

4: CUMULATIVE AND GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

4.0 Introduction

This section provides a discussion of the potential cumulative and growth-inducing impacts associated with the proposed project, according to CEQA requirements. Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental effects. Section 15130(a) of CEQA Guidelines states that:

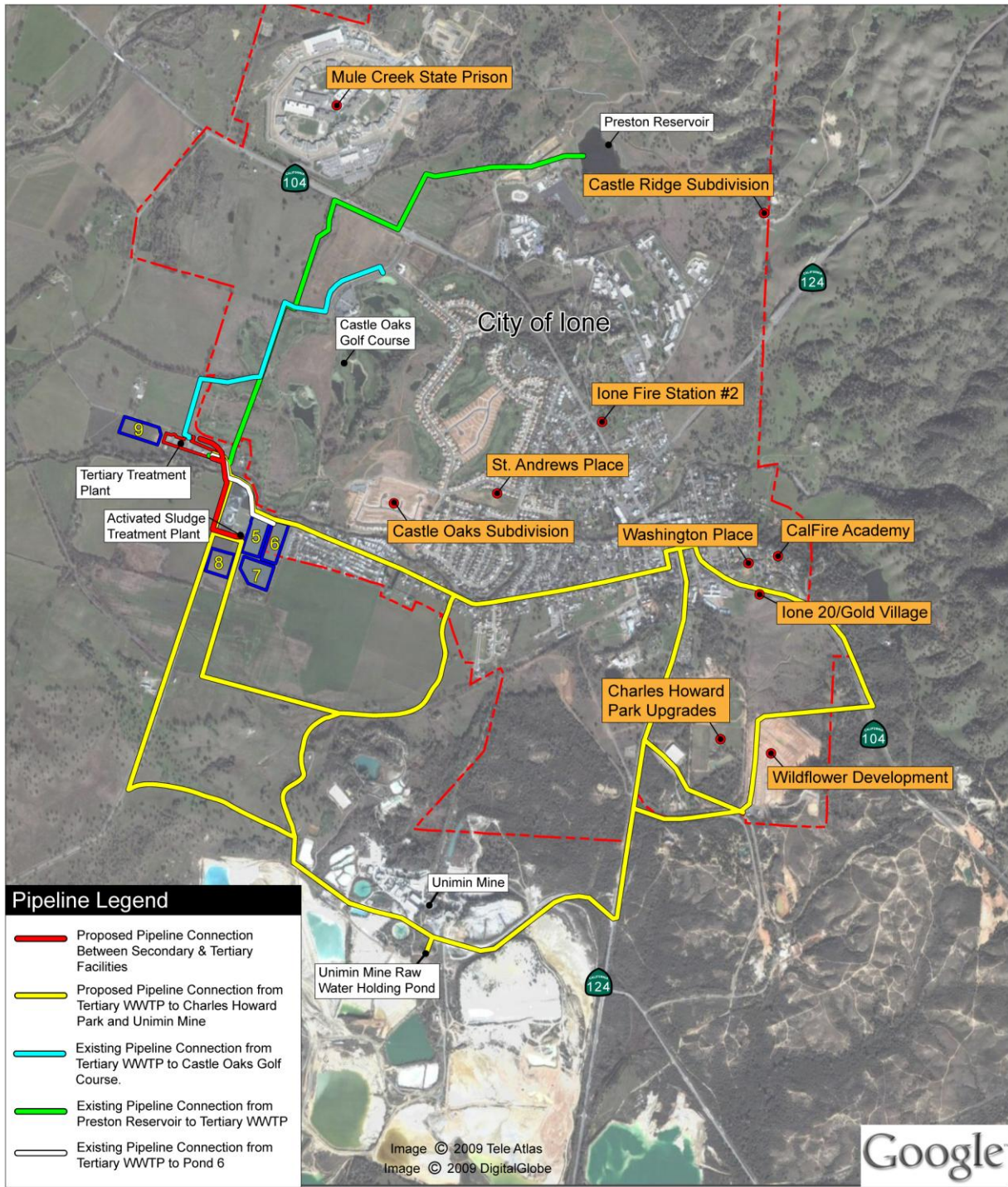
An EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable...Where a Lead Agency is examining a project with an incremental effect that is not 'cumulatively considerable', a Lead Agency need not consider that effect significant, but shall briefly describe its basis for concluding that the incremental effect is not cumulatively considerable.

