

PHASE II OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CODE (LR16-007)

INITIAL STUDY FOR ANTICIPATED SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

This Initial Study has been prepared by the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 *et seq.*), CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.* of the California Code of Regulations) and the Sacramento Local Environmental Regulations (Resolution 91-892) adopted by the City of Sacramento.

ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study is organized into the following sections:

SECTION I - BACKGROUND: Provides summary background information about the project name, location, sponsor, and the date this Initial Study was completed.

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Includes a detailed description of the proposed project.

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION: Reviews proposed project and states whether the project would have additional significant environmental effects (project-specific effects) that were not evaluated in the Master EIR for the 2035 General Plan.

SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Identifies which environmental factors were determined to have additional significant environmental effects.

SECTION V - DETERMINATION: States whether environmental effects associated with development of the proposed project are significant, and what, if any, added environmental documentation may be required.

REFERENCES CITED: Identifies source materials that have been consulted in the preparation of the Initial Study.

SECTION I - BACKGROUND

Project Name and File Number: Phase II of the Planning and Development Code
(LR16-007)

Project Location: Citywide

Project Applicant: City of Sacramento
Community Development Department

Project Planner: Greg Sandlund, Senior Planner
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Environmental Planner: Tom Buford, Senior Planner
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Date Initial Study Completed: September 30, 2016

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 1500 *et seq.*). The Lead Agency is the City of Sacramento.

The City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, has reviewed the proposed project and, on the basis of the whole record before it, has determined that the proposed project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR and is consistent with the land use designation and the permissible densities and intensities of use for the project site as set forth in the 2035 General Plan. See CEQA Guidelines Section 15176 (b) and (d).

The City has prepared the attached Initial Study to analyze whether the subsequent project was described in the MEIR and whether the subsequent project may cause any additional significant effect on the environment which was not previously examined in the MEIR (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(b)). The City has determined that the proposed project would not cause any additional significant environmental effect on the environment which was not previously examined in the Master EIR. The City will provide notice of this determination in the manner provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15087.

As part of the Master EIR process, the City is required to incorporate all feasible mitigation measures or feasible alternatives appropriate to the project as set forth in the Master EIR

(CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(d)). The Master EIR mitigation measures that are identified as appropriate are set forth in the applicable technical sections below.

This analysis incorporates by reference the general discussion portions of the 2035 General Plan Master EIR. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150(a)). The Master EIR is available for public review at the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811, and on the City's web site at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>.

Interested persons and agencies may comment on this Initial Study and the City's determination regarding environmental effects.

Please send written responses to:

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SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The City of Sacramento adopted the Planning and Development Code (PDC), as Title 17 of the City Code, on April 9, 2013, and became effective on September 30, 2013. The PDC resulted from direction given in the 2030 General Plan as one of a number of priority implementation measures to promote a sustainable and livable built environment for the City. One of these measures was a comprehensive update to the zoning code to align it with the vision, goals, policies, and development standards of the general plan. The newly restructured zoning code was renamed called the Planning and Development Code. The PDC included the following features:

- Reorganized by individual zone for ease of use
- Consistent Citywide site plan and design review process
- Flexibility in development standards to recognize urban and traditional development patterns identified in the general plan.

The City adopted an update to its general plan on March 3, 2015, including certification of a Master EIR. The 2030 and 2035 General Plans may be reviewed on line at <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Long-Range/General-Plan>.

The general plan web page includes a link to the Master EIR. The Master EIR may be reviewed online at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>

The current Planning and Development Code may be reviewed online at <http://www.qcode.us/codes/sacramento/> (Title 17). All documents are available for review at the Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811 during public counter hours.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Phase II of the Planning and Development Code is consistent with 2035 General Plan policies that call for improvement in development regulations (LU 2.7.1), promotion of infill development (LU 1.1.5) and sustainable development patterns (LU 2.6.1).

The FMEIR provides that following adoption of the 2035 General Plan the City may initiate amendments to the Planning and Development Code and other sections of the City Code to achieve consistency with the adopted General Plan. The Planning and Development Code would further define land use designations and the performance standards applicable to the land use designations. The Planning and Development Code would also establish the land use entitlement process applicable to the land use designations. Additional approvals may include: adoption of financing programs or fee programs for public infrastructure; rezoning of parcels to ensure consistency with the General Plan Land Use and Urban Form Diagram; and Planning and Development Code amendments to ensure consistency with the 2035 General Plan goals, policies and standards; Acquisition of land for public facilities, finance and construction of public infrastructure projects or consideration of private development requests for infrastructure projects such as transit and roadway improvements consistent with the General Plan Mobility

Element, construction of parks, trails, infrastructure improvements (e.g., water distribution and treatment facilities, wastewater facilities, drainage improvements), other capital improvements, natural resource preservation and/or restoration. (FMEIR, page 2-8)

The proposed revisions to the PDC focus on the consolidation of the processes for subdivision review and the standards that inform site design into the Planning and Development Code.

The following changes relate to administrative activities of the City and are technical in nature:

- Relocating subdivision design and improvement standards from Title 16 into a new division of Title 17 called Infrastructure Design and Improvement Standards.
- Consolidating the varied process requirements for land subdivision together with other planning entitlements.
- Consolidating the various appeals processes for tentative maps, lot line adjustments and parcel merger into a single section.
- Consolidating definitions from Title 16 into Title 17.
- Allowing minor modifications to approved tentative maps to be heard at the Zoning Administrator level.
- Updating driveway standards in order to reduce the need for driveway variances.

These changes would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City, and are not discussed further in the initial study.

