

4.13 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This section analyzes potential impacts resulting from reasonably foreseeable growth, including the proposed General Plan Update.

4.13.1 INTRODUCTION

The CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 defines cumulative impacts as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts...” The CEQA Guidelines Section 15130, as revised October 26, 1998, state that the discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great a detail as is provided for the effects attributable to the project alone. This discussion is guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness, and focuses on the cumulative impact to which the identified on-going projects contribute, rather than the attributes of other projects that do not contribute to the cumulative impact. The following elements are necessary in an adequate discussion of cumulative impacts:

(1) Either:

- a. A list of relevant 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.
 1. When utilizing a list, as suggested in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), factors to consider when determining whether to include a related project should include the nature of each environmental resources being examined, the location of the project and its type...
 2. “Probable future projects” may be limited to those projects requiring an agency approval for an application which has been received at the time the notice of preparation is released, unless abandoned by the applicant; projects included in an adopted capital improvements program, general plan, regional transportation plan, or other similar plan; projects included in a summary of projections or projects (or development areas designated) in a previously approved project (e.g., a subdivision); or those public agency projects for which money has been budgeted.

Lead agencies should define the geographic scope of the area affected by the cumulative effect and provide a reasonable explanation for the geographic limitation used.

- (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.
- (3) A reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects. An EIR shall examine reasonable, feasible options for mitigation or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.
- (4) With some projects, the only feasible mitigation for cumulative impacts may involve the adoption of ordinance or regulations rather than the imposition of conditions on a project-by-project basis.

Cumulative impacts may be discussed in terms of General Plan Update impacts, in combination with impacts anticipated for future development (including approved and planned development within the project area and surrounding affected area). The geographic area for each impact varies, depending on the nature of the impact, whether it is regional, such as air quality, or local, such as noise.

Quantification can be difficult for cumulative impacts, as it requires speculative estimates of impacts including, but not limited to the following: the geographic diversity of impacts (impacts of future development may affect different areas); variations in time of impacts; and data for buildout projections may change following subsequent approvals. However, every attempt has been made herein to make sound qualitative judgments of the combined effects of, and relationship between, land uses and potential impacts.

This EIR assesses the overall environmental effects of the proposed General Plan Update at a program level of detail. This EIR evaluates the overall (cumulative) effects of development in accordance with the land use designations, land use assumptions, and all goals, policies and implementing strategies contained in the proposed General Plan Update. Therefore, the environmental analysis in Sections 4.1 through 4.12 of this EIR addresses cumulative effects of development within the City.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(1)(b), this section of the EIR describes the environmental effects of the proposed General Plan Update in combination with the effects of regional buildout, as forecasted in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG).

As of January 1, 2001, the California Department of Finance (DOF) estimated the City of Cerritos' population to be 52,100 persons. These residents receive public services from the public agencies discussed in Section 4.9. The City of Cerritos is almost completely developed. The City is anticipated to have a maximum population of

53,009 in the year 2020. Therefore, an additional 909 residents are anticipated in the City under implementation of the proposed General Plan Update.

The Southern California Association of Governments projects that Los Angeles County's population is estimated to grow from 9,519,338 in 2000 to approximately 11,760,000 in the year 2020. This would represent an increase in population of approximately 2,240,662 people over this 20-year time period. The number of households in Los Angeles County is projected to increase from approximately 3,270,909 in 2000 to approximately 4,054,050 in the year 2020. The number of jobs in Los Angeles County is projected to increase from approximately 4,312,264 in 2000 to approximately 5,156,000 in the year 2020.

Los Angeles County as a whole is largely built out. Therefore, most of the County's future growth would be accomplished through infill development within existing urban areas. Environmental constraints such as: water supply, landfill capacity, energy demand, air quality, traffic constraints and others, will become predominate issues of concern as Los Angeles County approaches ultimate buildout.

4.13.2 CUMULATIVE ANALYSIS

Potential cumulative impacts of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with SCAG projections as described, are discussed below. Pursuant to Section 15355(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, "The cumulative impact...is 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 probable future projects."

