3.9  Population and Housing, Socioeconomics, and Environmental Justice

This section describes the regulatory and environmental settings for population and housing, socioeconomics, and environmental justice. Impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action and alternatives are described in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, along with mitigation measures to reduce impacts, where appropriate.

3.9.1  Regulatory Setting

Federal

Significant concentrations of minority or low-income individuals are sometimes referred to as environmental justice populations. Historically, when compared to the general population, low-income and minority populations have suffered a greater share of the adverse environmental and health effects of industry and development relative to the benefits. The identification and mitigation of this potentially disproportionate burden is referred to as environmental justice (Rechtschaffen and Gauna 2002:3).

The current regulatory framework for environmental justice reflects the convergence of civil rights concerns and environmental review processes. In the 1980s, community organizers and environmental regulators identified three interrelated concerns. First, these groups identified a significant correlation between hazardous waste and other polluting facilities and demographic concentrations of minority and low-income communities. Second, advocates noticed that minority and low-income communities incurred a greater burden of environmental consequences relative to the benefits of industry and development than did the population at large. Third, minority and low-income communities often suffered a relative lack of access and involvement in environmental decision-making relative to the population at large (Rechtschaffen and Gauna 2002:3).

Environmental justice is now regulated through federal policy, with the assessment of environmental justice effects occurring as part of the NEPA process.

Executive Order 12898

Environmental justice is rooted in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination in federally assisted programs, and in Executive Order (EO) 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations), issued February 11, 1994. EO 12898 was intended to ensure that federal actions and policies do not result in disproportionately high adverse effects on minority or low-income populations. It requires each federal agency to take “appropriate and necessary” steps to identify and address any such disproportionate effects resulting from its programs, policies, or activities, including those it implements directly, as well as those for which it provides permitting or funding.
Council on Environmental Quality Guidance

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance (1997) for performing environmental justice analyses as part of the NEPA process provides definitions, thresholds, and overall methodological guidance for environmental justice analyses. The analysis in this EIS/EIR used the definitions of minority and low-income populations provided in CEQ’s Guidance for Agencies on Key Terms in Executive Order 12898 (Council on Environmental Quality 1997) as shown below.

Minority individuals are defined as members of the following population groups.
- American Indian or Alaskan Native.
- Asian or Pacific Islander.
- Black.
- Hispanic.

Minority populations are identified by the following factors.
- Where the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage of the general population.
- Where the minority population percentage of the affected area exceeds 50%.

Low-income populations are identified on the basis of poverty thresholds provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and identified as one of the following.
- The percentage of the population below the poverty level in the affected area is meaningfully greater than the corresponding percentage in the general population.
- The percentage of the population below the poverty level in the affected area is 20% or more.

State

California Government Code Section 65302(c)
The state requires all local general plans to include a housing element. The discussion of local regulations below provides relevant descriptions for each local jurisdiction.

California Government Code Section 65584
The state requires Regional Housing Needs Plans (RHNPs) to be developed by local jurisdictions based on countywide housing projections developed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. See local regulations below for a description of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for Placer County.

California Senate Bill 115
Approved in 1999, California Senate Bill 115 added Section 65040.12 to the Government Code (see below) and Part 3 to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, both of which concern environmental justice. The bill provides that the Office of Planning and Research is the coordinating agency in California state government for environmental justice programs.
California Government Code Section 65040.12

For the purposes of Government Code Section 65040.12, \textit{environmental justice} is defined as "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

Section 65040.12 requires the Office of Planning and Research to take the following actions.

1. Consult with the Secretaries of California Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Business, Consumer Services, and Housing, the Working Group on Environmental Justice established pursuant to Section 71113 of the Public Resources Code, any other appropriate state agencies, and all other interested members of the public and private sectors in this state.

2. Coordinate the office’s efforts and share information regarding environmental justice programs with CEQ, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the General Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and other federal agencies.

3. Review and evaluate any information from federal agencies that is obtained as a result of their respective regulatory activities under EO 12898, and from the Working Group on Environmental Justice established pursuant to Section 72002 of the Public Resources Code.

Section 65040.12 also requires the Office of Planning and Research to establish guidelines for addressing environmental justice issues in city and county general plans, including planning methods for the equitable distribution of public facilities and services, industrial land uses, and the promotion of more livable communities.

Public Resources Code Sections 71110–71116

Public Resources Code Sections 71110–71116 require the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) to develop a model environmental justice mission statement for boards, departments, and offices in the agency. Section 71113 requires Cal/EPA to convene a Working Group in Environmental Justice to develop a comprehensive environmental justice strategy. The sections also require this strategy to be reviewed and updated. Finally, Section 71116 establishes a small grant program for nonprofit organizations and federally recognized tribal entities to research environmental justice issues in their communities and address larger environmental justice issues.

California Resources Agency Environmental Justice Policy

California Government Code Section 65040.12 is implemented by the California Resources Agency. The policy states that these provisions apply to agency actions, which are defined as follows:

- Adopting regulations.
- Enforcing environmental laws or regulations.
- Making discretionary decisions or taking actions that affect the environment.
- Providing funding for activities affecting the environment.
- Interacting with the public on environmental issues.

Collectively, these policies stand for the principle that California state agencies should analyze the effects of their actions on minority and low-income groups and seek to avoid disproportionate effects on these groups where feasible.
Local

Placer County General Plan

The Housing Element of the Placer County General Plan is made up of a background report and a policy document (Placer County 2013). The background report identifies the nature and extent of housing needs in the unincorporated areas of the county, and it describes the existing housing setting of the county.

Excerpted below are the relevant goals and policy from the Placer County General Plan that are pertinent to this resource section.

Goal
A: To provide new housing opportunities to meet the needs of existing and future Placer County residents in all income categories.

Policy
A-1: The County shall maintain an adequate supply of appropriately zoned land with public services to accommodate housing needs of existing and future residents.

Goal
B: To encourage construction and maintenance of safe, decent, and sound affordable housing in the county.

Sutter County General Plan

Because no housing or employment is proposed in Sutter County as a part of the proposed action, the Sutter County Housing Element and policies related to employment are not relevant to this EIS/EIR.

City of Lincoln General Plan

The City of Lincoln General Plan includes a Housing Element that covers housing needs, availability, adequacy, and affordability. It contains actions to facilitate the construction of affordable housing for low income families, making housing programs available to minority and low-income families (City of Lincoln 2008). The Housing Element and the general plan do not contain specific goals, policies, and implementation measures regarding environmental justice, population and housing, or socioeconomics that pertain to the proposed action and alternatives.

Regional Housing Needs Allocation

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) adopted its RHNP in September 2012 (Sacramento Area Council of Governments 2012). Adopting the RHNP was the final step in adopting the RHNA, a state requirement to determine the number of housing units cities and counties must plan for in their housing element updates. The intent of the RHNA is to ensure adequate housing opportunities for all income groups. For the Plan Area, the RHNA allocations apply to two Permit Applicants, unincorporated Placer County and the City of Lincoln. SACOG allocated 5,031 new housing units to unincorporated Placer County for the 2013–2021 planning period. The Tahoe Basin, which was analyzed as a separate subarea, is allocated 328 units. Of the 5,031 housing units, 3,258 units are to be affordable to moderate-income households and below, including 1,365 very
low-income units, 957 low-income units, and 936 moderate-income units (Placer County 2013:49). The RHNA allocation to the City of Lincoln for 2013-2021 is 3,790 units of which 2,326 are to be affordable to moderate-income households and below, including 953 very low-income units, 668 low-income units, and 705 moderate-income units (Sacramento Area Council of Governments n.d.).

3.9.2 Environmental Setting

Population

As of January 1, 2017, Placer County’s population was estimated to be 382,837 (California Department of Finance 2017a), an increase over the 2005 population, which was 314,619 (Google 2014). Approximately 75% of the population of Placer County is concentrated in urban areas, with the other 15% in the surrounding rural areas or unincorporated areas of the county (Center for Strategic Economic Research 2014). Table 3.9-1 lists the 2017 population of Placer County as a whole, including all cities; the state, and the population of the city of Lincoln.

Table 3.9-1. Placer County Population Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Population Total January 1, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>39,189,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placer County</td>
<td>382,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>48,165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Finance 2017a.

The population of unincorporated Placer County grew at an average annual growth rate (AAGR) of 1.8% between 1990 and 2000. This was higher than California’s growth rate of 1.3%. Relative to the incorporated areas of the county, which grew at an AAGR of 5.2%, the unincorporated areas of the county grew at a much slower rate. From 2000 to 2010, Placer County as a whole had a 3.4% AAGR for population, a rate nearly three times California’s population AAGR of 1.0% during this period. The majority of this population growth occurred within the incorporated cities. The majority of population growth was concentrated in the cities of Roseville, Rocklin, and Lincoln in western Placer County (Placer County 2013:6-9). Population change in the county as well as the city of Lincoln is shown in Table 3.9-2.