Changes that could affect development, and are discussed in the initial study, include the following:

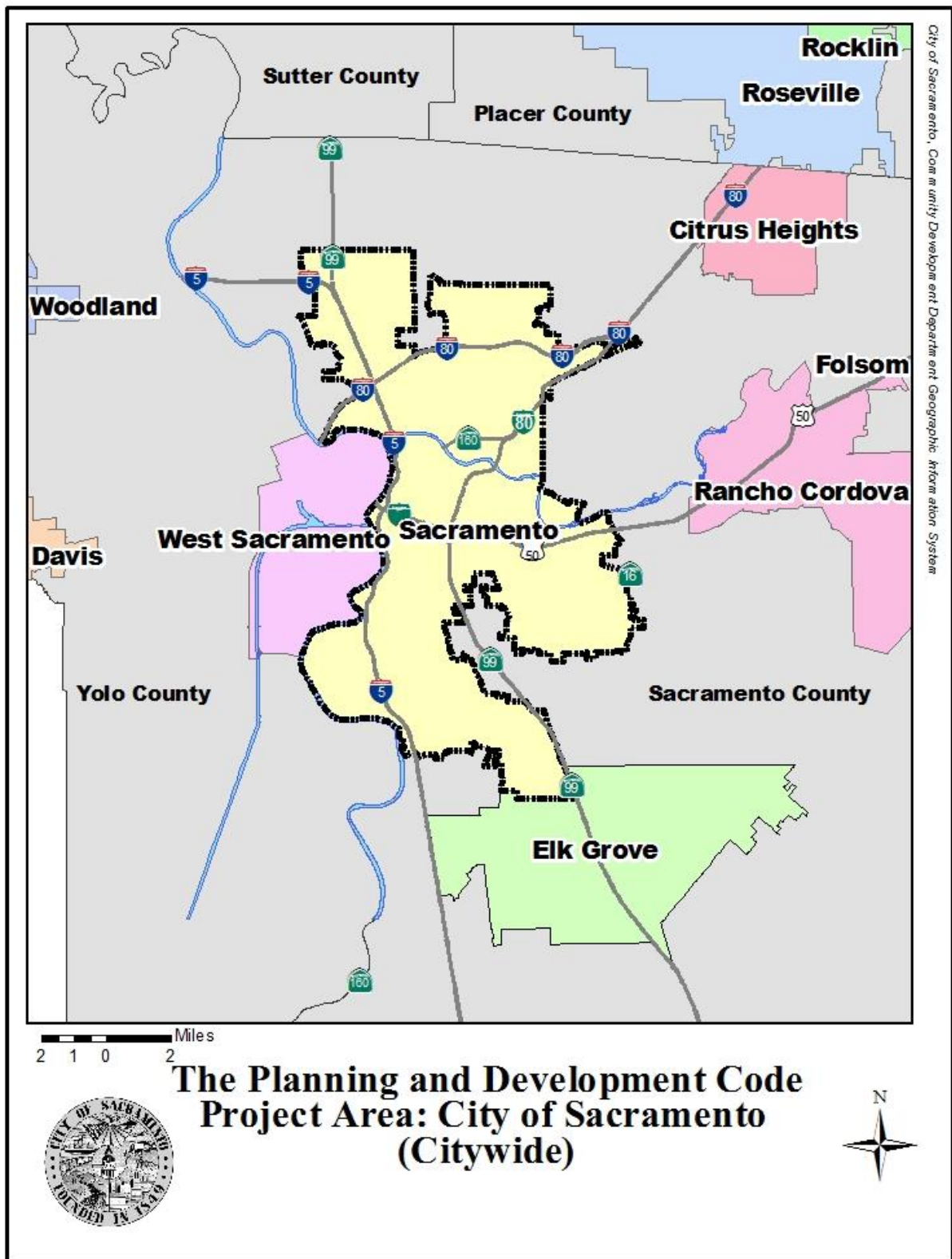
- Update the Parks and Recreation Facilities (Quimby) Ordinance (Chapter 17.512) to:
 - Revise the parkland dedication requirement to be consistent with current parkland levels of service as follows:
 - *1.75 acres per 1,000 people in the Central City Community Plan Area.*
 - *3.5 acres per 1,000 people in the remainder of the City.*
 - Increase size of development projects that are subject to a requirement of dedication of parkland to subdivisions of 250 lots or more, and give the Director discretion to allow an in-lieu fee in cases when parkland dedication is infeasible.
 - Allow partial parkland dedication credit for joint use facilities that function as both a park and stormwater detention.
 - Expand the list of qualifying recreational amenities for an eligible credit of 25%, if the amenities meet specific requirements.

Policies in the 2035 General Plan establish a goal of 5 acres of neighborhood and community parks and other recreational facilities per 1,000 population (ERC 2.2.4) and call for new residential development to pay its fair share of the park acreage service level either through dedication, fees or renovation of existing facilities (ERC 2.2.5). The new LOS standards in the Quimby Ordinance will be 1.75 acres per 1,000 population for the Central City Community Plan Area and 3.5 acres per 1,000 population for the remainder of the City. This LOS standard is consistent with current parkland acreage per 1,000 people in the City.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Vicinity Map

ATTACHMENT 1
VICINITY MAP



Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
1. <u>AESTHETICS, LIGHT AND GLARE</u> Would the proposal:			X
A) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X
B) Substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X
C) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X
D) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X

QUESTIONS 1 (A) TO (D)

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development. These changes would not affect the design process of new facilities, which includes consideration of design and aesthetic impacts for such facilities. New facilities would remain subject to design and aesthetic considerations, and no new effect would result.