Cumulative development associated with the proposed General Plan Update and future growth within the City of Cerritos would result in potential impacts to the following resource areas:

- Land Use;
- Population, Employment, and Housing;
- Aesthetics;
- Transportation/Circulation;
- Air Quality;
- Noise;
- Geologic and Seismic Hazards;
- Hydrology and Drainage;
- Public Services and Utilities;
- Parks, Recreation and Trails;
- Public Health and Safety; and
- Cultural Resources.

LAND USE

The proposed General Plan Update would not involve any changes in the City's current land use designations. The City of Cerritos is approximately 99 percent built out. The Land Use Element of the General Plan Update focuses on preserving residential neighborhoods, guiding the remaining development and redevelopment opportunities and encouraging revitalization in selected areas. Any development resulting from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would occur on vacant and underutilized land.

Increased land use intensity would result in the loss of vacant areas located throughout the City of Cerritos. Continued urbanization and intensification of land uses resulting from development in the region would result in the loss of open space. Opportunities for mitigation would be limited to dedication of additional lands in the region as open space. The City of Cerritos has approximately 26.62 acres of vacant land in addition to approximately 45.98 acres of underutilized land for development.

The proposed General Plan Update would result in less than significant land use impacts. All future projects under regional and proposed General Plan Update development would be required to mitigate any land use impacts on a project-by-project basis. Therefore, the incremental impact of the proposed General Plan Update, when considered in combination with buildout of the region would not result in cumulatively significant impacts related to land use.

POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING

Table 4.2-1, *Regional Population Projections*, provides data regarding population, housing and employment relevant to the City of Cerritos, County of Los Angeles and region extending into the year 2020. Current projections shown in Table 4.2-1 represent the numeric interpretation of the Cerritos General Plan, Los Angeles County General Plan and regional plans. The proposed General Plan Update is intended to update the policies for future growth within the City of Cerritos. Los Angeles County projections include these considerations and account for proposed development within the City.

As shown in Table 4.2-1, the Los Angeles County region is anticipating relatively significant growth over the next 20 years. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in a small increase in population, employment and housing within the City of Cerritos and Los Angeles County. SCAG projects that by the year 2020 the City of Cerritos would contribute 59,100 individuals, 31,200 jobs and 15,880 households to the County's totals. It is important to note that the City of Cerritos estimates a lower population by the year 2020 than SCAG. The proposed General Plan Update projects a population of 53,009 individuals for the year 2020. SCAG's projections would result in Cerritos accounting for approximately 0.5 percent of the

County's total population, approximately 0.6 percent of the County's total jobs and approximately 0.4 percent of the County's total households.

The proposed General Plan Update would contribute to regional growth with respect to population, housing and employment. However, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not significantly alter regional growth rates, because the anticipated growth has been included in both County and regional projections. Thus, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in significant cumulative impacts with respect to population, employment or housing. Growth in general may have the potential to result in other significant environmental consequences. However those issues are addressed elsewhere in this EIR.

AESTHETICS

The City of Cerritos is 99 percent developed and the surrounding region is predominately built out. Any new development would contribute to the urban character of the region. Implementation of the goals and policies in the Community Design Element of the proposed General Plan would serve to enhance the physical setting within the City. Additionally, new development within Cerritos and surrounding cities would be required to undergo design review, according to individual City standards, to ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses on a project-by-project basis. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in significant cumulative aesthetic impacts.

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

The Circulation Element of the proposed General Plan Update considers the impacts of traffic traveling through, as well as within the City of Cerritos. Future cumulative travel patterns within and through the City would be directly influenced by changes to the surrounding regional transportation system. The proposed General Plan Update does not involve any major changes to existing land use designations or new land use designations that would increase vehicle trips or congestion on City roadways. However, implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in two roadway segments operating at unacceptable service levels over existing conditions. LOS standards would be exceeded along South Street, west of Studebaker Avenue; and along South Street, between I-606 and Grindley Avenue.

Regional buildout in accordance with SCAG 2020 projections would result in future development that would increase vehicle trips and traffic congestion on County roadways, resulting in cumulative impacts to the above mentioned roadway segments.

