project would have a less than **cumulatively considerable** contribution to this impact.

SECTION 4.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Cumulative Water Quality and Drainage Impacts

Impact 4.8.4 Implementation of the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, along with the potential development of the surrounding areas, could contribute to cumulative water quality and drainage impacts. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Increased Water Demand

Impact 4.8.5 The proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, when considered with other development projects in the area, would result in a cumulative demand for water supply. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.9 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, and Human Remains

Impact 4.9.3 Implementation of actions under the Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project could result to the cumulative disturbance of cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, historic buildings/structures, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. Implementation of mitigation measures discussed in Section 4.9 would reduce the project's contribution to this impact to **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Paleontological Resources

Impact 4.9.4 Implementation of actions under the Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project could result in the disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations). Implementation of mitigation measures discussed in Section 4.9 would reduce the project's contribution to this impact to **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.10 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Cumulative Impacts to Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Impact 4.10.1.3 Future development resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, when considered with other approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development projects within the area, would incrementally

increase demand for fire protection and emergency medical services. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Law Enforcement Impacts

Impact 4.10.2.2 Future development projects resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, when considered with other approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development projects within the area, would result in a cumulative demand for law enforcement services and facilities. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Public School Impacts

Impact 4.10.3.2 Future development resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, when considered with other approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development projects within the EGUSD service area, would result in the generation of additional students. Each project would be required to pay development fees on a project-by-project basis. Therefore, cumulative public school impacts would be considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Water Service Impacts

Impact 4.10.4.2 Future development projects resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, when considered with other approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development projects within the area, would result in a cumulative demand for water supply and water service facilities. This is a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Wastewater Impacts

Impact 4.10.5.2 Future development projects resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, along with other proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the SRCSD and SASD service area would increase demand for wastewater service. Therefore, cumulative impacts are considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Solid Waste Service

Impact 4.10.6.2 Future development projects resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, along with other proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development, would generate solid waste that would require expanded collection and disposal services. The project's contribution to demand for solid waste collection and disposal would be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Impacts to Park and Recreational Facilities

Impact 4.10.7.3 Future development projects resulting from the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, along with other proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the area, would result in an increased demand for parks and recreational facilities. Individual development projects are required to dedicate park land and/or pay

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development fees. Therefore, cumulative impacts to parks and recreation are considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Electrical, Telephone, and Natural Gas Impacts

Impact 4.10.8.2 Implementation of the proposed Sheldon/99 GPA and Rezone project, in combination with other proposed and approved projects, would incrementally increase demand for electric, natural gas, and telephone services. Cumulative impacts to electric, natural gas, and telephone services are considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.11 VISUAL RESOURCES/AESTHETICS

Cumulatively Degrade Visual Character/Create Cumulative Light and Glare

Impact 4.11.2 Implementation of the proposed project in combination with other approved and proposed projects would contribute to the alteration of visual character and the incremental creation of cumulative light and glare in the northern portion of Elk Grove and the surrounding area. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.