Cumulative impacts for aesthetic effects were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Aesthetics.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
2. AIR QUALITY			
<i>Would the proposal:</i>			
A) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X
B) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X
C) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X
D) Exposure sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X
E) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X
F) Interfere with or impede the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SETTING

In December 2006 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the national ambient air quality standard for fine particle pollution to provide increased protection of public health and welfare. The revised standard is 35 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for particles less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers in diameter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$), averaged over 24 hours. In December 2008 the EPA Administrator identified nonattainment areas, and in October 2009 confirmed the designations. Sacramento County is included on this list, along with portions of surrounding counties that contribute to the nonattainment conditions.

The City of Sacramento is within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). According to SMAQMD, Sacramento County is a federal severe nonattainment area and State nonattainment area for ozone, a State nonattainment area and federal moderate nonattainment area for PM_{10} , and a State and federal nonattainment area for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The SMAQMD adopted the following thresholds of significance in 2002:

Ozone and Particulate Matter. An increase of nitrogen oxides (NOx) above 85 pounds per day for short-term effects (construction) would result in a significant impact. An increase of either ozone precursor, nitrogen oxides (NOx) or reactive organic gases (ROG), above 65 pounds per day for long-term effects (operation) would result in a significant impact (as revised by SMAQMD, March 2002). The threshold of significance for PM₁₀ is a concentration based threshold equivalent to the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS). For PM₁₀, a project would have a significant impact if it would emit pollutants at a level equal to or greater than five percent of the CAAQS (50 micrograms/cubic meter for 24 hours) if there were an existing or projected violation; however, if a project is below the ROG and NOx thresholds, it can be assumed that the project is below the PM₁₀ threshold as well (SMAQMD, 2009).

Carbon Monoxide. The pollutant of concern for sensitive receptors is carbon monoxide (CO). Motor vehicle emissions are the dominant source of CO in Sacramento County (SMAQMD, 2009). For purposes of environmental analysis, sensitive receptor locations generally include parks, sidewalks, transit stops, hospitals, rest homes, schools, playgrounds and residences. Commercial buildings are generally not considered sensitive receptors. Carbon monoxide concentrations are considered significant if they exceed the 1-hour state ambient air quality standard of 20.0 parts per million (ppm) or the 8-hour state ambient standard of 9.0 ppm (state ambient air quality standards are more stringent than their federal counterparts).

Toxic Air Contaminants. The project would create a significant impact if it created a risk of 10 in 1 million for cancer (stationary sources only).

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

The 2035 General Plan Master EIR included a discussion of climate change in Chapter 4.14. Policies and implementation programs throughout the Land Use and Mobility elements would promote reductions in vehicle miles traveled by encouraging mixed use, higher density, walkable neighborhood design, bicycle facilities and infrastructure, and public transportation facilities.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-F

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development. These changes would not affect the design process of new facilities, which includes consideration of design and aesthetic impacts for such facilities.

The project would not result in overall emissions in excess of those utilized in the Master EIR for analysis of cumulative effects, and the project would not have any additional significant environmental effects.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

Findings

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Air Quality.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Would the proposal result in impacts to:			
A) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X
B) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X
C) Have substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X
D) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X
E) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X
F) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Master EIR provided that biological resources in the City include plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered, proposed for federal and/or state listing as threatened or endangered, or any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local

or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Additionally, sensitive habitats, habitat for any of the listed or sensitive species described above, and wetlands or other waters regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) are considered significant biological resources. The 2035 General Plan contains policies to guide the location, design, and quality of development to protect important biological resources such as wildlife habitat, open space corridors, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of important biological resources contribute to human health and nurture a viable economy.

Generally, the City is bordered by farmland to the north, farmland and the Sacramento River to the west, the City of Elk Grove to the south, and developed unincorporated portions of Sacramento County to the east. Historically, the natural habitats within the City included perennial grasslands, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, and a variety of wetlands including vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, freshwater marshes, ponds, streams and rivers. Over the last 150 years, development from agriculture, irrigation, flood control, and urbanization has resulted in the loss or alteration of much of the natural habitat within the Policy Area boundaries. Nonnative annual grasses have replaced the native perennial grasslands, many of the natural streams have been channelized, much of the riparian and oak woodlands have been cleared, and most of the marshes have been drained and converted to agricultural or urban uses. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Though the majority of the City's land is committed to residential, commercial, and other urban development, the general plan also emphasizes the importance of habitat areas, parks and open space uses. Habitats that are present in the City and surrounding areas include annual grasslands, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, riverine (rivers and streams), ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, and vernal pools. (City of Sacramento 2009)

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

General Plan Policy ER 2.1.10 requires the City to consider the potential impact on sensitive plants for each project requiring discretionary approval and require preconstruction surveys and/or habitat assessments for sensitive plant and wildlife species.

General Plan Policy ER 2.1.5 requires the City to preserve the ecological integrity of creek corridors, canals, and drainage ditches that support riparian resources by preserving native plants and, to the extent feasible, removing invasive, non-native plants.

General Plan Policy ER 2.1.6 requires the preservation and protection of wetland resources including creeks, rivers, ponds, marshes, vernal pools, and other seasonal wetlands.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this environmental document, an impact would be significant if any of the following conditions or potential thereof, would result with implementation of the proposed project:

- Creation of a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected;
- Substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal; or

- Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands).

For the purposes of this document, “special-status” has been defined to include those species, which are:

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (or formally proposed for, or candidates for, listing);
- Listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (or proposed for listing);
- Designated as endangered or rare, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (Section 1901);
- Designated as fully protected, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (Section 3511, 4700, or 5050);
- Designated as species of concern by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or as species of special concern to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW);
- Plants or animals that meet the definition of rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-F

Chapter 4.3 of the Master EIR evaluated the effects of the 2035 General Plan on biological resources within the general plan policy area. The Master EIR identified potential impacts in terms of degradation of the quality of the environment or reduction of habitat or population below self-sustaining levels of special-status birds, through the loss of both nesting and foraging habitat.

