

CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

The County reviewed the environmental impacts and mitigation measures for each issue area addressed in the 2011 GPU PEIR to determine whether impacts associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendment, CAP Update, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Threshold, and the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Climate Change* (Guidelines) (collectively referred to as the project) would fall within the scope of the General Plan, are addressed in the certified 2011 GPU PEIR, and incorporate all applicable performance standards and mitigation measures identified therein. Where any of these conditions may not occur, the resource is fully evaluated in Chapter 2, “Environmental Effects of the Project,” of this draft SEIR. Where the County concluded that implementation of the GHG reduction measures and actions in the CAP Update would not have potential to affect the conclusions of the 2011 GPU PEIR for certain topics, these topics are not analyzed further in this SEIR. Where issues will not be discussed in detail in an EIR, Section 15128 of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR “contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various potentially significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR.”

This chapter includes a discussion of the reasons that various possible effects of the project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in this SEIR (pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15128). As discussed below, the project would not change the conclusions relative to the analyses of geology and soils, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems, and no further detailed analysis is warranted.

3.1 Geology and Soils

In Section 2.6, “Geology and Soils,” the 2011 GPU PEIR did not identify potentially significant direct and cumulative impacts related to geology and soils. Therefore, no mitigation measures were required. As described therein, development as a matter of standard process and conditions of approval would be required to comply with all relevant federal, state, and local regulations and building standards, including the California Building Code (CBC) and County-required geotechnical reconnaissance reports and investigations which would minimize the risk of seismic, soil stability, and expansive soils hazards. Compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, CBC, and County Grading Ordinance would prevent potential impacts to soil erosion. Development would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations related to septic tanks and wastewater disposal, including County Department of Environmental Health and Quality standards to prevent water quality issues because of ineffective septic and wastewater systems. Development would also be required to follow all applicable regulatory processes, including compliance with the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Geologic Hazards* (County of San Diego 2007). Therefore, potential impacts related to geology and soils would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures were required.

Existing conditions related to geology and soils have not changed substantially since certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. Implementation of the project would require that development projects be consistent with the CAP Update and its GHG reduction measures and supporting actions. Implementation of the CAP Update is intended to reduce GHG emissions by improving multimodal transportation and ridesharing options and fuel efficiency; increasing building energy efficiency, renewable energy use and access, waste diversion, and water conservation; and reducing emissions from agriculture. Implementation of the project would not expose people or structures to adverse effects resulting from geologic hazards because the CAP Update's GHG reduction measures and supporting efforts would not amend, revise, or be inconsistent with any existing regulations related to geology and soils for development projects. These activities would be required to comply with provisions for geological stability established by the Uniform Building Code and CBC.

Any development or expansion of facilities associated with subsequent projects implemented consistent with the CAP Update would be required to comply with existing regulations intended to protect people and structures from seismic hazards, soil instability and expansive soils, and would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving risks related to these hazards. The project would not amend or revise any regulations in place to prevent soil erosion, water quality impacts from septic tanks and wastewater disposal, or impacts to unique geologic features or expose more people and structures to these hazards. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts not analyzed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, nor would it result in impacts that are more severe than discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Therefore, the findings of the certified 2011 GPU PEIR regarding geology and soils remain valid, and no further analysis is required.

3.2 Mineral Resources

In Section 2.10, "Mineral Resources," the 2011 GPU PEIR identified potentially significant direct and cumulative impacts related to mineral resources due to the loss of availability of mineral resources that would be valuable to local and state entities.

General Plan Policies COS-10.1 through COS-10.4, COS-10.6, COS-10.8, and COS-10.9 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Min-1.1 through Min-1.3 facilitate protection of mineral resource areas from incompatible land uses, require that road access to mining facilities be maintained, and provide for streamlined permitting of mining operations. The policies and measures were identified to reduce impacts but not to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, development associated with the General Plan was identified to result in direct and cumulatively significant impacts related to mineral resources availability and impacts to mineral recovery sites.

