9. STATUTORILY REQUIRED SECTIONS

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Statutorily Required Sections chapter of the Draft EIR includes discussions regarding those topics that are required to be included in an EIR, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.2. The chapter includes a discussion of the proposed project's potential to result in growth-inducing impacts; the cumulative setting analyzed in this EIR; and significant irreversible environmental changes.

9.2 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

State CEQA Guidelines section 15126.2(d) requires an EIR to evaluate the potential growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, an EIR must discuss the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Growth can be induced in a number of ways, including the elimination of obstacles to growth, or by encouraging and/or facilitating other activities that could induce growth. Examples of projects likely to have growth-inducing impacts include extensions or expansions of infrastructure systems beyond what is needed to serve project-specific demand, and development of new residential subdivisions or office complexes in areas that are currently only sparsely developed or are undeveloped.

The CEQA Guidelines are clear that while an analysis of growth-inducing effects is required, it should not be assumed that induced growth is necessarily significant or adverse. This analysis examines the following potential growth-inducing impacts related to implementation of the proposed project and assesses whether these effects are significant and adverse (see *CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15126.2[d]):

1. Foster population and economic growth and construction of housing.
2. Eliminate obstacles to population growth.
3. Affect service levels, facility capacity, or infrastructure demand.
4. Encourage or facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment.

Foster Population and Economic Growth and Construction of Housing

As discussed in Section XIV, Population & Housing, of the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project, the proposed museum and community cultural center building would not involve the construction of housing. Construction of the project would provide short-term employment opportunities, which would likely be filled from the local employee base. While the proposed project would create long-term employment opportunities, the employment opportunities would be fairly minimal, and would be expected to be filled by existing residents of the area in order to support the local community and provide opportunities for residents to reside and work in the same community. Therefore, the project would not result in long-term employment growth in the area.

All physical environmental effects of the proposed project have been addressed throughout this EIR and the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project. Overall, the proposed project would

not be expected to generate any new growth-inducing impacts beyond those impacts identified in this EIR.

Eliminate Obstacles to Population Growth

The elimination of either physical or regulatory obstacles to growth is considered to be a growth-inducing effect. A physical obstacle to growth typically involves the lack of public service infrastructure. The extension of public service infrastructure, including roadways, water mains, and sewer lines, into areas that are not currently provided with these services, would be expected to support new development. Similarly, the elimination or change to a regulatory obstacle, including existing growth and development policies, could result in new growth.

While the proposed project would include the development of new infrastructure connections on the project site, such as water mains and sewer lines, such improvements would be sized to only support the proposed project. Because the proposed project is not residential in nature, and is not located in the proximity of currently planned or anticipated residential development, such infrastructure improvements would not be expected to be used for residential use in the future. In addition, the project site is bound by a deed restriction relating to the County's past purchase of the parcel from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to Placer County, which occurred in 2000. The Quit Claim Deed conveying the park parcel from the USFS includes the following restriction: "[T]he use of the property for a community park does not include the use of the property for private development of a commercial, residential, or industrial nature." Placer County is currently coordinating with the USFS regarding the deed restriction, and the deed restriction may be removed following an agreed-upon approach. However, even if the deed restriction were to be removed, the project site is not currently zoned for any kind of development beyond park use. Should future development require the site to undergo a rezone or General Plan Amendment in order to allow a commercial, residential, or industrial use, additional environmental review would occur at that time. Therefore, regardless of whether the deed restriction is or is not in place, the proposed project would not eliminate obstacles to growth in a manner that would encourage previously unplanned growth.

Affect Service Levels, Facility Capacity, or Infrastructure Demand

Increases in population that would occur as a result of a proposed project may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental impacts. As discussed in Section XV, Public Services, of the Initial Study, increased demands for fire and police protection services attributable to the proposed project would not necessitate the construction of new or expanded facilities that could cause significant environmental impacts. In addition, as discussed in Section XIX, Utilities & Service Systems, of the Initial Study, wastewater generated by the proposed project could be accommodated by existing wastewater treatment facilities and planned infrastructure.

The landfill that would serve the proposed project has adequate capacity to manage the solid waste generated as result of the project. Furthermore, mitigation measures set forth in Section X, Hydrology & Water Quality, of the Initial Study, would ensure that the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of the County's stormwater drainage systems. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase population such that service levels, facility capacity, or infrastructure demand would require construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental impacts.

Encourage or Facilitate other Activities That Could Significantly Affect the Environment

This EIR and the accompanying Initial Study provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential for environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. Please refer to Chapters 4 through 8 of this EIR and the Initial Study (see Appendix A of this EIR), which comprehensively address the potential for impacts from development on the project site.

9.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130 requires that an EIR discuss the cumulative and long-term effects of the proposed project that would adversely affect the environment. "Cumulative impacts" are defined as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355). "[I]ndividual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355, subd. [a]). "The cumulative impact from several projects 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 impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355, subd. [b]).

The need for cumulative impact assessment reflects the fact that, although a project may cause an "individually limited" or "individually minor" incremental impact that, by itself, is not significant, the increment may be "cumulatively considerable," and, thus, significant, when viewed together with environmental changes anticipated from past, present, and probable future projects (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064, subd. [h(1)], Section 15065, subd. [c], and Section 15355, subd. [b]). Accordingly, particular impacts may be less than significant on a project-specific basis but significant on a cumulative basis if their small incremental contribution, viewed against the larger backdrop, is cumulatively considerable. However, it should be noted that CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064, Subdivision (h)(5) states, "[…]the mere existence of significant cumulative impacts caused by other projects alone shall not constitute substantial evidence that the proposed project's incremental effects are cumulatively considerable." Therefore, even where cumulative impacts are significant, any level of incremental contribution is not necessarily deemed cumulatively considerable.

