

4.17 Effects Considered Less Than Significant

Section 15128 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires an EIR briefly describe any possible effects that were determined not to be significant. The environmental factors discussed below are in response to the checklist questions listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines that were not discussed in the impact sections of the DEIR.

4.17.1 Mineral Resources

- 1) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*
- 2) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

The 2022 RTP/SCS primarily involves modifications to existing roadways, including improvements related to highway, local street, active transportation, and transit investments. In addition, future infill and TOD would be located within existing urbanized areas. The San Joaquin County General Plan DEIR concluded that there are significant amounts of sand and gravel in the region, which are designated by California Geologic Survey (CGS) as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ). Projects included in the 2022 RTP/SCS have the potential to be located on sites with known mineral resources or locally important mineral resources. All projects in the 2022 RTP/SCS would be required to adhere to the relevant policies and programs listed in the San Joaquin County General Plan that pertain to mineral resources. Policy NCR-4.1: Mineral Resource Protection states that the County shall require mineral deposits of significant quantity, value, or quality, as identified and updated by the State Division of Mines and Geology reports as MRZ-2 Mineral Resource Zones, to remain in agricultural or open space uses until the extraction of the resources, unless the immediate area has been committed to other uses. The 2022 RTP/SCS would not change land use designations and would adhere to the requirements of Policy NCR-4.1. The San Joaquin 2035 General Plan EIR also adds Mitigation Measure 4.O-1, NCR-NEW1, that states the County shall discourage the development of incompatible land uses, as defined by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), within or immediately adjacent to existing and potential mineral resources sites, including existing and new MRZ-2 (Mineral Resources Zone 2) identified by Surface Mining and reclamation Act (SMARA) and locally important mineral resource sites as they are identified in the future such that development would impede or preclude mineral extraction or processing. Any projects located within a MRZ would be identified during the planning review for project-specific impacts pertaining to mineral resources. In addition, the project would be required to adhere to Policy NCR-4.2, Discretionary Permit to Protect Mineral Resources. This policy states that the County shall require all new development in areas of significant sand and gravel deposits, as identified by the State Division of Mines and Geology, to obtain a discretionary permit, conditioned to protect the resources. If any projects in the 2022 RTP/SCS are located in areas of significant and gravel deposits, they would be required to obtain a discretionary permit that adheres to the outlines of Policy NCR-4.2.

There are no projects included in the 2022 RTP/SCS that would directly result in the extraction, exploration, or digging for mineral resources, or prevent such activities. Therefore, the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would not result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State or result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Impacts pertaining to mineral resources would be less than significant.

4.17.2 Noise

- 3) *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

Any future land development project facilitated by implementation of the 2022 RTP/SCS located within an airport land use plan zone and/or applicable noise contour would be subject to the policies of the Airport Land Use Commission pertaining to noise exposure. This would ensure that noise attenuation features are implemented into each project if required. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

4.17.3 Population and Housing

- 1) *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*
- 2) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

Improvements associated with the 2022 RTP/SCS would not result in direct population growth beyond anticipated growth in the region. Rather, projects under the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS are designed to fully support the transportation needs of the growing population while implementing the infill development approach outlined in the 2022 RTP/SCS. The SCS is designed to accommodate growth by encouraging infill development in already urbanized areas. The transportation improvement projects under the 2022 RTP/SCS are intended and designed to support the land use patterns established in the SCS. Government Code Section 65080(b)(2)(B)(ii) requires that an RTP/SCS must accommodate all the population of the region, including all economic segments of the population, over the course of the planning period of the regional transportation plan. In compliance with the requirements, the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS includes strategies to accommodate new housing units through 2046. The housing strategies would continue the SJCOG region's commitment to growth in infill areas but are also intended to protect current residents from displacement, preserve existing affordable housing, and produce new housing to secure long-term affordability for lower income populations. Therefore, the 2022 RTP/SCS is consistent with projected and planned growth. Further, all transportation improvement projects and land uses envisioned by the 2022 RTP/SCS are anticipated by the San Joaquin County 2035 General Plan, as all improvements have been coordinated with the local jurisdiction. Therefore, population and housing growth impacts would be less than significant.

4.17.4 Public Services

- 1) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection; police protection; schools; parks; other public facilities?*

Transportation projects under 2018 RTP/SCS would not generate demand for police or fire services, schools, parks, or other public facilities. The majority of projects are maintenance and rehabilitation,

or pedestrian improvement projects that do not involve the construction of new infrastructure. Future infill and TOD projects may increase demand on public services such as fire and police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

Future growth and development may increase demand for public services; however, demand is not expected to exceed that already anticipated within the general plans and regional growth forecasts prepared for each respective area in which proposed SCS development would be located. Growth in the SJCOG region would not be a result of the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS. The proposed 2022 RTP/SCS is designed to accommodate the people, households, and jobs identified in regional growth forecasts. While growth would occur, the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS distributes this growth consistent with adopted plans and would not induce population growth beyond what has been previously anticipated. Additionally, the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS includes land use strategies that would allow for denser, more compact development in identified infill development areas, and therefore service areas for existing providers are not anticipated to expand. The San Joaquin General Plan includes policies and implementation programs to ensure adequate public services are maintained in the Public Facilities and Services Element. Policy 1.5 states that the County shall base the expansion of public facilities and services on current needs and planned or projected development patterns. (San Joaquin General Plan Update, 2016). Policy 2.6 of the Land Use Element states that the County shall encourage infill development to maximize existing infrastructure with the capacity to serve new development (San Joaquin General Plan Update, 2016). Cities have similar general plan policies. The SJCOG region has planned for growth that would be accommodated by the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS, and thus the 2022 RTP/SCS would be consistent with Policy 1.5 and 2.6. Planning for growth will continue to occur throughout implementation of the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS, and individual jurisdictions would increase services as necessary.