Existing conditions related to mineral resources have not changed substantially since certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. Implementation of the project is intended to reduce GHG emissions by improving multimodal transportation and ridesharing options, improving fuel efficiency, increasing building energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy use and access, increasing waste diversion, increasing water conservation, and reducing emissions from agriculture. Potential impacts to mineral resources generally

occur when a development project permanently precludes the potential to mine the resource located within a site.

The 2011 GPU PEIR evaluated the effect of General Plan buildout on the availability of mineral resources and identified a significant impact. The activities anticipated with implementation of the CAP Update would be consistent with COS-10.1 through COS-10.4, COS-10.6, COS-10.8, and COS-10.9, as well as 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Min-1.1 through Min-1.3, which facilitate protection of mineral resource areas from incompatible land uses.

Because of the limited footprint associated with most projects that would result from CAP Update implementation, the project would not result in new or more significant impacts related to mineral resources beyond that identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. In addition, the CAP Update would not amend, revise, or be inconsistent with any existing regulations related to mineral resources. Further, as described above, General Plan policies related to mineral resource extraction and protection discourage development would preclude future development of mining facilities and require that development, including housing, be designed to minimize conflicts with existing and potential future mining facilities.

Smaller renewable energy projects associated with the CAP Update would not involve major grading or dredging activities that would result in the loss of a significant mineral resource. Some smaller projects would be roof mounted and would not result in any ground disturbance. Other smaller facilities may require earthwork activities consisting of minor grading at ground surface for the construction of towers and concrete foundations, which would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region. Future large-scale renewable energy projects (including solar and wind projects) would be subject to discretionary review. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement measures to minimize impacts to mineral resources, as necessary. Potential future farmworker housing also would be subject to CEQA compliance and would be required to implement General Plan policies governing development within a mineral resource zone. As necessary, such projects would be required to implement applicable GPU PEIR mitigation measure or recommend new mitigation measures to reduce impacts on mineral resources.

The CAP Update would not result in new or more severe project or cumulative impacts not analyzed in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Therefore, the findings of the certified 2011 GPU PEIR regarding mineral resources remain valid, and no further analysis is required.

3.3 Population and Housing

In Section 2.12, "Population and Housing," the 2011 GPU PEIR did not identify any potentially significant direct or cumulative impacts related to population growth, displacement of housing, or displacement of people. Therefore, no mitigation measures were required. While implementation of the land use plans adopted as part of the General Plan would result in population growth, the General Plan includes a framework for land use and development that is intended to discourage unanticipated and inappropriate growth within the unincorporated county. Similarly, the General Plan complies with state policies

regarding the provision of housing and does not displace substantial numbers of people. Therefore, impacts related to population and housing were identified as less than significant.

Existing conditions related to population and housing have not changed substantially since the certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. In fact, projected development is lower than anticipated in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Implementation of the CAP Update would not induce population growth directly or indirectly, because the GHG reduction measures do not propose new housing, other than potential future farmworker housing to serve the needs of existing workers by providing housing that is more proximate to work sites, nor do they propose changes to policies or regulations related to land use or residential zoning. Implementation of the project is intended to reduce GHG emissions by improving multimodal transportation and ridesharing options, improving fuel efficiency, increasing building energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy use and access, increasing waste diversion, increasing water conservation, and reducing emissions from agriculture.

GHG reduction measures that would facilitate the construction of future electric vehicle infrastructure (Action E-3.1), transit access improvements (Action T-6.2), multimodal transportation improvements (Action T-5.1), and roof- or ground-mounted solar (Action E-3.2) could require a temporary increase in the number of construction workers. These types of projects are small construction projects, which would not require a large construction crew. Furthermore, construction workers would likely be from the San Diego County area, and permanent, substantial relocation of workers would not be required.

Implementation of the project also could result in the implementation of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, which could result in additional land being permanently set aside for agriculture, consistent with goals and policies of the General Plan. This could result in a small decrease in the amount of existing acreage designated for residential land use. However, it is not likely that land developed with existing housing or designated for higher densities would be converted because the land value for property that is designated for residential is higher than property designated for agricultural. Therefore, the potential loss of existing/future residential units would be nominal. Similarly, potential large-scale renewable energy projects would not induce substantial unplanned population growth or displace a substantial number of housing units or people. Typically, large-scale renewable energy development would not employ substantial numbers of people beyond project construction, and the construction activities would be temporary. Construction workers would generally be from the region and are generally not expected to relocate for temporary employment. Implementation of the project would not displace residents or induce population growth in the county.