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development. These changes would not affect the evaluation of biological resources that may exist on a project site, and would not affect the analysis of cumulative effects included in the Master EIR.

Cumulative impacts for effects on biological resources were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Biological Resources.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
4. CULTURAL RESOURCES			
<i>Would the proposal:</i>			X
A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?			
B) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			X
C) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X
D) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The 2035 General Plan states that the Sacramento Delta was one of the first regions in California to attract intensive archaeological fieldwork. The first settlements in the Sacramento Valley likely occurred during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene (14,000 to 8,000 B.P.) period. Sacramento’s location within a great valley and at the confluence of two rivers, the Sacramento River and the American River, shaped its early and modern settlements. It is highly likely that Paleo-Indian populations occupied the area with villages located near watercourses. However, the archaeological record of such use is sparse, probably due to recurring natural flood events. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The City of Sacramento contains areas of high sensitivity for archaeological resources; these generally occur adjacent to major waterways (i.e. American and Sacramento Rivers), which is where the Nisenan villages were primarily located. Creeks, other watercourses, and early high spots near waterways that seem likely to have been used for prehistoric occupation are areas of moderate sensitivity for the presence of archaeological resources. Even sites where waterways may have existed in the past but have now been developed could contain archaeological resources due to the presence of “significant historic activities.” (City of Sacramento 2009) Other areas within the City are considered to have low sensitivity for potential archaeological resources (based on previous research); however, this does not rule out the possibility that a site could exist. (City of Sacramento 2009)

According to the 2035 General Plan, the City of Sacramento has designated 29 Historic Districts, 10 historic district surveys in progress, one adopted survey, and two Special Planning Districts. The City Code provides for the compilation of Landmarks, Contributing Resources, and Historic Districts into the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources

(Sacramento Register). The Sacramento Register includes all listed or surveyed historic resources in the City of Sacramento. The Sacramento Register also includes listings or maps of the properties within two of the City's Special Planning Districts that have been afforded preservation protection by ordinance, but are not designated as a Historic District. (City of Sacramento 2009)

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, cultural resource impacts may be considered significant if the proposed project would result in one or more of the following:

1. Cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 or
2. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Answers to Checklist Questions

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources. See Chapter 4.4.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-D

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development. These changes would not affect the potential effects on cultural resources in the City, which are dependent on the location and character of proposed development.

Cumulative impacts for effects cultural resources were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Cultural Resources.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:</p> <p>A) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ii.) Strong seismic ground shaking? iii.) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv.) Landslides? 			X
<p>B) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?</p>			X
<p>C) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?</p>			X
<p>D) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?</p>			X
<p>E) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Sacramento is located in the Great Valley of California. The Great Valley is a flat alluvial plain approximately 50 miles wide and 400 miles long in the central portion of California. The City's topography is relatively flat.

There is a gradual slope rising from elevations as low as sea level in the southwest up to approximately 75 feet above sea level in the northeast. The predominant soil units in the City are the San Joaquin, Clear Lake, Galt, Cosumnes, and Sailboat soils, which account for over 60

percent of the total land area. The remaining soil units each account for only a few percent or less of the total. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Many of the soil units present within the City exhibit high shrink-swell potential. This hazard occurs primarily in soils with high clay content and can cause structural damage to foundations and roads that do not have proper structural engineering and are generally less suitable or desirable for development than non-expansive soils. (City of Sacramento 2009)

There are no known faults within the greater Sacramento region and Policy Area. Faults located closest to the City are the Bear Mountain and New Melones faults to the east, and the Midland Fault to the west. The Dunnigan Hills fault lies northwest of Sacramento. The Sacramento region has experienced ground shaking originating from faults in the Foothills fault zone. (City of Sacramento 2009)

According to the Master EIR, the City is in an area of relatively low severity, characterized by peak ground accelerations between 10 and 20 percent of the acceleration of gravity. This is primarily due the lack of known major faults and low historical seismicity in the region. The maximum earthquake intensity expected from this amount of ground shaking would be between VII and VIII on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale (MMI). (City of Sacramento 2009)

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if it allows a project to be built that will either introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards.

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

Geology, soils and mineral resources were discussed in Chapter 4.5 of the Master EIR. New structures or infrastructure that could be developed were considered. Based on standard review procedures and regulations, the Master EIR concluded that potential effects for exposure to risk were less than significant.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-E

Impacts related to seismic and soil hazards generally occur when new structures or uses are placed within areas of high seismic risk or on unstable soils, such that human safety risks could occur. The proposed revisions to the Planning and Development Code would not allow the construction of any structures that would not be allowed under the General Plan or that would be inconsistent with current City building requirements or State building code. There would not be additional significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Geology and Soils.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
6. HAZARDS Would the project:			
A) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X
B) Create a significant hazard to the public or environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X
C) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X
D) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X
E) For a project located within 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 result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
F) For a project within the vicinity of private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
G) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X
H) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SETTING

Federal regulations and regulations adopted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) apply to the identification and treatment of hazardous materials during demolition and construction activities. Failure to comply with these regulations respecting asbestos may result in a Notice of Violation being issued by the AQMD and civil penalties under state and/or federal law, in addition to possible action by U.S. EPA under federal law.

Federal law covers a number of different activities involving asbestos, including demolition and renovation of structures (40 CFR § 61.145).

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

- expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities;
- expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials; or
- expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during dewatering activities.

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

The Master EIR indicated that the impacts from potential hazards and materials are usually site-specific, and there is a relative absence of cumulative effects. Due to the regulation that substantially controls the use and disposition of hazardous materials, the Master EIR concluded that effects from development that could occur pursuant to the 2035 General Plan were less than significant.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-H

The Proposed Phase II of the Planning and Development Code is consistent with the Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures of the City's 2035 General Plan. No additional construction activities involving asbestos removal, groundwater dewatering, or contaminated soils remediation would occur that were not anticipated in the 2035 General Plan and evaluated in the Master EIR. There would no additional significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Hazards.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
7. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u>			
Would the project:			
A) Violate any water quality standards or waste or discharge requirements?			X
B) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X
C) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X
D) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X
E) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X
F) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			X
G) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X
H) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Precipitation in the City occurs mostly as rain during the months of November through March. Climate data collected from 1941 through 2003 shows that annual rainfall averaged 17.22

inches, but is variable. Recorded annual rainfall has ranged from a low of 6.25 inches in 1976 to a high of 33.44 inches in 1983. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Primary surface water resources in the City include the Sacramento River and the American River. These rivers provide municipal, agricultural, and recreational water supply, as well as freshwater habitat, spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, navigation on the Sacramento River, and the American River. Local surface water drainages and creeks include Steelhead Creek, Bannon Creek, Dry Creek, Magpie Creek, Arcade Creek, Hagginwood Creek, Willow Slough, South Sac Drainage Canal, Pocket Canal, Morrison Creek, Elder Creek, Union House Creek, Strawberry Creek, Laguna Creek North. Man-made drainage canals provide drainage for a large portion of the urbanized areas that are not served by the City's combined sewer system (CSS) or the City's storm drainage collection system. These canals include the Natomas East Main Drain Canal and the East, West, and Main Drainage Canals. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The American and Sacramento rivers are both excellent supplies for drinking water. (City of Sacramento 2009) Other major creeks, drainage canals, and sloughs in the City boundaries are also listed for pesticides and copper. The Natomas East Main Drainage Canal is listed for the pesticide diazinon and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). (City of Sacramento 2009)

In general, stormwater runoff within the City of Sacramento flows into either the City's CSS or into individual drainage pump stations located throughout the Policy Area which discharge to creeks and rivers. The CSS is considered at or near capacity and requires all additional inflow into the system to be mitigated. (City of Sacramento 2009)

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

General Plan Policy ER 1.1.5 requires new development to contribute no net increase in stormwater runoff peak flows over existing conditions associated with a 100- year storm event.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to hydrology and water quality may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the Proposed Project would result in the following impacts that remain significant after implementation of General Plan policies or mitigation from the General Plan Master EIR:

- substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the Specific Plan or
- substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS A-H

The proposed revisions to the Planning and Development Code include a provision that would allow partial parkland dedication credit for joint use facilities that function as both a park and stormwater detention. This provision is intended to encourage the consideration of joint use facilities in park planning. Policies relating to stormwater runoff or quality would remain

unchanged. It is not possible to predict the extent to which this provision would be implemented in practice, but any use of the provision would have beneficial effects on stormwater management, and would not result in any significant effects not considered in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Hydrology and Water Quality.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
8. NOISE Would the project result in:			
A) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X
B) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X
C) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X
D) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X
E) For a project located within 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?			X
F) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

According to the City’s 2035 General Plan, land uses within the City include a range of residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, recreational, and open space areas. Although there are many noise sources within the City, the primary noise source is traffic. Motor vehicles commonly cause sustained noise levels in the vicinity of busy roadways or freeways. Several major freeways run through the Policy Area, including Interstate 5 (I-5), Interstate 80 (I-80), Capital City Freeway (SR 51), US 50, State Route (SR) 99, and SR 160. The City also has many local roads that experience high traffic volumes and contribute traffic noise. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Noise is also generated by airplane traffic, railroads, and various stationary sources. Five airports serve the City: Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, Mather Airport,

McClellan Air Field and Rio Linda Airport. Union Pacific trains and light rail trains traverse the City, including through downtown. (City of Sacramento 2009)

A wide variety of stationary sources are also present in the City including heating and cooling equipment, landscape maintenance activities such as leaf-blowing and gasoline-powered lawnmowers, shipping and loading facilities, concrete crushing facilities, and recycling centers. Outdoor sporting facilities that can attract large numbers of spectators, such as high school or college football fields, can also produce noise that can affect nearby receptors. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Sensitive noise receptors in the City generally include residences, schools, child care centers, hospitals, long-term health care facilities, convalescent centers, and retirement homes. (City of Sacramento 2009)

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thresholds of significance are those established by the Title 24 standards and by the 2035 General Plan Noise Policies and the City Noise Ordinance. Noise and vibration impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed project would be considered significant if they cause any of the following results:

- Exterior noise levels at the proposed project exceeding the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses caused by noise level increases due to the project. (2035 General Plan, Table EC-1, 2015).
- Residential interior noise levels of L_{dn} 45 dB or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project;
- Construction noise levels not in compliance with the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance;
- Occupied existing and project residential and commercial areas are exposed to vibration and peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction;
- Project residential and commercial areas are exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to highway traffic and rail operations; and
- Historic buildings and archaeological sites are exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.25 inches per second due to project construction, highway traffic, and rail operations.