Table 3.9-2. Placer County Population Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated Cities (Except Lincoln)</td>
<td>147,698</td>
<td>240,304</td>
<td>62.70%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated County</td>
<td>100,701</td>
<td>108,128</td>
<td>7.38%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>11,205</td>
<td>42,819</td>
<td>282.14%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Placer County 2013.

Population in Placer County is expected to continue to grow, particularly in the incorporated cities. The overall county population is projected to grow from 350,230 in 2010 to 447,625 in 2030 and 620,037 by 2060 (California Department of Finance 2014). The city of Lincoln’s population grew
approximately 282% from 11,205 in 2000 to 42,819 in 2010 (Center for Strategic Economic Research 2014). While growth slowed down between 2010 and 2012, it is expected to continue to rise through 2035 (City of Lincoln 2013:7).

Housing

The California Department of Finance estimated that the county had a total of 162,489 housing units in January 2017, with 126,940 single-family homes and approximately 31,279 multi-family housing units and 4,270 mobile homes. The average household size in Placer County as a whole is 2.66 persons, which is similar to the City of Lincoln which is 2.65. The vacancy rate in Placer County is 13%. The unincorporated county has a much higher vacancy rate of 28.5%, while the City of Lincoln has a relatively low vacancy rate of 4.1%. Tables 3.9-3 and 3.9-4 show housing data for the county and the city of Lincoln.

Table 3.9-3. Housing Type Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total Housing Units</th>
<th>Single Family Units</th>
<th>Multi-Family Units</th>
<th>Mobile Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placer County Total</td>
<td>162,489</td>
<td>126,940</td>
<td>31,279</td>
<td>4,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated</td>
<td>105,087</td>
<td>79,837</td>
<td>24,146</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated</td>
<td>57,402</td>
<td>47,103</td>
<td>7,133</td>
<td>3,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>18,798</td>
<td>16,925</td>
<td>1,802</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Finance 2017b.

Table 3.9-4. Housing Occupancy and Size Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Occupied Units</th>
<th>Vacancy Rate</th>
<th>Average Household Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placer County Total</td>
<td>137,908</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated</td>
<td>97,141</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated</td>
<td>40,767</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>17,586</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Finance 2017b.

The number of housing units has grown rapidly over the past decade. The majority of housing unit growth occurred in the incorporated cities, particularly in the cities of Roseville, Rocklin, and Lincoln. Between 2000 and 2010, 7,458 housing units were built in unincorporated Placer County while 13,311 were built in the city of Lincoln (Placer County 2013:10-11). SACOG’s RHN, adopted in 2012, estimates the anticipated housing demand for the region. Table 3.9-5 shows the overall allocation of housing units based on income category for Placer County and the city of Lincoln.
### Table 3.9-5. SACOG 2013–2021 Regional Housing Needs Allocation Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total Units</th>
<th>Very Low Income</th>
<th>Low Income</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Above Moderate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placer County Total</td>
<td>21,625</td>
<td>5,749</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>4,030</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated County</td>
<td>4,790</td>
<td>1,275</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>3,790</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Income and Employment

The median household income in 2016 in Placer County was $76,926. The city of Lincoln has a notably higher median household income of $82,632. The statewide median household income is $63,782 (U.S. Census Bureau 2016a). As of 2014, Placer County had approximately 144,700 wage and salary jobs. The per capita income in Placer County is $57,280, and the average salary per worker is $58,484 (California Department of Transportation 2015:121). In Placer County, 3,900 wage and salary jobs were created, representing a growth rate of 2.8%.

In 2014, the largest employment sectors of employment growth were in education and healthcare (1,200 jobs), leisure and hospitality (710 jobs), professional and business services (590 jobs), and construction (500 jobs). The only major sectors with declines were financial activities and information, which lost 160 and 150 jobs, respectively. Job growth is anticipated to continue over the next several years. Employment growth will be greatest in leisure and hospitality (5,300 jobs), professional and business services (3,300 jobs), education and healthcare (3,200 jobs), and wholesale and retail trade (2,400 jobs). Combined, these sectors will account for 69% of net job creation in the county (California Department of Transportation 2015:121).