Implementation of the CAP Update measures and actions would not induce unplanned population growth or displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts not analyzed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, and there is no substantial new information indicating that an impact would be more severe than discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR. The findings of the certified 2011 GPU PEIR pertaining to population growth remain valid, and no further analysis is required.

3.4 Public Services

In Section 2.13, “Public Services,” the 2011 GPU PEIR identified potentially significant direct and cumulative impacts related to the provision of fire, police, school, and other public services because of growth accommodated by buildout of the General Plan.

General Plan Policies LU-1.4, LU-6.4, LU-6.11, LU-12.3, LU-12.4, S-3.4, S-5.1, S-5.2, and S-6.1 through S-6.5 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Pub-1.1 through Pub-1.9, as well as other measures listed in Sections 2.1 through 2.17 of the 2011 GPU PEIR related to specific resources, were identified to reduce direct and cumulative impacts related to the construction of new fire protection facilities to a less-than-significant level.

General Plan Policies LU-1.4, LU-12.3, and LU-12.4 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Pub-1.1 through Pub-1.3, as well as other measures listed in Sections 2.1 through 2.17 of the 2011 GPU PEIR related to specific resources, were identified to reduce direct and cumulative impacts related to the construction of new police protection facilities to a less-than-significant level.

General Plan Policies LU-1.4, LU-9.7, LU-12.3, LU-12.4, LU-17.1 through LU-17.4, and LU-18.2 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Pub-1.1 through Pub-1.3, Pub-3.1, and Pub-3.2 were identified to minimize impacts related to the construction or expansion of new school facilities. The construction of these facilities would have the potential to result in significant environmental impacts. However, the planning, design, approval, and construction of school facilities is not within the County’s jurisdiction; it is the responsibility of the individual school districts. Therefore, although the individual school districts are required to prepare plans for the accommodation of future growth in their district service areas, the County cannot guarantee that impacts associated with the development of new school facilities would not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the 2011 GPU PEIR concludes that direct and cumulative impacts would remain significant and unavoidable because of the County’s limited authority to control the construction of facilities.

General Plan Policies LU-1.4, LU-9.4, LU-9.7, LU-12.3, LU-12.4, LU-18.1, and LU-18.2 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Pub-1.1 through Pub-1.3, as well as other measures listed in Sections 2.1 through 2.17 of the 2011 GPU PEIR related to specific resources, were identified to reduce direct and cumulative impacts related to the construction/expansion of public libraries facilities to a less-than-significant level.

Existing conditions related to the provision of public services have not changed substantially since certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. Implementation of the project would require that development projects be consistent with the CAP Update and its GHG reduction measures. Implementation of the project is intended to reduce GHG emissions by improving multimodal transportation and ridesharing options, improving fuel efficiency, increasing building energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy use and access, increasing waste diversion, increasing water conservation, and reducing emissions from agriculture. Implementation of subsequent projects, such as traffic-calming measures and small-scale renewable energy projects, would not directly affect the provision of public services, nor contribute to population growth that could result in an increase for demand

for public services. Similarly, large-scale renewable energy projects would not involve uses that would result in the need for significantly altered services or facilities. Furthermore, future large-scale renewable projects (including solar and wind projects) will be subject to discretionary review. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement measures to minimize impacts to public services, as necessary. Other than the exploration of potential opportunities for the future development of farmworker housing, which would be intended to serve the needs of existing workers, these types of projects would not have a population-generating component and, therefore, no increase in demand for public services is expected.

Implementation of the CAP Update would not directly affect the provision of public services, nor contribute to population growth that could result in an increase in demand for public services. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts not analyzed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, nor would it result in impacts that are more severe than discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR. The findings of the certified 2011 GPU PEIR pertaining to public services remain valid, and no further analysis is required.

