

## 4 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS INTRODUCTION

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This Chapter consists of 14 sections, each of which presents an evaluation of the Project within an environmental discipline. Each section includes the following information:

- A brief introduction.
- *Impacts Evaluated in Other Sections.* A summary of where to find topics associated with the section's analyses that are addressed elsewhere in the EIR, where applicable.
- *Setting.* A description of the existing conditions for each environmental discipline. The setting acts as a baseline to which the analysis compares the effects of the existing Lake Herman Quarry to the proposed Project. In general, the baseline is established as the date of the Notice of Preparation in October 2009.
- *Evaluation Criteria with Thresholds of Significance.* A table presenting the criteria used to determine specific impacts, measurements used to determine whether an impact is "significant," and the threshold at which the impact becomes significant. The source and justification or authority for each criterion is also identified in the table.
- *Methodology.* A brief description of how the impact analysis was conducted, where applicable.
- *Impacts and Recommended Mitigation.* A presentation of the results of the environmental analysis for each discipline, including the identification of impacts, the determination regarding significance, the description of mitigation measures proposed to avoid or lessen impacts, and whether mitigation will reduce the effects to less than significant. These analyses are presented in the following order:
  - Environmental impacts of the Project are assessed for each criterion. For each criterion, an evaluation of the expected impacts is presented and mitigation measures are proposed.
  - Cumulative Impact Analysis. Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. These analyses evaluate whether the cumulative impacts are significant and whether the Project's contribution to such impacts is considerable.

### CUMULATIVE PROJECTS SCENARIO

Cumulative impacts are defined as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Two approaches to the definition of the cumulative project scenario are discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b). The first approach is a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts. The second approach is a summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional or statewide plan, such as a general plan or related planning document, or in an adopted or certified environmental document, which describes or evaluates conditions contributing to cumulative effects. A pertinent discussion of cumulative impacts contained in one or more previously certified EIRs may be incorporated by reference pursuant to the provisions for tiering. No further cumulative impacts analysis is required when a project is consistent with a general, specific, master or comparable programmatic plan where the lead agency determines that the regional or area wide cumulative impacts of the proposed project have already been adequately addressed in a certified EIR for that plan.

As no reasonably foreseeable projects in the County have been identified within the vicinity of the Project site, cumulative projects have been identified using the plan approach for cumulative impacts within the County (*Solano County General Plan 2008*), as a way of determining regional or area-wide cumulative

impacts. The 2008 Solano County General Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH #2007122069) can be reviewed at the Solano County Department of Resource Management. The Project, as mitigated, is consistent with the Solano County General Plan. The list approach is used for the impacts within the City of Vallejo (as defined under Section 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines). The foreseeable projects for the City of Vallejo include the Water Stone Development, a 454 single family residence project. This project is located east of Columbus Parkway, and south of Regents Park Drive.