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

Noise and vibration associated with development that could occur pursuant to the 2035 General Plan were considered in Chapter 4.8 of the Master EIR. The Master EIR concluded that increases in exterior noise levels that could result from development associated with the 2035 General Plan were significant and unavoidable.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-F

Construction noise is regulated by the City Code and would result in less-than-significant effects. The cumulative effects of development that could occur consistent with the 2035 General Plan were evaluated in the Master EIR.

The Proposed Phase II of the Planning and Development Code would not allow development to occur that would exceed the levels evaluated in the Master EIR. The revisions in Phase II relate to funding of parks and design of park facilities, and would not result in additional noise effects.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

Findings

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Noise.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
9. PUBLIC SERVICES 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:			X
A) Fire protection?			X
B) Police protection?			X
C) Schools?			X
D) Parks?			X
E) Other public facilities?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

According to the City’s 2035 General Plan Master EIR, the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) is principally responsible for providing police protection services for areas within the City. In addition to the SPD, the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, California Highway Patrol (CHP), University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Medical Center Police Department, and the Regional Transit Police Department support the SPD to provide police protection within the General Plan Policy Area. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) provides fire protection services to the entire City, which includes approximately 98 square miles within the existing City limits as well as three contract areas that include 47 square miles immediately adjacent to the City boundaries within the unincorporated county. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento both implement programs to facilitate emergency preparedness. Specifically, the City of Sacramento Multi-Hazard Emergency Plan addresses the City’s planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and nuclear defense operations for areas within the City’s jurisdictional boundaries. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) is the primary provider of primary and secondary education within the City. Other districts serving residents within the City include the, Robla School District (RSD), Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD), Natomas Unified School District (NUSD), San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD), Rio Linda Union School District (RLUSD), and the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD). Some of these districts have schools outside the City limits but within the General Plan Policy Area. (City of Sacramento 2009)

There are 226 parks and parkways totaling nearly 3,200 acres of land in the city. These consist of three categories, which define the purpose, size and amenities of each park.

Neighborhood parks range in size from 2 to 10 acres, and serve a ½ mile radius. Some neighborhood parks are located adjacent to elementary schools and park amenities are usually oriented toward the recreation needs of children.

Community parks range in size from 6 to 60 acres, and serve a 3-mile radius or several neighborhoods. Community parks contain amenities found in Neighborhood Parks, but may also contain lighted sports fields or courts, skate parks, dog parks, nature areas, and off-street parking and restrooms. Specialized amenities may also be found in community parks including community centers, water play areas or swimming pools.

Regional parks generally range from 75 to 200 acres and serve the entire city and beyond. Amenities in regional parks may include all the amenities found in community parks and also include sports complexes, large scale picnic areas, golf courses, and region-wide attractions.

The American River Parkway is an open space greenbelt which extends from the confluence of the American River and the Sacramento River, through the City of Sacramento, eastward 29 miles to the Folsom Dam. While the County of Sacramento has the principal responsibility for administration and management of the Parkway, it functions as a regional park for the city.

The 2035 General Plan includes the following policies related to parks:

ERC 2.2.4

Park Acreage Service Level Goal. The City shall strive to develop and maintain 5 acres of neighborhood and community parks and other recreational facilities/sites per 1,000 population. (MPSP/SO)

ERC 2.2.5

Meeting Service Level Goal. The City shall require new residential development to meet its fair share of the park acreage service level goal by either dedicating land for new parks, paying a fair share of the costs for new parks and recreation facilities or renovation of existing parks and recreation facilities. For new development in urban areas where land dedication or acquisition is constrained by a lack of available suitable properties (e.g., the Central City), new development shall either construct improvements or pay fees for existing park and recreation enhancements to address increased use. Additionally, the City shall identify and pursue the best possible options for park development, such as joint use, regional park partnerships, private open space, acquisition of parkland, and use of grant funding. (RDR/MPSP/FB)

The 2035 General Plan also includes the following implementation measures (Table 4-8):

- The City shall review and update the Park Development Impact Fee Program and Quimby Ordinance to reflect the anticipated need for existing facility rehabilitation and renovation, higher parkland acquisition and construction costs, and development of active sport areas.
- The City shall, at least every five years review and update, as necessary, the Park Development Impact Fee Program and Quimby Ordinance to address existing facility

rehabilitation and renovation and anticipated parkland land acquisition and construction needs/costs. The City may also (or alternatively) select to appropriate other funds to address facilities rehabilitation and renovation on a case-by-case basis.

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

The Master EIR identified goals and policies that would mitigate the effects of new development on public health and safety; fire protection; schools; libraries; and emergency services. The Master EIR concluded that these policies were effective to reduce all cumulative effects to a less-than-significant level. The proposed revisions to the Planning and Development Code would not cause new impacts with respect to these services.

The Master EIR identified two impacts related to parks and recreation: (Master EIR, page ES-12):

- Impact 4.9-1: Potential physical deterioration of existing parks or recreational facilities due to increased use.
- Impact 4.9-2: Potential to increase need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.

A determination was made that the impacts were less than significant after policies were implemented. No mitigation was required. (Master EIR, page ES-12).

THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts to public services are considered significant if the proposed project would require new or expanded facilities to serve the additional demand resulting from the project.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

The proposed revision to City Code to reduce parkland dedication requirements in the Quimby ordinance consistent with current parkland acreage would result in impacts that are less than significant when all of the proposed changes (i.e., parkland dedication, in-lieu fee, and joint-use facilities) considered.