3.5 Recreation

In Section 2.14, "Recreation," the 2011 GPU PEIR identified potentially significant direct and cumulative impacts related to the provision of parks and recreation facilities because of the growth accommodated by buildout of the General Plan. General Plan Policies LU 12.1, LU 12.2, M 12.1 through M 12.8, M 12.10, H 2.2, COS 21.1, COS 21.2, COS 22.1, COS 23.1, COS 23.2, COS 24.1, and COS 24.2 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Rec-1.1 through Rec-1.12 were identified to reduce impacts associated with increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would not occur or be accelerated. Further, General Plan Policies LU 6.4, LU 9.7, LU 18.2, M 12.5, M 12.9, M 12.10, H 2.2, COS 21.2, COS 21.3, COS 21.4, COS 23.1, and COS 23.3 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures Rec-1.1 through Rec-1.4, Rec-1.8, Rec-1.9, Rec-1.11, and Rec-2.1 through Rec-2.6 were identified to reduce impacts associated with the construction and operation of new parks and recreation facilities. The 2011 GPU PEIR determined that adherence to these policies and implementation of identified mitigation measures would reduce direct and cumulative impacts to less than significant.

Existing conditions related to the provision of recreational facilities have not changed substantially since the certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. Implementation of the project is intended to reduce GHG emissions by improving multimodal transportation and ridesharing options, improving fuel efficiency, increasing building energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy use and access, increasing waste diversion, increasing water conservation, and reducing emissions from agriculture.

Implementation of the CAP Update would not directly affect the provision of park and recreation facilities, nor contribute to population growth that could increase the use of existing park and recreation facilities resulting in the physical deterioration of such facilities. While exploration of future opportunities for the development of farmworker

housing would occur with the CAP Update, this housing would be constructed to serve existing demand for housing closer to worksite locations. Such housing, along with other future projects, would be required to comply with General Plan policies and 2011 GPU PEIR mitigation measures that would effectively reduce potential impacts to less than significant, as described for buildout of the General Plan in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts not analyzed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, nor would it result in impacts that are more severe than discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Therefore, the findings of the certified 2011 GPU PEIR pertaining to park and recreation facilities remain valid, and no further analysis is required.

3.6 Utilities and Service Systems

In Section 2.16, “Utilities and Service Systems,” the 2011 GPU PEIR identified potentially significant direct and cumulative impacts related to the construction/expansion of water, wastewater, stormwater, and landfill facilities because of the growth accommodated by buildout of the General Plan. As described below, the 2011 GPU PEIR concludes that most effects on provision of utilities are adequately addressed through adherence to General Plan policies and mitigation measures identified in the 2011 GPU PEIR. Impacts related to provision of water and potential for effects on the groundwater table were determined to be significant and unavoidable.

Specifically, the 2011 GPU PEIR made the following determinations:

- Direct and cumulative impacts of General Plan implementation related to the potential for exceedance of Regional Water Quality Control Board’s wastewater treatment requirements would be reduced to less than significant through compliance with General Plan Policies LU 9.4, LU 12.1, LU 12.2, and LU 14.1 through LU 14.4 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures USS-1.1 through USS-1.3.
- Direct and cumulative impacts of General Plan implementation related to provision of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects would be reduced to less than significant through compliance with General Plan Policies LU 1.2, LU 4.3, and H 1.3 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures USS-2.1 through USS-2.3.
- Direct and cumulative impacts of General Plan implementation related to provision of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects, would be reduced to less than significant through compliance with General Plan Policies LU 6.5, LU 6.9, and COS 4.3 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures USS-3.1 through USS-3.5.
- Direct and cumulative impacts of General Plan implementation related to provision of adequate wastewater capacity to service projected demand in addition to a provider’s existing commitments would be reduced to less than significant through compliance with General Plan Policy LU 4.3 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures USS-1.1 through USS-1.3.
- Direct and cumulative impacts of General Plan implementation would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to demand for water that exceeds

existing entitlements and resources, or necessitates new or expanded entitlements; and substantial depletion of groundwater supplies or interference with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level despite compliance with General Plan Policies LU 8.1, LU 8.2, LU 13.1, LU 13.2, COS 4.1 through COS 4.4, COS 5.2, and COS 5.5 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures USS-4.1 through USS-4.7.