The number, location, physical sizes, and designs of future new and expanded fire and police protection facilities are unknown. As a result, specific environmental impacts associated with specific development cannot be speculated. However, if an individual jurisdiction chooses to increase fire or police protection facilities, the expansion of existing or development of new facilities would be subject to project-specific environmental review under CEQA whereby environmental impacts would be identified and mitigated accordingly. As mentioned above, growth that would be distributed by the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS has been accounted for within general plans and other regional growth forecasts. As such, any increased demand for fire or police protection facilities has been anticipated, and the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would not induce growth such that increased fire or police protection facilities are necessary beyond what has already been determined by individual jurisdictions.

Future project sponsors are required by law to pay development impacts fees for schools at the time building permits are issued. The fees are used by a school district to mitigate impacts associated with long-term operation and maintenance of school facilities. Pursuant to Section 65996 of the California Government Code, payment of these fees fulfills complete mitigation of environmental impacts.

Through regulatory compliance, adequate parkland acreages would be maintained throughout the SJCOG region. For a full discussion of parks, refer to Section 14.18.5, *Recreation*, below.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to public services would be less than significant

4.17.5 Recreation

- 1) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*
- 2) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

The proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would accommodate the people, households, and jobs identified within the SJCOG's regional growth forecast. Transportation projects identified within the 2022 RTP/SCS would not generate demand for parks or recreation resources. However, the overall growth resulting from the land use pattern established by the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would result in an increased demand for services including recreational facilities.

Development of the individual land use projects in the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would be required on a project-by-project basis to pay development fees towards the applicable jurisdiction. Since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act, cities and counties have been authorized to adopt ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees that can be used for purposes of acquiring parkland to maintain identified parkland acreages per 1,000 in population. In accordance with the Quimby Act, the County of Stanislaus requires three net acres of developed neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents through land dedication and development (San Joaquin General Plan, 2016). Cities throughout the SJCOG region have similar requirements implemented into their General Plans. All future development under the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would be required to comply with these regulations. The payment of fees or provision of parkland would go toward maintaining parks or providing new park space, which would also reduce use of existing recreational facilities. Reduced use of existing facilities would result in a corresponding decrease in deterioration of existing recreational facilities. Therefore, impacts related to recreation would be less than significant.

4.17.6 Utilities and Service Systems

- 1) *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*
- 2) *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*
- 3) *Would the project result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*
- 4) *Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*
- 5) *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes related to solid waste?*

Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Future infill and development projects envisioned by the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would occur in urbanized areas and would connect to existing utilities. However, the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS does not induce a population beyond what is generally projected and accounted for in local and regional plans. The proposed 2022 RTP/SCS is not inducing population growth, but rather establishing a framework to accommodate anticipated growth. As such, any growth facilitated by the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would not require new utilities facilities beyond what is already anticipated in regional growth forecasts, Capital Improvement Programs (CIP), and general plans.

Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) for the SJCOG region estimate and pursue the efficient use of available water supplies identifying short-term and long-term water demand management measures. UWMPs are generally updated every five years to account for water demand resulting from the growth envisioned in general plan updates and updated population growth forecasts. Therefore, the current UWMPs applicable to the SJCOG region generally account for the land development envisioned within the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS because it is largely consistent with relevant planning documents, such as general plans. Furthermore, Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) prepared under the Groundwater Sustainability Act are implemented in order to protect groundwater in the SJCOG area. The proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would adhere to the water conservation requirements set forth within these plans. Regional growth forecasted within the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS, general plans, and other documents are accounted for in UWMPs and GSPs, and any growth facilitated by the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would not be in excess of anticipated growth forecasts. Thus, proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would not result in insufficient water supplies or a determination by a wastewater treatment provider that inadequate capacity exists to serve the anticipated demand.

Transportation and land use development projects implementing the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would be required to comply with the California Green Building Code and Senate Bill 1016, which require that construction operations recycle a minimum of 50 percent of waste generated. Similarly, land use projects would also be required to comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including a 50 percent diversion rate pursuant to Assembly Bill 939 and a future 75 percent diversion rate pursuant to Assembly Bill 341, as well as local jurisdiction goals and policies for recycling and diversion of solid waste. Compliance with these requirements would ensure that solid waste generated from land use development would be minimized to the extent practical, and that diversion rates would increase into the future, as development included in the 2022 RTP/SCS is built out. Non-diverted waste generated by transportation and land use development projects included in the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would be disposed in the Foothill Sanitary Landfill, and multiple transfer stations within the SJCOG region (San Joaquin County, 2022). These landfill are adequate for handling existing solid waste and future waste generated through 2082 (San Joaquin County, 2022). Therefore, the proposed 2022 RTP/SCS would not generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or conflict with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes. Therefore, impacts related to utilities would be less than significant.

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