This section evaluates whether project(s) in the vicinity of the proposed project, if any, could contribute to cumulative environmental effects in the area. The potential for cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project are discussed for each resource section addressed in the EIR. A discussion of the potential for growth-inducing impacts to be generated by the proposed project follows the cumulative impact discussion.

4.1 Relevant Projects

This section provides a brief discussion of projects near the proposed project that could have some potential to lead to cumulative impacts. A map locating the proposed project in relation to the related projects is shown in Figure 4.1-1.

Figure 4.1-1: Relevant Projects in the Project Area



SOURCE: Google Earth Pro 2009 and RMT Inc. 2009

LEGEND

Lone WWTP Pond
 Tertiary Treatment Plant Area
 State Route

Relevant Project Location

Miles

4.1.1 COUNTY OF AMADOR GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Amador County is currently conducting a comprehensive update of its General Plan that sets forth the policies, goals, and objectives for land use and project development decisions for the next 20+ years. The project started in 2006. The EIR for the General Plan update is currently being prepared, and the General Plan update is anticipated to be adopted in February 2010.

4.1.2 MULE CREEK STATE PRISON IMPROVEMENTS

California Prison Healthcare Receivership Corporation Funding

California Prison Healthcare Receivership Corporation has funded the following construction projects to take place within Mule Creek State Prison property (Eisert pers. comm. 2009a):

- **Health Services Administration Building:** The proposed health services administration building would include construction of a 10,800-square-foot modular building.
- **Health Services Pharmacy and Laboratory Building:** The proposed health services, pharmacy and laboratory building would include construction of a 3,520-square-foot building.
- **Health Services Administration Segregation Clinic:** The proposed health services administration segregation clinic would include construction of 3,000 square feet of clinic space.
- **Central Health Services renovation:** The proposed correctional treatment center renovation (Central Health Services) would include renovations of approximately 1,110 square feet of additional treatment space to the Correctional Treatment Center.
- **Family Medical Clinic renovations:** The proposed family medical clinic renovations would include renovations of current laundry and clinic space on each of the three facilities for more efficient health care delivery.
- **Clothing Exchange buildings:** The proposed clothing exchange buildings would include construction of three (3) 1,200–square-foot pre-engineered steel buildings located in each of the three facilities.
- **Care Building access:** The proposed access to care building would include construction of approximately 4,000 square feet of additional space.

Mule Creek State Prison is located approximately 1.2 miles north of the existing secondary WWTP. Construction was scheduled to begin in February 2009 with a completion date of February 2010.

Capital Outlay/Headquarters Funding

Capital Outlay/Headquarters has funded the following construction projects to take place within Mule Creek State Prison property (Eisert pers. comm. 2009a):

- **Health Services EOP Building:** Construction of the Health Services EOP Building includes approximately 4,320 square feet of office and treatment space. The anticipated occupancy date was February 2, 2009.
- **Wastewater treatment improvements:** The wastewater treatment improvement would include a 1,140-square-foot Staff Facilities Building, as well as upgrades to the physical plant clarifier, chlorine contact basin, utility water pump system, etc. The tentative start date for construction is October 2009.

4.1.3 CALFIRE ACADEMY IMPROVEMENTS

Capital Outlay/Headquarters has funded a new California Department of Forestry and Fire (CalFire) Academy dormitory. The proposed dormitory would accommodate 120 cadets for a training program located on CalFire Academy grounds. The CalFire Academy is located approximately 2 miles east of the existing secondary WWTP. The existing program accommodates approximately 80 cadets (Eisert pers. comm. 2009a). The proposed dormitory project is currently on hold pending a response from the RWQCB regarding the Cease and Desist Order placed upon Mule Creek State Prison (Eisert pers. comm. 2009b).