- Direct and cumulative impacts of General Plan implementation would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to landfill capacity despite compliance with General Plan Policies LU 12.1, LU 12.2, LU 16.1, LU 16.2, LU 16.3, COS 17.1 through COS 17.4, COS 17.6, COS 17.7, and COS 17.8 and 2011 GPU PEIR Mitigation Measures USS-6.1 through USS-6.8.

Existing conditions related to utilities have not changed substantially since the certification of the 2011 GPU PEIR. Implementation of the project would require that development projects be consistent with the CAP Update and its GHG reduction measures and supporting efforts. The CAP Update would not result in development proposals with a population-generating component. While the potential for future development of farmworker housing would be explored as a result of the CAP Update, such housing would be constructed to serve existing farmworker populations by providing housing closer to worksite locations. Any associated impacts related to utilities or service systems would not be new or more significant as compared to the findings of the 2011 GPU PEIR. Therefore, the CAP Update would not increase long-term demand for utilities or services.

Construction activities associated with subsequent projects required to implement the CAP Update may require temporary water, wastewater, and solid waste services. For example, a minimal amount of water may be required for dust control during construction and grading activities, portable restrooms may be required for work crews, and construction and demolition materials may be disposed of in a landfill. Depending on conditions, water use for dust control and soil stabilization could be obtained via existing on-site supplies or trucked from an alternative source. This minor, short-term use would be arranged between the contractor and water supplier and would not contribute to an exceedance of available water supplies. Similarly, portable restrooms are self-contained, and the waste would be hauled off-site to a wastewater treatment facility for disposal. This service is typically provided by an independent contractor permitted to handle, haul, and dispose of sanitary sewage. Pursuant to 40 CFR Part 403.5, hauled waste must be disposed of at a designated publicly owned treatment facility. Typically, publicly owned treatment facilities are responsible for implementing permit programs for hauled waste and ensure that adequate treatment capacity exists. Construction and demolition materials are required to be transported to a permitted solid waste facility and therefore will comply with federal, state, and local statutes and related to solid waste. An increase in operational water use also could occur if future development of farmworker housing occurs. However, the CAP Update recommends exploring opportunities for the development of such housing and does not prescribe specific sites or project sizes. Any future housing development would be required to comply with CEQA and to mitigate any potential impacts to the extent feasible. Any related impacts with respect to water use would not be new or more severe as compared to the conclusions of the 2011 GPU PEIR.

In addition, implementation of the CAP Update would promote clean energy and sustainable resource management by supporting future electric vehicle infrastructure, transit access improvements, and small-scale and large-scale renewable energy development. Development of large-scale renewable energy generation infrastructure, including energy transmission and storage infrastructure, could result in physical impacts during construction and operation. However, these projects would be required to comply with CEQA on a project level, and these impacts, such as air quality and water quality impacts that could occur during construction and operational impacts on aesthetics and biological resources are analyzed at a programmatic level in other sections of this draft SEIR.

Other measures and actions would improve water efficiency by formally adopting a water reduction target for new and existing buildings and replacing water-wasting equipment. Measures and actions related to solid waste disposal may have a positive impact on utilities because of implementation of measures to enhance the County's diversion rate and integrate organics into the collection process. This would result in advances in waste diversion goals and reductions in GHG emissions associated with landfill and other waste management practices. Any new facilities or programs would be required to comply with existing federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste permitting. In addition, the County's waste diversion goals would continue to be consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 939, which requires a 50 percent waste diversion goal, and AB 341, which requires a statewide 75 percent waste diversion for businesses.

Therefore, the project would not result in impacts not analyzed in the 2011 GPU PEIR, nor would it result in impacts that are more severe than discussed in the 2011 GPU PEIR. The findings of the certified 2011 GPU PEIR pertaining to utilities and service systems remain valid, and no further analysis is required.

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