The Proposed Phase II of the Planning and Development Code is consistent with the Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures of the City's 2035 General Plan:

ERC 2.2.5 Meeting Service Level Goal. The City shall require new residential development to meet its fair share of the park acreage service level goal by either dedicating land for new parks, paying a fair share of the costs for new parks and recreation facilities or renovation of existing parks and recreation facilities. For new development in urban areas where land dedication or acquisition is constrained by a lack of available suitable properties (e.g., the Central City), new development shall either construct improvements or pay fees for existing park and recreation enhancements to address increased use. Additionally, the City shall identify and pursue the best possible options for park development, such as joint use,

regional park partnerships, private open space, acquisition of parkland, and use of grant funding.

ERC 2.2.6 Urban Park Facility Improvements. In urban areas where land dedication is not reasonably feasible (e.g., the Central City), the City shall explore creative solutions to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities (e.g., provision of community-serving recreational facilities in regional parks) that reflect the unique character of the area.

The proposed revisions would not 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.

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development.

Cumulative impacts for effects on public facilities, including parks, were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The proposed revision to the parkland dedication requirement to coincide with standards currently in place would not result in any change in the impact analysis set forth in the MEIR. The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Public Services.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
10. <u>RECREATION</u>			
A) 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?			X
B) 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?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Parks Department maintains more than 2,400 acres of developed parkland, and manages more than 215 parks, 81 miles of off-street bikeways and trails, 17 lakes, ponds or beaches, over 20 aquatic facilities and provides park and recreation services at City-owned facilities within the City of Sacramento. Several facilities within the City of Sacramento are owned or operated by other jurisdictions, such as the County of Sacramento and the State of California. The City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) guides park development in the City. (City of Sacramento 2009)

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to recreational resources are considered significant if the proposed project would do either of the following:

- cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities; or
- create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Goals and policies in the 2035 General Plan that relate to recreation and recreational resources were identified in the Master EIR at pages 5-20 to 5-29. The Master EIR concluded that the cumulative effects on such resources were less than significant.

According to the 2035 General Plan MEIR, the City currently provided approximately 3.4 acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents citywide. With the existing trails and bikeways located throughout the City, the current service level is 0.2 miles of trails/bikeways per

1,000 residents. (City of Sacramento 2009) The LOS standards proposed for the Phase II Planning and Development code are 1.75 acres per 1,000 population for the Central City Community Plan Area and 3.5 acres per 1,000 population for the remainder of the City.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-B

The proposed project effects on park planning are discussed in Public Services, above.

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development.

Cumulative impacts for effects on Recreation were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Recreation.

Issues:	Effect remains significant with all identified mitigation	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
11. <u>TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION</u>			
Would the project:			
A) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections?)			X
B) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X
C) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			X
D) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X
E) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X
F) Result in inadequate parking capacity?			X
G) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative modes of transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City’s roadway network includes federal interstates, state highways, and City streets (arterial, collector, and local streets).

Interstate, U.S., and State numbered routes are an integral part of the City’s transportation system. These facilities are maintained by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The City’s roadway network consists of local, collector, and arterial roadways. The most common type of major roadway within the City is a four-lane arterial, although six and eight-lane arterials are also provided in areas with high traffic volumes.

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) provides local bus and light rail service within the City and greater Sacramento area. The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) operates 67

bus routes and 38.6 miles of light rail covering a 418 square-mile service area. Buses and light rail run 365 days a year using 76 light rail vehicles, 182 buses (with an additional 30 buses in reserve) powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) and 11 shuttle vans. (SacRT 2013)

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The standards of significance for Transportation utilize policies in the 2035 General Plan, Mobility Element and, when appropriate, standards used by regulatory agencies. For traffic flow on the freeway system, the standards of Caltrans have been used.

Roadway Segments

A significant traffic impact occurs for roadway segments when:

1. The traffic generated by a project degrades peak period Level of Service (LOS) from A,B,C or D (without the project) to E or F (with project); or
2. The LOS (without project) is E or F, and project generated traffic increases the Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (V/C ratio) by 0.02 or more.

Intersections

A significant traffic impact occurs for intersections when:

1. The traffic generated by a project degrades peak period level of service from A, B, C or D (without project) to E or F (with project); or
2. The LOS (without project) is E or F, and project generated traffic increases the peak period average vehicle delay by five seconds or more.

Freeway Facilities

Caltrans considers the following to be significant impacts:

- Off-ramps with vehicle queues that extend into the ramp's deceleration area or onto the freeway;
- Project traffic increases that cause any ramp's merge/diverge level of service to be worse than the freeway's level of service;
- Project traffic increases that cause the freeway level of service to deteriorate beyond level of service threshold defined in the Caltrans Route Concept Report for the facility; or
- The expected ramp queue is greater than the storage capacity.

Transit

Impacts to the transit system are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Adversely affect public transit operations or
- Fail to adequately provide for access to public transit.

Bicycle Facilities

Impacts to bicycle facilities are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Adversely affect bicycle travel, bicycle paths or
- Fail to adequately provide for access by bicycle.

Pedestrian Circulation

Impacts to pedestrian circulation are considered significant if the proposed project would:

- adversely affect pedestrian travel, pedestrian paths or
- fail to adequately provide for access by pedestrians.

Parking

Impacts to parking are considered significant if the proposed project would eliminate or adversely affect an existing parking facility, interfere with the implementation of a proposed parking facility, or result in an inadequate supply of parking.

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

The Master EIR evaluated transportation and circulation issues in Chapter 4.12, and concluded that cumulative development associated with the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable effects.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-G

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development.