### Table 3.9-6. Placer County Employment (thousands of jobs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2020 Forecast</th>
<th>2030 Forecast</th>
<th>2040 Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and utilities</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial activities</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and education</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>39.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>25.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total wage and salary</td>
<td>144.7</td>
<td>170.8</td>
<td>189.8</td>
<td>209.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Transportation 2015.
Although the unemployment rate in Placer County was higher compared to the state-wide average between 2000 and 2010, the unemployment rate has fallen in recent years from 7.7% in 2013 to 3.2% at the end of 2017 (California Department of Transportation 2015:121; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017). Table 3.9-7 shows the employment projections for Placer County and the city of Lincoln through 2035.

**Table 3.9-7. Employment Projections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2035</th>
<th>AARG %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placer County Total</td>
<td>141,662</td>
<td>209,717</td>
<td>1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated County</td>
<td>31,550</td>
<td>49,521</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>9,524</td>
<td>19,487</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Placer County 2013.

**Property Tax Revenues**

Placer County property tax revenues for the 2015-2016 fiscal year totaled approximately $162,223,000 (Placer County 2016).

**Environmental Justice**

The following discussion describes minority and low-income communities in the Plan Area based on data from the census. The U.S. Census Bureau collects comprehensive demographic data every 10 years during the decennial census. This analysis uses data from the most recent counts available, primarily the 2012–2016 American Community Survey estimates. The U.S. Census Bureau collects demographic information on ethnicity at the level of census blocks (the smallest geographic unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau). Generally, several census blocks make up block groups, which in turn make up census tracts. The population of a census block can vary, depending on the urban or rural character of the area. The U.S. Census Bureau considers Hispanic status to reflect a geographic place of origin rather than ethnicity; data on Hispanic status are collected at the block level.

Table 3.9-8 shows the race and ethnicity data for California, Placer County, and the city of Lincoln. Placer County and the city of Lincoln have a higher percentage of white residents than the state average (approximately 83% and 80% compared to 61%). The Hispanic, Asian, and other minority populations in both Placer County and the city of Lincoln are also notably lower compared to the rest of the state.
### Table 3.9-8. Race/Ethnicity Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Hispanic or Latino (of any race) %</th>
<th>White %</th>
<th>Black or African American %</th>
<th>American Indian/Alaska Native %</th>
<th>Asian %</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander %</th>
<th>Other Race %</th>
<th>Two or More Races %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>38,654,206</td>
<td>14,903,982 38.6</td>
<td>23,680,584 61.3</td>
<td>2,261,835 5.9</td>
<td>285,512 0.7</td>
<td>5,354,608 13.9</td>
<td>150,908 0.4</td>
<td>5,133,600 13.3</td>
<td>1,787,159 5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placer County</td>
<td>370,571</td>
<td>49,904 13.5</td>
<td>308,414 83.2</td>
<td>5,473 1.5</td>
<td>1,957 0.5</td>
<td>24,862 6.7</td>
<td>585 0.2</td>
<td>11,535 3.1</td>
<td>17,745 4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln</td>
<td>76,513</td>
<td>12,711 16.6</td>
<td>61,145 79.9</td>
<td>1,430 1.9</td>
<td>346 0.5</td>
<td>7,018 9.2</td>
<td>225 0.3</td>
<td>2,858 3.7</td>
<td>3,491 4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minority Populations

Total minority data include the constituent ethnic categories of Hispanic, Black/African-American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaskan Native. Consistent with the CEQ’s 1997 Guidance, census blocks with more than 50% total minority populations were identified within Placer County.

Figure 3.9-1 depicts the census blocks within the county with minority populations of greater than 50%. These data were generated based on census data collected for all minority and Hispanic populations within the Plan Area. In general, Figure 3.9-1 shows that generally the county has few areas with concentrated minority populations. Areas exhibiting high proportions of minority residents are present in both urban and rural areas. Table 3.9-9 identifies the minority populations per census block.

Low-Income Populations

The U.S. Census Bureau collects poverty status data at the level of census block groups, a geographic unit that includes census blocks but is smaller than census tracts. For the purposes of this analysis, low-income populations consist of persons living below the 2010 poverty threshold as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). Low-income populations were identified as block groups that contained 20% or more low-income individuals (i.e., below the 2010 poverty threshold). Because the income required to sustain a household varies in relation to the number of individuals dependent on a given quantity of income, there is no single threshold for poverty status (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). The 20% threshold was used because the cost of living in California is higher than elsewhere in the country, and thus the use of a 50% threshold might incorrectly under-identify low-income populations in the Plan Area.

Figure 3.9-2 shows the distribution of areas with meaningfully greater proportions of low-income households in the Plan Area. Low-income populations were identified based on the Federal poverty threshold in 2010 as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau 2010).

3.9.3 References Cited


