

8.0 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF THE PROPOSED ACTION IS IMPLEMENTED

Section 15126(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to “describe any significant impacts, including those which can be mitigated but not reduced to a level of insignificance. Where there are impacts that cannot be alleviated without imposing an alternative design, their implications and the reasons why the project is being proposed, notwithstanding their effect, should be described.”

Section 4.0 of this EIR provides a description of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed General Plan Update and recommends mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level, where possible. After implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, most of the significant or potentially significant impacts associated with the proposed General Plan Update would be reduced to a less than significant level. However, the impacts listed below could not be feasibly mitigated and would result in a significant and unavoidable impact with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update.

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

Development under the proposed General Plan Update would create an unavoidable significant impact for one roadway segment: Knott Avenue from Cerritos Avenue to Katella Avenue. Although policies and mitigation measures would be implemented on a project-by-project basis, this roadway segment would remain operating at a LOS “F”, thus, the impact would remain unavoidable and significant.

AIR QUALITY

Development under the proposed General Plan Update would create unavoidable significant impacts related to construction, mobile sources and stationary sources. These impacts are primarily based on the premise that the City and pollutant sources within are widely dispersed and numerous. Although measures related to construction and stationary sources would be implemented on a project-by-project basis, and vehicular emission reducing programs would be implemented Citywide, it is anticipated that these impacts would remain unavoidable and significant.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Development under the proposed General Plan Update would create unavoidable significant impacts related to parks and recreation facilities. These impacts are primarily based on the premise that the City currently falls short of meeting the acreage requirements for park facilities. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would enhance this deficiency. Although measures related to parks and recreation needs would be implemented on a project-by-project basis, it is anticipated that these impacts would remain unavoidable and significant.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update in combination with regional growth would result in cumulatively significant impacts with regard to:

- Transportation/Circulation;
- Air Quality; and

- Parks and Recreation.

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

Regional buildout in accordance with SCAG 2020 projections would result in future development that would increase vehicle trips and traffic congestion on County roadways. When considered in combination with increases in regional traffic congestion under buildout of the region, the proposed General Plan Update impacts are considered cumulatively significant for one roadway segment: Knott Avenue from Cerritos Avenue to Katella Avenue.

AIR QUALITY

The proposed General Plan Update, in conjunction with cumulative development in the region, would contribute to increased air pollutant emissions. The proposed General Plan Update proposes the development of available areas within Cypress. Development would include infill construction, and the buildout of existing specific plan areas and areas designated for development. The proposed General Plan Update includes measures intended to minimize the necessity and length of vehicular trips. Additionally, the proposed General Plan Update include measures to minimized stationary source emissions. On a regional basis, the South Coast Air Quality Management District has addressed mitigation of air quality impacts. However, with mitigation, air quality impacts would remain cumulatively significant.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Buildout of the proposed General Plan Update would result in significant parks and recreation impacts. The increase in population within the City that would result from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would burden existing parks and recreation facilities. However, future development would be required to pay parkland fees in proportion to the square footage of the development, and/or directly provide facilities as mitigation for these impacts. Payment of these fees and/or implementation of facilities on a project-by-project basis would offset cumulative parkland impacts by providing funding for new and/or renovated parks equipment and facilities.

On a project-by-project basis, development of future projects in the region, as well as under buildout of the proposed General Plan Update, would result in an increase in the demand upon existing City and regional parks and recreation facilities. As previously noted, the proposed General Plan Update would substantially burden the current parks and recreation facilities. As such, the incremental impact of buildout associated with the proposed General Plan Update when considered in combination with regional buildout would be cumulatively significant for parks and recreation.