4.1.4 CHARLES HOWARD PARK UPGRADES

The City of Lone is currently preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration for various proposed projects at Charles Howard Park. The projects include the construction of new bathrooms, a new community center to replace the existing Evalynn Bishop Hall Community Center, more stables, additional parking areas, and upgraded ball fields. It is uncertain when construction would commence.

4.1.5 CASTLE RIDGE SUBDIVISION

Doug Knutsen and KORAF Corporation have proposed a tentative subdivision map to create 65 single-family resident lots. The project, named Castle Ridge, would be located at 401 Waterman Road in the City of Lone and is expected to be 8.6 acres in size. Castle Ridge would be located approximately 2 miles east of the existing secondary WWTP. The project is currently on hold (Jordan pers. comm. 2009).

4.1.6 CASTLE OAKS SUBDIVISION

JTS Communities, Inc. has been approved to construct a subdivision in Lone that will be located south of Highway 104, across from the Mule Creek State Prison in the City of Lone. Castle Oaks Subdivision will be located approximately 0.5 miles east of the existing secondary WWTP. The following project components would be constructed (Jordan pers. comm. 2009):

- **Villages 3-10:** Castle Oaks Villages 3-10 will be a 475-unit, single-family residential subdivision.
- **Retail:** JTS Communities, Inc. has identified an area for retail development under the Planned Development approval, which has the potential for 100,000 square feet of commercial use. The retail area is expected to be 10 acres in size. The subdivision of the lots has been approved; no site plans have been submitted.
- **Hotel:** JTS Communities, Inc. has identified an area for hotel development under the Planned Development approval which has the potential for an 80-room hotel. The subdivision of the lots has been approved; no site plans have been submitted.

It is uncertain when construction will commence.

4.1.7 IONE 20/GOLD VILLAGE

Galleli and Son and GRE have proposed an office, retail, and 49-unit residential development. The project would be located at Foothill Boulevard, south of Highway 104, and is proposed to be approximately 20 acres in size. Non-residential space would cover approximately 50 percent of the site. The development would be located approximately 2 miles east of the existing secondary WWTP. The project is currently on hold (Jordan pers. comm. 2009).

4.1.8 IONE FIRE STATION #2

The City of Lone has adjusted a boundary line to create and develop a parcel for a new fire station, Fire Station #2. Fire Station #2 is located at 600 Preston Ave in the City of Lone (APN 004-030-008), approximately 1.2 miles east of the existing secondary WWTP. The project has been approved and is currently under construction (Jordan pers. comm. 2009).

4.1.9 ST. ANDREWS PLACE

Aaron Bock has proposed a 25-unit condominium development. The project, named St. Andrews Place, would be located on the south side of the Castle Oaks Subdivision, east of the Castle Oaks Golf Course, west of Edgebrook, and north of Sutter Creek in the City of Lone (APN 005-032-380). It would be located approximately 1 mile east of the existing secondary WWTP. The development is expected to be 2.76 acres in size. The project is currently on hold (Jordan pers. comm. 2009).

4.1.10 WASHINGTON PLACE

Don Faulkner has proposed a 6-unit single-family residential subdivision. The project, named Washington Place, would be located at the terminus of Washington Court at the intersection of Bacon Street and Foothill Boulevard in the City of Lone (APNs 004-262-002, 004-262-003), approximately 2 miles east of the existing secondary WWTP. The project has been approved; final maps have not been submitted (Jordan pers. comm. 2009). It is uncertain when construction will commence.

4.1.11 WILDFLOWER

Ryland Homes has proposed a 277-unit single-family residential development. The project, named Wildflower, would be located between Highway 104 and Brickyard Road, east of Charles Howard Park in the City of Lone. Wildflower will be located approximately 2 miles southeast of the existing secondary WWTP. The development is estimated to be approximately 85 acres in size. The project has been approved; construction is currently on hold (Jordan pers. comm. 2009).