Cumulative impacts for transportation and circulation effects were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Transportation and Circulation.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
12. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS			
Would the project:			
A) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			X
B) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X
C) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X
D) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			X
E) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X
F) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid water disposal needs?			X
G) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Sacramento provides municipal water service to the area within the City limits and to several small areas within the county of Sacramento. The City's water facilities also include water storage reservoirs, pumping facilities, and a system of transmission and distribution mains. The City possesses surface water rights to divert both Sacramento and American river water. The Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant (FWTP) and the Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant divert water from the American and Sacramento rivers, respectively. The City also operates permitted municipal groundwater supply wells within the City limits that pump from the North American and South American Groundwater basins. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The City provides wastewater collection to about two-thirds of the area within the City limits.

Within the City, there are two distinct areas: areas served by a separate sewer system, and an area served by a combined sewer system. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) and the Sacramento Area Sewer District (formerly County Services District [CSD-1]) provide both collection and treatment services within their service area for the portions of the City served by the separate sewer system. The older Central City area is served by a system in which sanitary sewage and storm drainage are collected and conveyed in the same system of pipelines, referred to as the Combined Sewer System (CSS). The Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located just south of the City Limits, is owned and operated by SRCSD and provides sewage treatment for the entire Policy Area. Sewage is routed to the wastewater treatment plant by collections systems owned by SRCSD and the cities of Sacramento and Folsom. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The City's separate storm drainage system includes conveyance of storm water and dry weather urban runoff to the adjacent creeks and rivers. The separate drainage system consists of street drains, conveyance systems, and usually a pump station to discharge ultimately into either the Sacramento or American River. These discharges are regulated for water quality by the Regional Water Quality Control Board NPDES permit. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Solid waste in the City of Sacramento is collected by City and permitted private haulers. The City offers both commercial and residential solid waste collection services. Construction and demolition waste is collected by the City and private companies. Commercial solid waste is transported to either the Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station owned by BLT Enterprises or the North Area Transfer Station. From the City's transfer stations the commercial solid waste is then transported to the Lockwood Regional Landfill located in Sparks, Nevada. If residential and municipal solid waste is taken to the North Area Recovery Station (NARS)/County Facility or processing the waste is then transported to the Sacramento County (Kiefer) Landfill, operated by the County's Solid Waste Management and Recycling Department (the primary solid waste disposal facility in Sacramento County). Kiefer Landfill, categorized as a Class III facility, also accepts waste from the general public, businesses, and private waste haulers. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The City also provides residential curb-side recycling pick-up. Following collection, recyclables are transferred to the Sacramento Transfer Station for processing. The City also offers a commercial recycling program in which businesses are provided containers for co-mingled recyclable materials. (City of Sacramento 2009)

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is responsible for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electrical power to its 900 square mile service area, which includes most of Sacramento County and a small portion of Placer County. SMUD is a publicly owned utility governed by a board of seven directors that make policy decisions and appoint the general manager, the individual responsible for the District's operations. SMUD obtains its electricity from a variety of sources, including hydro-generation, cogeneration plants, advanced and renewable technologies (such as wind, solar, and biomass/landfill gas power) and power purchased on the wholesale market. (City of Sacramento 2009)

Natural gas service is provided to the City of Sacramento by PG&E. PG&E provides electrical and natural gas services through state regulated public utility contracts. The utility company is bound by contract to update its systems to meet any additional demand. (City of Sacramento 2009)

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact would be considered significant if the project resulted in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, or school facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2035 General Plan:

- result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments or
- require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

2035 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

The Master EIR evaluated the effects of development under the 2035 General Plan on water supply, sewer and storm drainage, solid waste, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. See Chapter 4.11.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

A-G

The proposed adoption of the revisions to the Planning and Development Code would include technical changes to make the code easier to use and navigate, and would not affect the character or extent of physical development in the City. Other changes to the code would include revisions to park service level goals as they relate to fair share requirements for new residential development. The proposed changes would not affect the extent to which public services are required.

Cumulative impacts for effects on utilities and public services were considered in the Master EIR. The proposed revisions would not result in any significant effects not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Utilities and Service Systems.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues:	Effect remains significant with all identified mitigation	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
13. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE			
A.) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X
B.) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)			X
C.) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X

Answers to Checklist Questions

A -C

The proposed revisions to the Planning and Development Code would result in a less-than-significant impact related to quality of the environment, reduction of wildlife habitat or population, elimination of plant or animal community, or reduction in number or restriction in range of special-status species, which is consistent with what has been evaluated in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR.

The revisions would not result in development or other ground disturbing construction activities beyond those anticipated under the 2035 General Plan; therefore, subsurface archaeological resources would not be affected beyond what was evaluated under the 2035 General Plan

Master EIR. The project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to elimination of important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

The Master EIR evaluated cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the 2035 General Plan. The revisions to the Planning and Development Code are consistent with the Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures identified in the 2035 General Plan and would not allow development that is not allowed under the 2035 General Plan. Therefore, as described in this Initial Study, impacts resulting from the proposed Phase II Planning and Development Code, including cumulative impacts, would not be greater than the impacts analyzed in the Master EIR.

SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project.

	Aesthetics		Hazards
	Air Quality		Noise
	Biological Resources		Public Services
	Cultural Resources		Recreation
	Energy and Mineral Resources		Transportation/Circulation
	Geology and Soils		Utilities and Service Systems
	Hydrology and Water Quality		
X	None Identified		

SECTION V - DETERMINATION

On the basis of the initial study:

I find that (a) the proposed project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2035 General Plan Master EIR; (b) the proposed project is consistent with the 2035 General Plan land use designation and the permissible densities and intensities of use for the project site; and (c) the proposed project **will not** have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives will be required. Mitigation measures from the Master EIR will be applied to the proposed project as appropriate. Notice shall be provided pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(b))


Signature

10/6/16
Date

Greg Sandlund, Senior Planner

REFERENCES CITED

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