

SECTION 4.0

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

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Section 4.0 of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) contains topic-by-topic analysis of baseline environmental conditions and significant effects on the environment (“impacts”) that would or could result from implementation of the Amoruso Ranch Specific Plan (ARSP or Proposed Project) described in **Section 2.0**. Each topical section describes the existing setting and background information necessary to help the reader understand the conditions that would cause an impact to occur. In addition, each section includes a description of how an impact is determined to be significant or less than significant. Finally, the individual sections identify feasible mitigation measures that, if adopted, would reduce significant impacts to a less-than-significant level. The following issue area sections are addressed in **Section 4.0**:

- Section 4.1 – Land Use and Agriculture
- Section 4.2 – Population and Housing
- Section 4.3 – Transportation and Circulation
- Section 4.4 – Air Quality
- Section 4.5 – Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Section 4.6 – Noise
- Section 4.7 – Geology, Soils, Seismicity
- Section 4.8 – Vegetation and Wildlife
- Section 4.9 – Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Section 4.10 – Hazardous Materials and Public Safety
- Section 4.11 – Public Services
- Section 4.12.1 – Public Utilities – Water
- Section 4.12.2 – Public Utilities – Recycled Water
- Section 4.12.3 – Public Utilities – Wastewater
- Section 4.12.4 – Public Utilities – Solid Waste
- Section 4.12.5 – Public Utilities – Electricity, Natural Gas, and Telecommunication Services
- Section 4.13 – Hydrology and Water Quality
- Section 4.14 – Aesthetics
- Section 4.15 – Energy

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

An analysis of cumulative impacts follows the evaluation of project impacts in each section in **Section 4.0**. As defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) *Guidelines* Section 15355, “cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.” CEQA requires that cumulative impacts be discussed when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable (*Guidelines* Section 15130[a]). These impacts are discussed when appropriate in the relevant issue area sub-sections within **Section 4.0** and summarized in **Section 5.7**.

The context for the cumulative impact analysis within this EIR is based on the long-term development levels projected in the region as represented by adopted planning documents and proposals currently under consideration, as well as buildout of the ARSP. This includes buildout of the City General Plan through 2035; full build out of the Creekview Specific Plan, West Roseville Specific Plan, and Sierra Vista Specific Plan; infill development associated with the Downtown and Riverside Specific Plans; and completion of Placer Parkway westerly from Foothills Boulevard. The cumulative context for many issue areas extends beyond the City boundaries. Where cumulative impacts extend beyond the City, the cumulative analysis is based on assumptions for growth in Rocklin, Lincoln, unincorporated Placer County, Sacramento County, and a portion of Sutter County through the year 2035. Reasonably foreseeable development projects considered within this EIR include, but are not limited to, buildout of the Sunset Industrial Area, Placer Vineyards Specific Plan, Campus Oaks project, Regional University Specific Plan, Riolo Vineyards Specific Plan, Curry Creek Community Plan, Sutter Pointe Specific Plan, and Elverta Specific Plan. Refer to **Section 5.7** for further discussion of the cumulative context, including the geographic scope considered for each issue area (**Table 5-1**).

TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS EIR

This EIR uses the following terminology to describe the environmental effects of the Proposed Project:

- **Thresholds of Significance or Significance Criteria:** Criteria used by the Lead Agency to determine at what level or “threshold” an impact would be considered significant. Standards of significance used in this EIR include those set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance); those derived from questions set forth in Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines; criteria based on regulatory standards of local, state, and federal agencies; and criteria based on goals and policies identified in the City of Roseville General Plan. In fashioning criteria based on these sources, City staff and consultants have also relied on their own professional judgment and experience in some instances. In determining the level of significance, the analysis assumes that the Proposed Project would comply with applicable federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- **Less-than-Significant Impact:** A project impact is considered less than significant when it does not reach the standard of significance, indicating that there would be no substantial or potentially substantial change in the environment. No mitigation is required for less-than-significant impacts.
- **Potentially Significant Impact:** A potentially significant impact is an environmental effect that could cause a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the environment; however, it is not certain that effects would exceed specified significance criteria. For CEQA purposes, a potentially significant impact is treated as if it were a significant impact. Mitigation measures and/or project alternatives are identified, if feasible, to reduce project effects to the environment.
- **Significant Impact:** A project impact is considered significant if it would result in a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the physical conditions of the environment. Significant impacts are identified by the evaluation of effects using specified significance criteria. When available, feasible mitigation measures and/or project alternatives are identified to reduce or avoid these effects to the environment.

- **Significant and Unavoidable Impact:** A significant and unavoidable impact would result in a substantial change in the environment that cannot be avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level if the project is implemented.
- **Cumulative Significant Impact:** A cumulative significant impact would result in a substantial change in the environment from effects of the project in combination with the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the surrounding area. To be considered significant, the project's impact must make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a substantial adverse change in the environment.
- **Mitigation:** Mitigation includes measures recommended in the EIR as made enforceable through conditions of approval or other mechanisms adopted by the Lead Agency that:
 - avoid the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
 - minimize impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
 - rectify the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
 - reduce or eliminate the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and/or
 - compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.