4.2 Cumulative Impacts

All potential project-related impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level by the mitigation measures defined in this EIR. Several environmental resources would have no potential for aggregation of less than significant impacts to create a significant impact due to the nature of the other proposed activities that could occur in the project region. These resources include:

- Aesthetics
- Population and Housing

Resources with the potential for cumulative impacts include:

- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils and Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use and Planning and Recreation
- Noise
- Public Services and Utilities
- Transportation and Traffic

The proposed project could contribute to some overall cumulative impacts to these resources; however, none of these cumulative impacts would be significant as long as all identified mitigation measures are implemented.

4.2.1 RESOURCES WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Aesthetics

Cumulative impacts related to aesthetics occur when a proposed project and other relevant project(s) are being constructed simultaneously and in close proximity to one another, creating a substantially aesthetically unpleasing landscape, or when the proposed project and other relevant projects result in a substantial negative change in the foreground of one or more areas. The proposed project would have less than significant impacts related to aesthetics with the implementation of mitigation. No relevant projects in the region would occur or are occurring in close enough proximity to the proposed project to result in the aggregation of impacts. Cumulative impacts would not occur.

Population and Housing

Cumulative impacts related to population and housing occur when a proposed project and other relevant project(s) remove a significant amount of housing or directly induce substantial population growth. The proposed project would not remove housing and would not directly induce population growth. Wastewater treatment capacity would be increased by the proposed project to allow for the projected population growth in Lone. Any impact would be less than significant. Relevant projects in the area, such as Castle Ridge Subdivision, Castle Oaks Subdivision, Lone 20/Gold Village, St. Andrews Place, Washington Place, and Wildflower, would create substantial housing and allow for population growth. An aggregation of impacts with the proposed project, however, would not occur. There would not be cumulative impacts related to population and housing as a result of the proposed project.

4.2.2 RESOURCES WITH SOME POTENTIAL FOR AGGREGATION OF IMPACTS

Agricultural Resources

Cumulative impacts related to agricultural resources could occur if a significant amount of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance is converted to non-agricultural uses as a result of the proposed project and other relevant projects. The proposed project would have a less than significant agricultural impact and would result in the conversion of less than 0.01 percent of the Important Farmland in Amador County to non-agricultural uses. It is unknown at this time how much agricultural land of any kind would be converted to non-agricultural uses as part of the other relevant projects. The project's contribution to agricultural land conversion would be considered minor and would not have the potential to lead to a major aggregation of impacts in relation to relevant projects. Any cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable

impacts to agricultural resources in combination with relevant projects, such as permanent conversion of agricultural areas into non-agricultural uses. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Air Quality

Cumulative impacts related to air quality occur when the proposed project and other relevant projects emit pollutant(s) into an air basin where the Air Pollution Control District is at or is near nonattainment status for the pollutant(s). The pollutant of concern for most air basins in California in regards to projects involving construction is typically PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ (fugitive dust). The Amador County Air District is in attainment status for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. The proposed project would have a less than significant air quality impact with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. Relevant projects are or would be required to adhere to air quality rules and regulations and would not generate a significant aggregation of impacts with regards to fugitive dust. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable impacts to air quality in combination with relevant projects if the combination of construction emission impacts exceeds an air quality standard. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Biological Resources

Cumulative impacts related to biological resources occur when the proposed project and relevant project(s) cause a substantial aggregation of impacts with regards to sensitive species and/or habitat, wetlands, established wildlife corridors, or biological policies. The proposed project would have a less than significant project-level impact to biological resources with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. An aggregation of impacts could occur from the proposed project and other relevant projects with regards to nesting birds, special status species, and temporary air-borne sediment disturbance to sensitive vegetation communities. Considering the locations of the relevant projects in comparison to the proposed project, aggregated impacts to biological resources would not be cumulatively considerable with implementation of the mitigation required for the proposed project.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable impacts to biological resources in combination with relevant projects, such as permanent disturbance of special status species or areas. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Cultural Resources