AIR QUALITY

Development under the proposed General Plan Update and cumulative development in the region would create significant impacts related to construction, mobile sources and stationary sources. Development within Cerritos would occur on vacant and underutilized parcels. The proposed General Plan Update includes measures to reduce emissions related to construction, stationary sources and vehicular trips. On a regional basis, the South Coast Air Quality Management District has addressed mitigation of air quality impacts. However, with mitigation, air quality impacts would remain cumulatively significant.

NOISE

Increased traffic volumes resulting from proposed General Plan Update buildout and buildout of surrounding cities in the County are anticipated to result in cumulatively substantially increases in vehicular noise levels along major thoroughfares in the area. The proposed General Plan Update involves no modifications to the existing land use designations within the City; therefore, it would not directly result in increased traffic noise in the area.

Future projects under the proposed General Plan Update would increase the ambient noise levels within the City as a result of short- and long-term activities. Development proposals would be reviewed for compliance with criteria set forth in the proposed General Plan Update. Acoustical studies shall be required and noise attenuation features incorporated into new development where necessary to comply with specific interior and exterior noise levels. Future projects under regional buildout conditions would be required to satisfy similar noise criteria and requirements of the City in which such projects are undertaken. The incremental impact of buildout under the proposed General Plan Update when considered in combination with regional buildout would be less than significant.

GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARDS

The City of Cerritos is almost completely built out. Future development projects would occur on vacant and underutilized land. Any future development in the Los Angeles County area or in the City of Cerritos would encounter geologic and seismic risks based on their individual site constraints. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in any significant geologic and seismic impacts. The geologic and seismic impacts of individual project development under the proposed General Plan Update would be site-specific and would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

The proposed General Plan Update would not result in significant hydrology or drainage impacts. Future development projects in the Los Angeles County area or in the City of Cerritos would be required to mitigate specific hydrologic impacts on a project-by-project basis. Therefore any impacts associated with individual project development resulting from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would be site-specific and would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not result in significant public services and utilities impacts with the exception of school facilities. Population growth resulting from implementation of the proposed General Plan would contribute additional students to school facilities that are near or in excess of capacity located in Cerritos and the ABC Unified School District. Projected student enrollment would result in the need for additional school facilities. Increased demand for school services resulting from implementation of the proposed General Plan would increase school facility deficiencies.

Individual projects proposed under implementation of the General Plan would be required to pay school fees in proportion to the square footage of the development, and/or directly provide facilities as mitigation for these impacts. Payment of these fees and/or implementation of facilities on a project-by-project basis would offset cumulative school impacts by providing funding for new and/or renovated school equipment and facilities.

PARKS/RECREATION

Buildout of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in significant parks and recreation impacts. Population growth is projected to increase by 909 residents by the year 2020. This population growth would result in an additional three acres of needed parkland. The City of Cerritos currently exceeds their parkland requirement of three acres per 1,000 residents by 82 acres.

Future development would be required to pay parkland fees in proportion to the square footage of the development and/or directly provide facilities as mitigation for these impacts. Development of future projects in the region would result in an increase in the demand upon existing City and regional parks and recreation facilities. The proposed General Plan Update would not significantly burden the current parks and recreation facilities.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The increase in population within Cerritos from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not burden public health and safety services. Regional projects and projects resulting from buildout would be required to evaluate their respective public health and safety impacts on a project-by-project basis. The additional contribution of the proposed General Plan Update would be less than significant regarding public health and safety impacts.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Future development in the region may encounter cultural resources. The cultural resource impacts of developing individual projects proposed under the General Plan Update would be specific to each site and would not combine to cause cumulative impacts. New development would be required to comply with existing federal and state laws protecting archaeological, paleontological and historic resources on a project-by-project basis. Thus, the proposed General Plan Update would not result in cultural resources cumulative impacts.

4.13.3 CONCLUSION

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update in combination with regional growth would result in cumulatively significant impacts with regard to:

- Transportation/Circulation; and
- Air Quality.