
5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("Draft EIR"; "DEIR") 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.

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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**. In addition, each environmental issue area evaluated in the DEIR 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 AND PLANNING

Cumulative Land Use Effects

Impact 4.1.4 When considered with existing, proposed, planned, and approved development in the region, implementation of the proposed project has the potential to contribute to cumulative land use conditions in the region that result in significant impacts to the physical environment. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact as a result of the increased environmental effects of growth beyond current adopted land use plans.

SECTION 4.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Cumulative Impacts to Agricultural Resources

Impact 4.2.4 Implementation of the proposed project, along with other proposed development in Amador County, would contribute to the cumulative conversion of Important Farmlands to other uses and may increase agriculture/urban interface conflicts. This is a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.3 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Cumulative Population and Housing Impacts

Impact 4.3.4 Development under the proposed General Plan update and associated project components would include substantial population, housing unit, and employment increases. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.4 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION**Cumulative Impacts to Study Roadway Segments**

Impact 4.4.5 When considered with existing, proposed, approved and planned development in the region, implementation of the proposed project has the potential to contribute to an increase in traffic volumes that would result in deficient level of service conditions under cumulative conditions (including buildout of the Planning Area) resulting in significant impacts to the physical environment. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Impacts to Public Transit Service

Impact 4.4.6 When considered with existing, proposed, approved and planned development in the region, implementation of the proposed project has the potential to contribute to an increase in the demand for public transit service (e.g., bus service). This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.5 AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**Cumulative Air Quality Impacts on Attainment Plans**

Impact 4.5.6 Implementation of the proposed project, in combination with cumulative development in the Air Basin, would contribute to a cumulative air quality impacts and could conflict with ozone and particulate matter attainment efforts. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Conflict or Obstruct with Implementation of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures

Impact 4.5.7 Implementation of the proposed project would substantially increase emissions of CO₂e over existing (2008) conditions. This increase in GHG emissions would be inconsistent with state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This impact is considered to be **cumulatively considerable**.

Climate Change Environmental Effects on the City

Impact 4.5.8 Implementation of the proposed project could substantially increase emissions of greenhouse gas emissions over existing conditions that could result in environmental effects to the City. This impact is considered to be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.6 NOISE**Noise Impacts Associated with Increased Traffic Resulting from Buildout of the Proposed General Plan**

Impact 4.6.5 Implementation of the proposed project along with potential development of the Planning Area could result in increased noise conflicts. This is considered a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

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SECTION 4.7 HAZARDS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Cumulative Hazards and Health Risks

Impact 4.7.5 Implementation of the proposed project would not cumulatively contribute to regional hazards. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.8 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Cumulative Biological Resources

Impact 4.8.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan and associated project components, 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 project's incremental contribution to this significant cumulative impact is **cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cumulative Impacts to Prehistoric Resources, Historic Resources, and Human Remains

Impact 4.9.4 Adoption of the proposed project, its associated subsequent projects and specific plans within the Planning Area, in combination with all other foreseeable development projects within Lone and the surrounding areas of Amador County, has the potential to disturb cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric sites, historic sites, historic buildings, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. This would be a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Potential Direct Destruction or Damage to Historical Resources and Properties

Impact 4.9.5 Adoption of the proposed project, its associated subsequent projects and specific plans within the Planning Area, in combination with all other foreseeable development projects within Lone and Amador County, has the potential to cause a direct substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. This would be a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Impacts to Paleontological Resources

Impact 4.9.6 Adoption of the proposed project, its associated subsequent projects and specific plans within the Planning Area, in combination with all other foreseeable development projects within Lone and Amador County has the potential to disturb paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations). This would be a **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Cumulative Stormwater/Flooding Impacts

Impact 4.10.5 Future development allowed by the proposed project, along with all planned, proposed, recently approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the cumulative setting, may result in cumulative impacts on stormwater runoff and surface drainage, stormwater quality, groundwater quality, and exposure to flood hazards. The project's contribution to this impact is considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

SECTION 4.11 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Cumulative Geologic, Soil, and Seismic Impacts

Impact 4.11.7 Implementation of the proposed project, along with other planned, proposed, recently approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the Planning Area, would not contribute to cumulative geology, soils, and seismicity impacts, as the impacts would be site-specific and not additive in character. Thus, the proposed project's contribution would be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Mineral Resource Impacts

Impact 4.11.8 Implementation of the proposed project, along with other planned, proposed, recently approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, could 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 4.12 VISUAL RESOURCES

Cumulative Visual Resources Impacts

Impact 4.12.5 Implementation of the proposed General Plan update and other project components in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development projects within Amador County would result in significant cumulative impacts to the visual character and scenic vistas of the region. This impact is considered to be **cumulatively considerable** impact.

SECTION 4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Cumulative Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Impacts

Impact 4.13.1.3 Implementation of the project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development could further increase the amount of development into wildland areas and could contribute to the need for expanded fire protection services, thus requiring additional fire stations, the development of which could cause significant physical impacts to the environment. However, this impact is considered **less than cumulatively considerable**.

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Cumulative Law Enforcement Services Impacts

Impact 4.13.2.2 Implementation of the project and other reasonably foreseeable development in southeastern Amador County 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 4.13.3.3 Implementation of the proposed project and associated development would contribute to the cumulative demand for water supply and associated infrastructure. However, implementation of proposed General Plan policies and actions would require that water supply infrastructure be provided at the same time as development. This is considered **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Wastewater Service Impacts

Impact 4.13.4.3 Implementation of the proposed project, which would include existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the City's wastewater service area, would substantially increase wastewater flows and require additional infrastructure and treatment capacity to accommodate anticipated treatment and conveyance demands that would result in a physical effect on the environment. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policies would require that wastewater treatment and infrastructure capacity be provided at the same time as development. This is considered a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Solid Waste Service Impacts

Impact 4.13.5.3 The proposed project, in combination with proposed and approved projects in the cumulative setting area, would generate solid waste that would require expanded collection and disposal services. The proposed project's contribution to this impact would be **less than cumulatively considerable**.

Cumulative Public School Impacts

Impact 4.13.6.2 The proposed GPU, in combination with reasonably foreseeable development proposed in the District, would result in a cumulative increase in student enrollment at ACUSD schools. The proposed GPU would have a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact on school facilities.

Cumulative Parks and Recreation Impacts

Impact 4.13.7.2 Implementation of the proposed project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development would require additional park and recreation facilities within the Planning Area. This would be a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact.

Cumulative Electrical, Natural Gas, and Telephone Service Impacts

Impact 4.13.8.2 Implementation of the proposed project as well as potential development in the surrounding areas would result in cumulative utility service impacts. The proposed project would have a **less than cumulatively considerable** impact on electrical, natural gas, telephone, and cable television services.