Cumulative impacts related to cultural resources occur when the proposed project and relevant project(s) cause a substantial aggregation of impacts with regards to the disturbance or destruction of historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources, or to human remains. The project would have a less than significant impact to cultural resources with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. No historical resources, archaeological resources, or human remains are known to occur in the project area. Fossil-bearing sediments may be present. Project-level elements of the proposed project would have a small potential for cumulative impacts, and any cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. There would be some potential for aggregation of impacts related to disturbing fossil-bearing sediments if any excavation occurs in an area containing such resources where a relevant project is also undergoing excavation. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Geology, Soils and Seismicity

Cumulative impacts related to geology and soils could occur if the proposed project and relevant project(s) cause a substantial aggregation of impacts with regards to soil erosion, collapse as a result of subsidence, and/or loss of a mineral resource. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact to geology and soils with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Relevant projects would be required to adhere to California Building Code standards and best management practices. The potential for a substantial aggregation of impacts would be low and cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable impacts to geological resources in combination with relevant projects, such as a significant increase in soil erosion or the permanent loss of mineral resources. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Greenhouse Gases

Global warming as a result of the emission of greenhouse gases is a global concern and results as a cumulative aggregation of natural and human actions world-wide. Any proposed project emitting greenhouse gases has the potential for an aggregation of impacts with regards to greenhouse gases and global warming. The proposed project would have less than significant impacts regarding greenhouse gases with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Aggregation of impacts would occur from the proposed project and other relevant projects. The amount of greenhouse gases that would be emitted by the project during construction and operation would be considered minor when compared to levels produced by the three largest contributors to greenhouse gases: transportation, electric power generation, and industrial facilities. Cumulative impacts would occur, but would be considered less than significant in the global scale of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable impacts to greenhouse gases in combination with relevant projects, such as greenhouse gas emissions from construction activities that exceed significance thresholds established by the State. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Cumulative impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials could occur if contaminated soils are unearthed and not properly disposed of at the proposed project and relevant projects. Relevant projects could be located on soils high in hydrocarbon or lead contamination. Exposure to contaminated soils could pose a health hazard to children, pedestrians, and construction workers. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact regarding contaminated soils with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Project-level elements of the proposed project would have a small potential for cumulative impacts, and any cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. There would be some potential for aggregation of impacts related to contaminated soils in the event that high concentrations of contaminated soils are exposed along a programmatic project element and a nearby relevant project, posing health hazards to those in the immediate area. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed, and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Cumulative impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials could also occur if emergency access routes were blocked by the simultaneous construction of the proposed project and relevant project(s). The City of Lone intends to stage construction activities of the proposed project such that a minimum of one travel lane would be open in construction areas at all times, with a flag person present to direct vehicle traffic and allow access for emergency vehicles. It is unlikely that any of the relevant projects near the potential programmatic elements would involve closing one or both lanes of traffic on any roads. Cumulative impacts related to the blocking of emergency access would likely not occur. Future project-level environmental review will discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality could occur if the proposed project and relevant project(s) cause a substantial aggregation of impacts with regards to violation of water quality standards from regular discharges or polluted stormwater runoff, increased soil erosion, groundwater depletion or interference with groundwater recharge, increased runoff, or flooding due to construction in flood hazard areas or failure of a dam or levee.

The proposed project would have a less than significant project-level impact on surface water or groundwater quality with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. Relevant projects would also be required to comply with the NPDES Construction General Permit and the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit to control the rate, volume, and water quality of stormwater discharges during both the construction and post-construction phases of the projects. The

proposed project would increase recharge in the area of the WWTP and the COWRP, unlike relevant projects, which would likely increase the acreage of impervious surfaces and reduce groundwater recharge if unmitigated. No additional pipelines would need to be constructed as none of the relevant projects are currently being considered as sites for treated effluent use.

It may be feasible to service the relevant projects from one of the potential pipeline routes discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR, should treated effluent use be incorporated into one or more of these projects at some later date, or additional routes may need to be developed. Future environmental review would be required for the chosen pipeline routes, the cumulative impacts would be evaluated in greater detail, and mitigation would be defined as appropriate at that time.

