

4.0

INTRODUCTION TO THE ANALYSIS

4.0.1 INTRODUCTION

The environmental assessment of the Lincoln40 Project (proposed project) is included in Chapter 4 (Sections 4.1 through 4.12) of this EIR. Each technical section analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed project on a range of environmental issue areas in the vicinity of the project as they exist at the time when the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is published. The “environmental setting” would normally constitute the “baseline condition” against which project-related impacts are compared. Therefore, the baseline conditions for this EIR are based on conditions that existed in August 2016 when the NOP was published. The format of each of the technical sections is described below.

4.0.2 DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Under CEQA, a significant effect is defined as a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the environment (Public Resources Code § 21068). The Guidelines implementing CEQA direct that this determination be based on scientific and factual data. The specific criteria for determining the significance of a particular impact are identified within the impact discussion in each section, and are consistent with significance criteria set forth in the CEQA Guidelines.

4.0.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THIS EIR

The EIR provides the analysis necessary to address the technical environmental impacts of the proposed project. The following environmental issues are addressed in this EIR:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources;
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Biological Resources;
- Cultural Resources;
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- Hydrology and Water Quality;
- Land Use and Planning;
- Noise;
- Population and Housing;
- Public Services and Recreation;
- Transportation and Circulation; and
- Utilities and Service Systems.

Each technical section is divided into the following four sections: Introduction, Existing Environmental Setting, Regulatory Context, and Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

As discussed in the Introduction chapter of this EIR, the proposed project would be consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) adopted by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). Qualifying in-fill projects that are consistent with SACOG's MTP/SCS are granted CEQA streamlining benefits, including the following:

1. The EIR is not required to reference, describe, or discuss (1) growth inducing impacts, or (2) any project specific or cumulative impacts from cars and light-duty truck trips generated by the project on global warming or the regional transportation network. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21159.28, subd. (a); see also Pub. Resources Code, § 21094.5, subd. (b)(2).)
2. Alternative locations, densities, and building intensities to the proposed project need not be considered. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21094.5, subd. (b)(1); see also Pub. Resources Code, § 21159.28, subd. (b).)
3. Aesthetic and parking impacts should not be considered significant impacts on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21099, subd. (d)(1).)

The City understands that while the above listed topics may not be required to be included in the EIR for the purposes of complying with CEQA, for the purpose of public disclosure these issues are addressed within the relevant sections of this EIR (i.e., Aesthetics and Visual Resources, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Transportation and Circulation, Statutorily Required Sections, and Alternatives Analysis) to the extent determined appropriate by the City.

4.0.4 SECTION FORMAT

Each technical chapter addressing a specific environmental issue begins with an **introduction** describing the purpose of the section. The introduction is followed by a description of the project's **existing environmental setting** as the setting pertains to that particular issue. The setting description is followed by the **regulatory context** and the **impacts and mitigation measures** discussion, which contains the **standards of significance**, followed by the **method of analysis**. The **impact and mitigation** discussion includes impact statements prefaced by a number in bold-faced type (for both project-level and cumulative analyses). An explanation of each impact and an analysis of the impact's significance follow each impact statement. All mitigation measures pertinent to each individual impact follow directly after the impact statement (see below). The degree of relief provided by identified mitigation measures is also evaluated. An example of the format is shown below.

4.x-1 Statement of Impact

Discussion of impact for the proposed project in paragraph format.

Statement of *level of significance* of impact prior to mitigation is included at the end of each impact discussion. The following levels of significance are used in the EIR: less than significant, significant, or significant and unavoidable. If an impact is determined to be significant, mitigation will be included in order to reduce the specific impact to the maximum extent feasible.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Statement of *level of significance* after the mitigation is included immediately preceding mitigation measures.

4.x-1(a) *Required mitigation measure(s) presented in italics and listed in consecutive order.*

4.x-1(b) *etc., etc.*