
5.0 Cumulative Impacts Summary

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

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 Supplemental EIR (DSEIR) 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 LAND USE

Increased Development

Impact 4.1.3 Development of the General Plan Alternative sites in addition to other reasonably foreseeable projects in the region would change the land use patterns and result in conversion to residential and commercial/office and would result in land use development in excess of that allowed under the General Plan. This cumulative impact would be **significant and unavoidable**.

Land Use Conflicts

Impact 4.1.4 The General Plan Amendment project in addition to other reasonably foreseeable development within Elk Grove could result in land use conflicts. However, this is a **less than significant** impact under cumulative conditions.

SECTION 4.2 POPULATION/HOUSING/EMPLOYMENT

Cumulative Population and Housing Increases

Impact 4.2.3 The population and housing unit increases due to implementation of the General Plan Amendment may exceed the Elk Grove General Plan population and housing projections for the Planning Area. This is considered a **less than significant** cumulative impact.

SECTION 4.3 TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

Cumulative Traffic Impacts on Local Roadways and State Highways

Impact 4.3.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendment as well as potential development within the City and adjacent areas would contribute to significant impacts on local roadways and state highways under cumulative conditions. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.

SECTION 4.4 NOISE

Cumulative Traffic Noise Impacts

Impact 4.4.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendment along with potential development of the Urban Study Areas would result in impacts to regional noise attenuation levels. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

SECTION 4.5 AIR QUALITY

Regional Air Plan Impacts

Impact 4.5.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendment along with potential development in the region would exacerbate existing regional problems with ozone and particulate matter. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

SECTION 4.6 PUBLIC SERVICES

Cumulative Wastewater Demands

Impact 4.6.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendment along with potential development of the sites and growth in the SRCSD service area would result in cumulative wastewater impacts. This is considered a **less than significant** impact.

SECTION 4.7 VISUAL RESOURCES/LIGHT AND GLARE

Cumulative Impacts to Visual Character

Impact 4.7.3 Implementation of the proposed GPA along with potential development of the sites would result in the further conversion of the City's rural landscape to residential, commercial, and other land uses. This would contribute to the alteration of the visual character for certain areas in the City. This is considered a **cumulative significant** impact.