The proposed project and all of the relevant projects appear to be sited outside of flood hazard areas (floodplains or floodways), so no impacts with respect to flooding due to redirection of floodwaters are anticipated, and no people or structures would be exposed to a significant risk of loss, injury or death due to flooding. The potential for a substantial aggregation of impacts to surface water or groundwater quality, groundwater recharge, or flooding would be low and cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Land Use, Planning, and Recreation

Cumulative impacts related to land use and planning could occur if the proposed project and other relevant project(s) conflicted with the City of Lone or Amador County general plans. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact with regard to land use and planning. Relevant projects, if proposed to occur on lands with a non-compatible land use, would require a use permit from the City of Lone or Amador County, depending on the location of the project. Any aggregation of impacts would be minor and further mitigation would not be required. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulative impacts related to recreation could occur if the proposed project and relevant project(s) are constructed concurrently near Charles Howard Park or another recreation resource. This situation would be possible if one of the potential pipeline routes identified as a programmatic project element is constructed concurrently with the Wildflower development project that is currently on hold. Both the potential pipeline routes and the Wildflower Development would be located adjacent to or near the east side of Charles Howard Park. There would be some potential for aggregation of impacts related to recreation in the event that concurrent construction of a potential pipeline route and the Wildflower development project creates nuisance noise and dust disturbance affecting recreationalists in the park. Any future environmental review of the programmatic elements would include identification of mitigation measures that would prevent significant amounts of fugitive dust from being emitted during construction and also to abate construction noise to acceptable levels. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the chosen pipeline route in greater detail.

Noise

Cumulative impacts related to noise occur when two or more projects, in relatively close proximity to one another, are being constructed or are operating simultaneously above average ambient noise levels existing without the projects or at levels which are unacceptable. The proposed project would have less than significant noise impacts with the implementation of mitigation. No relevant projects are in close proximity to the project-level elements of the proposed project. The project's lack of significant noise impacts and distance from other relevant projects makes the project's contribution to cumulative noise impacts less than significant.

Relevant projects are occurring or are expected to occur in close proximity to the potential programmatic pipeline routes, particularly pipeline routes 3, 4, 5, and 6. The pipeline routes and the impacts related to construction and operation of the pipeline routes are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the chosen pipeline route, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. There is some potential for the aggregation of noise impacts in the case that a relevant project is being constructed during the same time period as the portion of the pipeline route that it is closest to. Mitigation measures and noise abatement measures would be implemented, and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the chosen pipeline route in greater detail.

Public Services and Utilities

Cumulative impacts related to public services and utilities could occur if the proposed project and relative project(s) dispose of enough waste at the Forward Landfill in Stockton, California so that the maximum permitted disposal capacity of 8,668 tons per day to the landfill would be exceeded, or so that the landfill would reach its maximum capacity prior to the projected date of January 1, 2020. Approximately 1,200 tons of sludge per year would be disposed of at Forward Landfill as a result of the proposed project. The amount of annual sludge waste would be minor compared to the landfill's capacity. Impacts from the proposed project would be less than significant and the potential for aggregation of impacts with relevant project(s) would be low. Cumulative impacts would be considered less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable impacts to public services and utilities in combination with relevant projects, such as an increased need for City services or a significant disruption in utility services. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

Transportation and Traffic

Cumulative impacts related to transportation and traffic could occur if the proposed project, in conjunction with other relevant project(s), caused a significant reduction in the level-of-service of roads in the project area or created a significant amount of traffic or congestion. The proposed project would have less than significant effects related to transportation and traffic with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. Downtown traffic routes would have the potential to become congested by construction of the proposed project. Any relevant project(s) being constructed simultaneously to the proposed project that uses the same haul routes could aggregate congestion impacts. Mitigation required for the proposed project would reduce its potential for any considerable aggregation of traffic impacts. Cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

Potential future wastewater disposal and storage options are discussed at a programmatic level in this EIR. Future environmental review would be required for the potential pipeline routes and disposal or storage options, and mitigation measures would be defined as appropriate at that time. Program-level components for the proposed project could lead to cumulatively considerable impacts to transportation and traffic in combination with relevant projects, such as intersection LOS impacts from construction activities. Mitigation measures and best management practices would be followed and cumulative impacts would likely be less than significant. Future project-level

environmental review would discuss the cumulative impacts of the programmatic elements in greater detail.

4.3 Significant, Unavoidable Effects

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires preparers of an EIR to identify significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if a proposed project is implemented. Section 15126.2(b) states that the EIR should:

- Describe any significant impacts, including those which can be mitigated but not reduced to a level of insignificance.

All potential significant impacts associated with the proposed project are identified in the Environmental Analysis (Chapter 3) and are summarized in the Executive Summary. No significant impacts have been identified that cannot be avoided or mitigated to levels below significance. Mitigation measures proposed for this project minimize all impacts to a less than significant level.

4.4 Significant, Irreversible Environmental Changes

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines states that significant irreversible environmental changes, which would be involved with a proposed project, may include the following:

- Uses of non-renewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project which would be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely;
- Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts which commit future generations to similar uses; and
- Irreversible damage, which may result from environmental accidents, associated with the project.

The project is located on two parcels that are already used for wastewater treatment and disposal, and the project-level elements would not expand these facilities beyond the boundaries of these two parcels. The project would therefore not commit additional land resources to the use of wastewater treatment and disposal. The project would involve the consumption of some nonrenewable resources (i.e., fossil fuels) and locally limited natural resources (i.e., water) during project construction and a lesser amount of such resources during project operation. However, the amount of such resources that would be committed to the project would not be considered significant.

The proposed project would increase the wastewater treatment and disposal capacity at the City of Lone. This expansion of capacity is intended to accommodate the growth that is projected in the City's General Plan, and thus the expansion itself would not result in increased growth or development in the City.

The proposed project could result in environmental accidents (e.g., spills of insufficiently treated wastewater) that have the potential to create irreversible impacts to biological and other natural resources. Potential impacts can be reduced through use of adequate design and operating procedures and effective emergency response plans specifying staffing and equipment needs. However, the potential remains for irreversible damage as a result of an unlikely upset associated with the operation of the proposed project.

4.5 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires preparers of an EIR to consider the growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Section 15126.2(d) states that the EIR should:

- Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects that would remove obstacles to population growth.

The increased treatment capacity of the WWTP, in tandem with the increased disposal capacity discussed below under Tertiary WWTP Operation, would allow for development and population growth in lone as anticipated by the General Plan. One of the objectives of the proposed project is to increase capacity for disposal and treatment of wastewater in order to accommodate future growth in lone and to meet the City's future wastewater treatment and disposal needs.

The initial construction phase of the activated sludge system and tertiary treatment system would increase the City's wastewater treatment capacity enough to accommodate the City's near-term growth. The first phase of development would involve the construction of an activated sludge system and tertiary treatment system with a capacity of 0.8 MGD, which would allow for approximately 2,489 residential connections (estimated for June 2021). There were approximately 1,475 residential connections in July 2008. The estimated growth therefore represents a residential growth of approximately 81% over mid 2008, and includes residences already approved by the City but that have not yet been constructed.

Capacity would be expanded to 1.60 MGD by around 2016, or 2017 according to projected increases in population growth and wastewater flow rates, which would allow for approximately 4,692 residential hookups. This estimated growth represents a tripling of residential hook ups from 2008 levels.

The expansion of the City's treated wastewater disposal capacity would occur in tandem with the increases in the City's wastewater treatment capacity. The City's treated wastewater disposal capacity would be increased to 0.90 MGD in the initial phase of development, and would need to be expanded in a second phase to a 1.60 MGD capacity using one of the programmatic elements outlined in this EIR. The expansion to a 1.60 MGD disposal capacity would be required to keep up with the City's projected wastewater treatment and disposal needs.

The proposed increased wastewater treatment and disposal capacity would not induce population growth, but rather would allow for population growth that has been anticipated and reviewed under the City's General Plan. Impacts to population and housing would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

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