Section 15130(b) of CEQA Guidelines indicates that the level of detail of the cumulative analysis need not be as great as for the project impact analyses, but that analysis should reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, and that the analysis should be focused, practical, and reasonable. To be adequate, a discussion of cumulative effects must include the following elements:

> (1) Either (a) a list of past, present and probable future projects, including, if necessary, those outside the agency's control, or (b) a summary of projections contained in an adopted general plan or related planning document, or in a prior certified EIR, which described or evaluated regional or area-wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact, provide that such documents are reference and made available for public inspection at a specified location;
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> (2) A summary of the individual projects' environmental effects, with specific reference to additional information and stating where such information is available; and

(3) A reasonable analysis of all of the relevant projects' cumulative impacts, with an examination of reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to such effects (Section 15130[b]).

For some projects, the only feasible mitigation measures will involve the adoption of ordinances or regulations, rather than the imposition of conditions on a project-by-project basis (Section 15130[c]). Section 15130(a)(3) states that an EIR may determine that a project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact will be rendered less than cumulatively considerable, and thus not significant, if a project is required to implement or fund the project's fair share of a mitigation measure or measures designed to alleviate the cumulative impact.

A discussion of cumulative impacts is provided within each of the technical chapters of this EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15130.

Cumulative Setting

The lead agency should define the relevant geographic area of inquiry for each impact category (id., Section 15130, subd. [b][3]), and should then identify the universe of "past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts" relevant to the various categories, either through the preparation of a "list" of such projects or through the use of "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" (id., subd. [b][1]). In accordance with Section 15130(b)(1)(a) and (b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the cumulative analysis in this EIR would be based upon a summary of projections of future development within Olympic Valley, including the Squaw Valley General Plan (SVGP) and Land Use Ordinance, and the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan, as well as reasonably foreseeable future park improvements, including the following:

- Pickleball court;
- Basketball halfcourt;
- Horseshoe pits;
- Running track around the existing field;
- Picnic pavilion; and
- Bocce ball court.

Geographic Scope of Cumulative Setting Within Each Chapter

Situations exist where the geographic setting differs for various environmental issue areas analyzed under CEQA. The following discussions provide further details on the geographic scope for the cumulative setting for each CEQA topic area evaluated in this EIR.

Aesthetics

The geographic scope for the cumulative aesthetics analysis includes all projects that could potentially exist within identified viewsheds of the project area, which includes views towards the project site from State Route (SR) 89, as well as development associated with the SVGP and Land Use Ordinance, and the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan. See Chapter 4, Aesthetics, for further details.

Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy

The geographic setting for the cumulative criteria pollutant air quality analysis is the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB).

Global climate change is, by nature, a cumulative impact. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions contribute, on a cumulative basis, to the significant adverse environmental impacts of global climate change (e.g., sea level rise, impacts to water supply and water quality, public health impacts, impacts to ecosystems, impacts to agriculture, and other environmental impacts). A single project could not generate enough GHG emissions to contribute noticeably to a change in the global average temperature. However, the GHG emissions from a project in combination with other past, present, and future projects could contribute substantially to the world-wide phenomenon of global climate change and the associated environmental impacts. Although the geographical context for global climate change is the Earth, for analysis purposes under CEQA, and due to the regulatory context pertaining to GHG emissions and global climate change applicable to the proposed project, the geographical context for cumulative global climate change analysis in this EIR is limited to the State of California.

Noise

The geographic scope for the cumulative traffic noise analysis includes buildout of Olympic Valley associated with the SVGP and Land Use Ordinance and the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan, in addition to the reasonably foreseeable projects associated with the Olympic Valley Park listed above. See Chapter 6, Noise, for further details.

Transportation

The geographic scope for the cumulative transportation analysis includes buildout of Olympic Valley pursuant to the SVGP and Land Use Ordinance, as well as more recent foreseeable projects such as the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan and the proposed Base-to-Base Gondola Project. The geographic scope for the cumulative transportation analysis also includes passby traffic generated by commuters traveling through Olympic Valley to and from other locations throughout the region. See Chapter 7, Transportation, for further details.

Wildfire

The geographic scope for the cumulative wildfire analysis generally includes the project site, as well as future development within Olympic Valley associated with the SVGP and Land Use Ordinance, and the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan.

Please refer to the Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures section of each technical chapter for analysis of cumulative impacts for each CEQA topic.

9.4 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d), this EIR is required to include consideration of significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project, should the project be implemented. An impact would be determined to be a significant and irreversible change in the environment if:

- Buildout of the project area could involve a large commitment of nonrenewable resources;
- The primary and secondary impacts of development could generally commit future generations to similar uses (e.g., a highway provides access to a previously remote area);

- Development of the proposed project could involve uses in which irreversible damage could result from any potential environmental accidents associated with the project; or
- The phasing and eventual development of the project could result in an unjustified consumption of resources (e.g., the wasteful use of energy).

The proposed project would likely result in, or contribute to, the following significant irreversible environmental changes:

- Conversion of vacant land to a fully built-out museum and community center, thus precluding alternative land uses in the future; and
- Irreversible consumption of goods and services, such as wood and steel building products, and fire and police services, associated with project operation; and
- Irreversible consumption of energy and natural resources, such as water, electricity, and natural gas, associated with project operation.

9.5 SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

According to CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must include a description of those impacts identified as significant and unavoidable should the proposed action be implemented (CEQA Guidelines §15126.2[c]). Such impacts would be considered unavoidable when the determination is made that either mitigation is not feasible or only partial mitigation is feasible such that the impact is not reduced to a level that is less-than-significant. This EIR demonstrates that buildout of the proposed project would not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts.