developments to establish and implement specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) at time of project implementation."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5A</u> states, "The development of septic systems shall be in accordance with applicable standards established by Riverside County and other responsible authorities."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5B</u> states, "Point source pollution reduction programs shall fully adhere to applicable standards required by federal, state and local agencies. Prior to the approval of individual projects, Riverside County shall verify that the provisions of applicable point source pollution programs have been satisfied."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5C states, "A water quality analysis shall be prepared where development may contribute to a worsening of local or regional ground or surface water quality (as determined by the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health and/or RWQCB). The water quality analysis shall include (but shall not be limited to): an analysis of existing surface and subsurface water quality; an assessment of how the proposed development would affect existing water quality; an assessment of how the proposed development would affect beneficial uses of the water; and specific measures to limit or eliminate potential water quality impacts and/or impacts to beneficial uses of ground/surface water. Where determined necessary by the County or other responsible entity, the water quality analysis shall include, at an equal level of detail, potential impacts to tributary or downstream areas. The water quality analysis shall be submitted to the County and the RWCQB for review and shall be approved prior to the issuance of any entitlement that would result in the physical modification of the project site."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5D states, "The project applicant shall submit to the County and the RWQCB, for review and approval, evidence that the specific measures to limit or eliminate potential water quality impacts resulting from the entire development process, will be implemented as set forth in the water quality analysis.

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Said evidence shall be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of any entitlement that would result in the physical modification of the project site."

Compliance with applicable County, State, and federal regulations in addition to existing and proposed General Plan policies and existing Mitigation Measures, ensures that GPA No. 960 would have a less than significant impact on water quality.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-308 through 4.19-313

3. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.19.E) Exceed Wastewater Treatment Requirements</u>

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project has the potential to increase the amount of people and structures generating wastewater. Wastewater requires proper treatment to ensure it does not adversely affect receiving waters, for example, by elevating pollutant levels or introducing pathogens. Receiving waters are protected through Riverside County's compliance with and enforcement of its NPDES MS4 permits, as well as other permits required for a wide variety of activities with potential to discharge wastes into Waters of the State or U.S. These include construction and operational activities, operation of MS4s (municipal separate storm sewer systems) and industries that produce wastewater. Compliance with the NPDES permit requirements, the Clean Water Act, California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970, and CCR Title 22 (Recycled Water) would aid to ensure the Project complies with wastewater treatment requirements. Further, there are several existing Riverside County regulations that would apply to development accommodated by GPA No. 960 and would contribute to ensuring the Project's compliance with wastewater treatment requirements. Refer to page 4.19-315 for a full description of these regulations. Future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would also be subject to Policies OS 3.1 through 3.3, which address wastewater treatment and protection of water quality through compliance with various pollution discharge standards, as well as Policies LU 5.3, 21.2, 28.3, 29.7, 30.7, 31.4 and 32.6, which address project consistency with urban water management plans and require projects be reviewed to

ensure water resources and infrastructure are adequate for the proposed level of development. Further, applicable mitigation (as discussed in Impact 4.19C) above would further reduce impacts. The abovementioned federal, State, and County regulations, the NPDES program and permits, as well as other laws, ordinances, General Plan policies, existing mitigation measures from EIR No. 441, and new mitigation measure 4.19E-N1 would be sufficient to ensure that this impact is less than significant.

Mitigation:

In addition to the below specific mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 that address wastewater treatment issues directly, existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5E (refer to the discussion for Impact 4.19.C, above) is also applicable to this impact, and would also aid in reducing impacts from wastewater, as well as new Mitigation Measure 4.19.E-N1, also described below.

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.15.4A</u> states, "Conventional septic tanks/subsurface disposal systems shall be prohibited within any designated Zone A of an EPA wellhead protection area. Where a difference between Riverside County and EPA septic tank setback distance requirements exists, the EPA standard shall apply."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5A states, "The development of septic systems shall be in accordance with applicable standards established by Riverside County and other responsible authorities."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.10.9A states, The County, where required, and in accordance with issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, shall require the construction and/or grading contractor for individual developments to establish and implement specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the time of project implementation."

New Mitigation Measure 4.19.E-N1 states, "Conventional septic tanks/subsurface disposal systems shall be prohibited within any designated Zone A of an EPA wellhead

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protection area. Where a difference between Riverside County and EPA septic tank setback distance requirements exists, the more restrictive standard shall apply."

Compliance with County, State, and federal regulations, as well as existing and proposed General Plan policies and Mitigation Measures would ensure that future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would have a less than significant impact in regards to exceeding wastewater treatment requirements.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-313 through 4.19-317

4. Impacts: (Impact 4.19.F) Exceed Wastewater Treatment Capacity

Future development facilitated by the project would generate increased population and housing, as well as commercial and industrial land uses. Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project has the potential to contribute to increased generation of wastewater needing treatment, the provision of which could exceed the existing capacity of the treatment facility. In addition, where sanitary sewer connection and treatment are not available, septic systems would be necessary. The proliferation of septic systems in rural communities may potentially contaminate groundwater with nitrates, ammonia, salts, metals, organic solvents, grease and oil, and other substances, impairing the beneficial uses of local water supplies. Future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be required to demonstrate compliance with NPDES permit requirements, the Clean Water Act, the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970, and CCR Title 22 (Recycled Water), and would thus aid in ensuring the Project would not contribute to increased generation of wastewater needing treatment. Future development would also be subject to several Riverside County regulations, including Ordinance No. 458 (Regulating Flood Hazard Areas and Implementing the National Flood Insurance Program), Ordinance No. 592 (Regulating Sewer Use, Sewer Construction and Industrial Wastewater Discharges in County Service Areas), Ordinance No. 650 (sewer discharge in unincorporated County), Ordinance No. 754 (Stormwater/Urban Runoff Management and Discharge Controls), Ordinance No. 843

(Regulating the Discharge of Wastes into the Public Sewer System for the Highgrove Community), Ordinance No. 856 (Establishing a Septic Tank Prohibition for Specified Areas of Quail Valley and Requiring the Connection of Existing Septic Systems to Sewer), and Ordinance No. 871 (Prohibiting the Installation of Specified Septic Tank Systems in Cherry Valley). Further, development would be required to demonstrate compliance with Policies OS 3.1 through 3.3 (see above), as well as Policies LU 5.3, 21.2, 28.3, 29.7, 30.7, 31.4 and 32.6, which address project consistency with urban water management plans and require projects be reviewed to ensure water resources are adequate for the proposed level of development. Further, applicable mitigation (as discussed under impact 4.19.C and 4.19.C above) would reduce impacts further. New Policy LU 22.2 would ensure water resources are adequate for the proposed level of development. Compliance with the abovementioned federal, State and County regulatory programs, existing laws, ordinances, General Plan policies and mitigation measures would be sufficient to ensure that impacts associated with wastewater treatment capacities are less than significant.

Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.5D (listed under Impact 4.19.D, above), 4.15.4A and 4.10.9A (Impact 4.19.E, above), 4.9.1C (Impact 4.19.H, below) and 4.17.5E (Impact 4.19.C, above) would also aid in reducing impacts associated with wastewater treatment facilities to less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-318 through 4.19-322

5. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.19.G) Result in Significant Adverse Effects Due to the Construction of New or Expanded Water or Wastewater Facilities</u>

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project would result in increased demand for water supply, wastewater treatment and infrastructure to supply these services. These increases would contribute incrementally to the need for new or expanded water and wastewater treatment facilities. Since the Project would be implemented on a case-by-case basis across

many individual sites spread across Riverside County over roughly 50 years, however, it would not result in significant impacts tied to specific, inalterable areas. Rather, the future locations of such facilities can be established (located) so as to minimize potential environmental effects. Further, compliance with federal and State regulations, including the Clean Water Act, the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970, CCR Title 22 (Recycled Water), and the Water Conservation Act (SBX 7-7) would aid in reducing impacts due to the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater facilities. Several Riverside County regulations would also aid in reducing impacts, including Ordinance No. 592 (regulating sewer use, sewer construction and industrial wastewater discharges in County Service Areas), Ordinance No. 650 (sewer discharge in unincorporated territory), Ordinance No. 692 (construction, reconstruction, abandonment and destruction of wells), and Ordinance No. 843 (regulating the discharge of wastes into the public sewer system for the Highgrove Community). Further, several water resources-related General Plan policies would aid in reducing impacts related to the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities. Refer to page 4.19-324, for a full discussion of these policies. Further, applicable mitigation measures would reduce impacts through restricting the use of potable water for non-potable uses, and requiring compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. As such, the abovementioned existing federal, State and County regulatory programs, laws, ordinances, General Plan policies, mitigation measures, and new mitigation measures would be sufficient to ensure that this impact is less than significant.

Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.1C and 4.17.1D, described below, and Mitigation Measure 4.17.5A, described under Impact 4.19.E, would also aid in reducing impacts associated with the need for new or expanded water and wastewater facilities to less than significant.

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.1C states, "Development within unincorporated areas of the County shall not use water of any source of quality suitable for potable domestic use for non-potable uses, including cemeteries, golf courses, parks, highway landscaped areas, industrial and irrigation uses, or other non-domestic use if suitable recycled water is available as provided in Sections 13550-13566 of the [California] Water Code and/or Sections 65591-65600 and 65601-65607 of the Public Resource Code. Prior to the issuance of any land use permit, the County shall determine to what extent and in which manner the use of recycled water is required for individual water projects. Future development shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the recycled water measures mandated by the County."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.1D states, "Riverside County shall enforce compliance with federal, state and local standards for water conservation within residential, commercial or industrial projects. Prior to approval of any development within the County, the project applicant shall submit evidence to Riverside County that all applicable water conservation measures have been met."

Compliance with the above-listed Mitigation Measures, in addition to existing regulations, existing and proposed General Plan policies will ensure that GPA No. 960 would have a less than significant impact on the environment due to the need for new or expanded water or wastewater facilities.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-322 through 4.19-325

6. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.19.H) Substantially Alter Existing Drainage Patterns Resulting in Substantial Erosion or Siltation</u>

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project has the potential to increase water erosion, sedimentation and siltation of surface water. This includes short-term construction impacts, as well as long-term operational impacts. Future development also has the potential to threaten, damage or change hydrologic baseline conditions throughout Riverside County over time. However, the adverse effects associated with potential changes to drainage patterns

and hydrology, would be avoided, reduced or minimized through adherence to and compliance with federal and State regulations, including the Clean Water Act and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970. Future development would also be required to comply with several County ordinances which serve to reduce impacts related to existing drainage patterns, erosion, or siltation, including Ordinance No. 457 (building codes and fees), Ordinance No. 458 (regulating flood hazard areas and implementing the National Flood Insurance Program), Ordinance No. 461 (road improvement standards), Ordinance No. 659 (Development Mitigation Residential Development (DIF Program)), Ordinance 754 No. (stormwater/urban runoff management and discharge controls), and Ordinance 859 (water-efficient landscape requirements). Additionally, several existing and proposed General Plan Open Space policies would further reduce impacts to drainage patterns, erosion and siltation. Refer to page 4.19-328 for a full discussion of these policies. Further, applicable mitigation will further reduce impacts through requiring the preparation of a hydrologic study for any project that may impact hydrologic conditions, requiring proof of implementation of the measures developed in the hydrologic study, requiring incorporation of bioengineering for all projects impact hydrologic conditions, allowing open space uses to accommodate flooding, and requiring the incorporation of a number of grading practices and drainage design features. As such, compliance with federal, State, and County regulations, existing laws, General Plan policies and the existing EIR No. 441 mitigation measures detailed below, would be sufficient to ensure that this impact is less than significant.

Mitigation:

In addition to the below specific mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 that address drainage patterns and erosion directly, existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.5B and 4.17.5D (see Impact 4.19.D, above), 4.17.5E (Impact 4.19.I, below) and 4.9.1D (Impact 4.19.J, below), would also aid in reducing impacts on existing drainage patterns, erosion and siltation.

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Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.4A states, "Where development may interfere with, disrupt, or otherwise affect surface or subsurface hydrologic baseline conditions (as determined by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and/or the Regional Water Quality Control Board), preparation of a projectspecific hydrologic study shall be required. The hydrologic study shall include (but shall not be limited to): an inventory of surface and subsurface hydrologic conditions existing at the time of the study; an analysis of how the proposed development would affect these hydrologic baseline conditions; and specific measures to limit or eliminate the interference or disruption of the onsite hydrologic process. The hydrologic study shall evaluate the feasibility of incorporating bioengineering measures into any project that may alter the hydrologic process. Where required by the County, the hydrologic study shall include analysis of, at an equal level of detail, potential impacts to tributary or downstream areas. The hydrologic study shall be submitted to the County or responsible entity for review and shall be approved prior to the issuance of any entitlement that would result in the physical modification of the project site." Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.4B states, "The project applicant shall submit to the County for review and approval, evidence that the specific measures to limit or eliminate the disruption or interference to the hydrologic process resulting from the entire development process, will be implemented as set forth in the hydrologic study. Such evidence may take the form of (but shall not be limited to): a development agreement; land banking; the provision of adequate funds to guarantee the construction, maintenance or restoration of hydrologic features; or any other mechanism that will achieve said goals. Said evidence shall be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of any entitlement that would result in the physical modification of the project site."

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<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.4C</u> states, "Bioengineering measures shall be incorporated into any project that may alter the hydrologic process, where determined feasible by the County or responsible entity."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.9.1C states, "The County shall not necessarily require all land uses to withstand flooding. These may include land uses such as agricultural, golf courses, and trails. For these land uses, flows shall not be obstructed, and upstream and downstream properties shall not be adversely affected by increased velocities, erosion backwater effects, concentration of flows, and adverse impacts to water quality from point and nonpoint sources of pollution."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.9.2C</u> states, "Riverside County shall require that for agricultural, recreation or other low-density uses, flows are not obstructed and that upstream and downstream properties are not adversely affected by increased velocities, erosion backwater effects or concentration of flows."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.10.9A states, "Riverside County, where required, and in accordance with issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, shall require the construction and/or grading contractor for individual developments to establish and implement specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) at time of project implementation."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.10.9B states, "Prior to any development within the County, a grading plan shall be submitted to the Riverside County Building and Safety Department and/or Riverside County Geologist for review and approval. As required by the County, the grading plan shall include erosion and sediment control plans. Measures included in individual erosion control plans may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- Grading and development plans shall be designed in a manner which minimizes the amount of terrain modification.
- Surface water shall be controlled and diverted around potential landslide areas to prevent erosion and saturation of slopes.

- Structures shall not be sited on or below identified landslides unless slides are stabilized.
- The extent and duration of ground disturbing activities during and immediately following periods of rain shall be limited, to avoid the potential for erosion which may be accelerated by rainfall on exposed soils.
- To the extent possible, the amount of cut and fill shall be balanced.
- The amount of water entering and exiting a graded site shall be limited though placement of interceptor trenches or other erosion control devices.
- Erosion and sediment control plans shall be submitted to the County [of Riverside] for review and approval prior to the issuance of grading permits."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.10.9C</u> states, "Drainage design measures shall be incorporated into the final design of individual projects onsite, where required. These measures shall include, but will not be limited to:

- Runoff entering developing areas shall be collected into surface and subsurface drains for removal to nearby drainages.
- Runoff generated above steep slopes or poorly vegetated areas shall be captured and conveyed to nearby drainages.
- Runoff generated on paved or covered areas shall be conveyed via swales and drains to natural drainage courses.
- Disturbed areas that have been identified as highly erosive shall be (re)vegetated.
- Irrigation systems shall be designed, installed and maintained in a manner which minimizes runoff.
- The landscape scheme for projects within the project site shall utilize droughttolerant plants.
- Erosion control devices such as rip-rap, gabions, small check dams, etc., may
 be utilized in gullies and active stream channels to reduce erosion."

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With the implementation of federal, State, and County regulations, ordinances, existing and proposed General Plan policies and the existing Mitigation Measures listed above, GPA No. 960 would have a less than significant impact on existing drainage patterns, erosion, and siltation.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-325 through 4.19-331

7. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.19.I) Cause Runoff Exceeding Stormwater Drainage System Capacity or Cause Substantial Water Pollution</u>

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project would result in the development of vacant lands within Riverside County, thereby limiting the amount of ground infiltration during storm events. The addition of impervious surfaces from this development would increase stormwater runoff throughout Riverside County. In some areas, existing drainage facilities may not be adequate to accommodate the increase. However, compliance with State and federal regulations, including the Clean Water Act, CWA Section 402 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970 would aid to reduce impacts due to stormwater flows, runoff and pollution associated with them. Compliance with several Riverside County regulations would also aid in reducing impacts related to causing impacts due to stormwater flows, runoff and associated pollution. Refer to page 4.19-333, for a discussion of the relevant regulations that would aid in decreasing Project impacts. Further, several existing and proposed General Plan Open Space and Land Use policies would address potential impacts to runoff and associated pollution. Refer to page 4.19-34 for a full discussion of these policies. Further, applicable mitigation requires the consideration and incorporation of a number of BMP's as well as containment of 10-year flood flows within the height of the curb in order to further reduce impacts. As such, compliance with the abovementioned federal, State and County regulatory programs, existing laws, ordinances, and General Plan policies listed on pages 4.19-332 through 4.19-336 of Section 4.19, "Water Resources" of EIR No. 521, and existing mitigation measures

from EIR No. 441, described below, would be sufficient to ensure that this impact is less than significant.

Mitigation:

In addition to the below specific mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 that address runoff issues directly, existing Mitigation Measures 4.9.2C, 4.10.9A, 4.10.9B and 4.10.9C (see Impact 4.19.H, above) and Mitigation Measure 4.17.5B (see Impact 4.19.D, above), would also aid in reducing impacts due to runoff.

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.5E</u> states, "For each new development project, the following principles and policies shall be considered and implemented:

- a. Avoid or limit disturbance to natural water bodies and drainage systems (including ephemeral drainage systems) when feasible. Provide adequate buffers of native vegetation along drainage systems to lessen erosion and protect water quality.
- b. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) must be implemented to lessen impacts to waters of the United States and/or waters of the State of California resulting from development. Drainages should be left in a natural condition or modified in a way that preserves all existing water quality standards where feasible. Any discharges of sediment or other wastes, including wastewater, to Waters of the United States or Waters of the State must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. All such discharges will require an NPDES permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
- c. Small drainages shall be preserved and incorporated into new development, along with adequate buffer zones of native vegetation, to the maximum extent practicable.
- d. Any impacts to waters of the United States require a Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification from the RWQCB. Impacts to these waters shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Where avoidance is not practicable, impacts to these waters shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Mitigation of unavoidable impacts must, at a minimum, replace the full function and value of

the affected water body. Impacts to waters of the United States also require a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- e. The County shall encourage the use of pervious materials in development to retain absorption and allow more percolation of stormwater into the ground. The use of pervious materials, such as grass, permeable/porous pavement, etc., for runoff channels and parking areas shall also be encouraged. Lining runoff channels with impermeable surfaces, such as concrete or grouted riprap, will be discouraged.
- f. The County shall encourage construction of detention basins or holding ponds and/or constructed wetlands within a project site to capture and treat dry weather urban runoff and the first flush of rainfall runoff. These basins should be designed to detain runoff for a minimum time, such as 24 hours, to allow particles and associated pollutants to settle and to provide for natural treatment.
- g. The County shall encourage development to retain areas of open space as natural or landscaped to aid in the recharge and retention of runoff. Native plant materials shall be used in replanting and hydroseeding operations, where feasible.
- h. The County shall require that environmental documents for proposed projects in areas tributary to Canyon Lake Reservoir, Lake Elsinore, sections of the Santa Ana River, Fulmar Lake, and Mill Creek (as a result of the proposed 2002 303 (d) listing of these waterbodies) include discharge prohibitions, revisions to discharge permits, or management plans to address water quality impacts in accordance with the controls that may be applied pursuant to state and federal regulation. Environmental documents shall acknowledge that additional requirements may be imposed in the future for projects in areas tributary to the water bodies listed above.

- The County shall ensure that in new development, post-development stormwater runoff flow rates do not differ from the pre-development stormwater runoff flow rates.
- j. All construction projects should be designed and implemented to protect, and if at all possible, to improve the quality of the underlying groundwater.
- k. The County shall encourage the enhancement of groundwater recharge wherever possible. Measures such as keeping stream/river channels and floodplains in natural conditions or with pervious surfaces, as well as keeping areas of high recharge as open space will be considered.
- I. The County shall prohibit the discharge of waste material resulting from any type of construction into any drainage areas, channels, streambeds, streams, lakes, wetlands or rivers. Spoil sites shall be prohibited within any streams or areas where spoil material could be washed into a water body.
- m. The County shall require that appropriate BMPs be developed and implemented during construction efforts to control the discharge of pollutants, prevent sewage spills, and to avoid discharge of sediments into the streets, stormwater conveyance channels or waterways."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.9.1.D states, "The County shall require the 10-year flood flows to be contained within the top of curbs and the 100-year flood flows within the street rights-of-way."

Implementation of the existing Mitigation Measures, as well as compliance with existing federal, State and County regulations, ordinances, and General Plan policies, would ensure that GPA No. 960 would have a less than significant impact on the capacity of storm drain systems due to the generation of runoff and would not cause a substantial additional source of runoff.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-331 to 4.19-337

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8. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.19.J) Cause Significant Adverse Effects Due to the Need for New or Expanded Stormwater Drainage Facilities</u>

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project would result in the development of vacant lands within Riverside County. The addition of impervious surfaces would increase the potential stormwater runoff from areas throughout Riverside County. Existing drainage facilities may not be adequate to accommodate the future potential increase in stormwater runoff. As a result, additional storm drain capacity and facilities may be necessary. It is feasible, however, for such future facilities to be planned, sited and constructed in a manner that minimizes potential environmental effects. Future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be required to demonstrate compliance with federal and State regulations, including the Clean Water Act and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970. Several Riverside County regulations would also aid in preventing or reducing significant impacts due to the need for new or expanded storm drain facilities (refer to page 4.19-338). In addition, compliance with Policies OS 6.1, 6.3; LU 9.2 and 9.3 would ensure protection of wetlands and other riparian resources from hydrological disruption, protect water quality within floodplains and drainages, and minimize erosion effects. Policies OS 2.1 and 18.1 through 18.6 address water conservation through requirements for water-efficient landscaping. Policies OS 3.4 through 3.7 address requirements to comply with NPDES and other regulations addressing pollution discharges and runoff to protect stormwater quality and, ultimately surface and groundwater fed by stormwater runoff. Further, applicable mitigation, as discussed in Impact 4.19.D, 4.19.I and 4.19.H above, will reduce impacts further. The abovementioned existing federal, State and County regulations, laws, ordinances, General Plan policies and mitigation measures described below, would be sufficient to ensure that this impact is less than significant.

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Mitigation:

Mitigation Measures 4.17.5D (see Impact 4.19.D, above), 4.17.5E (Impact 4.19.I, above) and 4.10.9A, 4.10.9B, 4.10.9C, 4.17.4A, 4.17.4B and 4.17.4C (Impact 4.19.H, above) would also aid in reducing impacts due to the need for new or expanded storm drain facilities.

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.9.1.D</u> states, "The County shall require the 10-year flood flows to be contained within the top of curbs and the 100-year flood flows within the street rights-of-way."

The implementation of the above-listed Mitigation Measures, in addition to Project compliance with existing regulations, ordinances, and existing and proposed General Plan policies would ensure that GPA No. 960 would have a less than significant impact due to the need for new or expanded stormwater facilities as a result of future development.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-337 through 4.19-340

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that the following environmental impacts associated with the Riverside County General Plan Update cannot be fully mitigated and will be only partially avoided or lessened in consideration of existing regulations or mitigation measures hereinafter specified in Attachment A (Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program). Accordingly, and as further explained below, the County makes the following findings as to each of the following impacts as allowed by State CEQA Guidelines § 15091(a): "Changes or alterations [that might further reduce Project impacts] are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the [County]. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency"; or "Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR." Therefore, a statement of overriding considerations consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, 15126(b), and 15126.2(b) and discussed in the Final EIR Section 2.1 is required and included herein.

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A. Agricultural and Forestry Resources

1. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.5.A) Cause the Conversion of Designated Farmlands</u>

The specific land use and policy changes proposed by the Project would adversely affect (i.e., result in the conversion of) only minimal amounts of State-designated Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance and Farmland of Local Importance ("Farmlands") to a variety of non-agricultural uses. No Unique Farmland would be affected. Due to the very small areas involved, these impacts would be less than significant. Indirectly, the growth accommodated and facilitated by the Project would result in additional development and infrastructure demand that would further conversion of designated Farmlands to urban uses and result in other changes in the existing environment leading to additional Farmland conversion. This indirect impact would be significant and unavoidable. The adverse impacts associated with potential changes to agricultural resources would be reduced through the implementation of Riverside County regulations, including Ordinance No. 509 (establishing agricultural preserves) and Ordinance No. 625 (Right to Farm). There are also several existing General Plan Open Space and Land Use policies that help reduce the interface effects of development encroachment from surrounding areas on farmland (refer to page 4.5-30). EIR No. 521 determined that no mitigation measures are applicable to offset this impact, however a number of policies and ordinances exist to reduce impacts in this regard. However, the abovementioned applicable Riverside County regulations and policies would not reduce the significant impacts associated with the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Refer to the responses to Letter 3, Department of Conservation, and Letter 33, San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club (Via Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger), of Final EIR No. 521 for further discussion regarding existing County Policies and Ordinances related to agricultural lands and operations.

Mitigation:

Assuming that 100% of the lands with LUDs being revised are built out with their new designated use, the specific land use and policy changes proposed by the Project

would adversely affect (i.e., result in the conversion of) only minimal amounts (32 acres) of State-designated Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. In addition, while 210 acres of Farmland of Local Importance would be converted to a variety of non-agricultural uses, nearly 220 acres of lands, including existing fish farms (aquaculture) are proposed for new designation as agriculture ("AG" LUD). As mapped according to the baseline data provided by the State of California, the unincorporated portion of Riverside County has designated Farmland totals of 105,390 acres of Prime, 36,660 acres of Statewide Importance, 32,360 acres of Unique and 162,410 acres of Farmland of Local Importance. According to the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, the amount of land in agricultural production totaled 187,800 acres as of 2009 (inclusive of cities). Thus, in light of these totals, the loss of 32 acres represents an insignificant amount overall. However, the total amount of land designated for agricultural uses under both the existing General Plan and the General Plan as amended GPA No. 960 at full buildout (roughly 190,000 acres) is less than the amount of agricultural land currently designated as Prime, Unique, Statewide and Locally Important Farmland (roughly 336,800 acres). Thus, future development accommodated by the Project in locations not foreseeable at this time would still likely result in the loss of additional Prime, Unique, Statewide and Locally Important Farmlands.

Indirectly, the growth accommodated and facilitated by the Project would also result in additional development and infrastructure demand that would further fuel conversion of agricultural uses to urban resulting in further loss of designated Farmlands. Compliance with existing and proposed regulations and General Plan policies would help reduce this indirect impact, however, it would still be significant and unavoidable. For the reasons cited above and according to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) in Final EIR No. 441 (Table 4A, "Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Proposed Riverside County General Plan"),

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"There is no reasonable or feasible mitigation to reduce impacts resulting from the loss of agricultural land to a less than significant level."

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.5-29 through 4.5-31

2. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.5.B) Encroach On or Conflict With Existing Agricultural Uses</u>

Future development pursuant to the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project has the potential to result in conflicts with existing zoning, agricultural uses, and lands subject to a Williamson Act contract or within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve. It may also result in the introduction of new urban uses within 300 feet of agriculturally-zoned property. Indirectly, the growth accommodated and facilitated by the Project would result in additional development and infrastructure demand that would further conversion of agricultural lands to urban uses, encroach on existing agricultural activities and mapped Farmlands, and result in other changes in the existing environment leading to additional Farmland conversion. This indirect impact would be significant and unavoidable. EIR No. 521 determined that no mitigation measures are applicable to offset this impact, however a number of policies and ordinances exist to reduce impacts in this regard. The adverse effects associated with potential changes to agricultural resources would be avoided, reduced or minimized through adherence with Riverside County Ordinance No. 509 (establishing agricultural preserves), Ordinance No. 625 (Right to Farm), as well as through compliance with Riverside County rules and regulations governing agricultural preserves. Further, there are several existing and new policies from the Riverside County General Plan that would contribute to lessening development impacts on farmland (refer to page 4.5-34). However, the abovementioned applicable Riverside County regulations and policies would not fully reduce the significant impacts associated with development impacts on agricultural activities, including when applied with mitigation, and as such, a significant and unavoidable impact is identified. Refer to the responses to Letter 3, Department of Conservation, and Letter 33, San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club (Via Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger), of Final

EIR No. 521 for further discussion regarding existing County Policies and Ordinances related to agricultural lands and operations.

Mitigation:

EIR No. 441, prepared for the 2003 RCIP General Plan, found under "Impact 4.2.2" (Final EIR, page 4.2-32) that implementation of the General Plan would "result in the significant conversion of active agricultural land and agricultural soils to non-agricultural uses." Although the existing General Plan includes policies intended to identify and implement programs that would limit the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, EIR No. 441 finds that these policies do not set specific requirements that would limit the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses. Further, EIR No. 441 finds the policies do not identify the amount, extent or location of agricultural land to be conserved and that it is impossible to assess if policies would effectively reduce potentially significant impacts associated with the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

As discussed in EIR No. 521 under Impact 4.5.B (page 4.5-32), in addition to the 5,340 acres that would potentially be directly lost by foreseeable spatial changes associated with the Project, other development resulting from the Project not foreseeable at this time would also be expected to adversely affect existing agricultural uses. As a result, future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the project is similarly found to have the potential for significant and unavoidable indirect impacts to agricultural uses through introducing new urban uses within 300 feet of agriculturally zoned property and contributing to the demand for additional development and infrastructure that would further fuel conversion of agricultural lands to nonagricultural uses. Pursuant to EIR No. 441, no additional Project-specific mitigation measures are feasible. Thus, impacts due to conflict with existing agricultural zoning or uses, including those leading to the conversion of designated Farmlands, as well as encroachment impacts, would be significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.5-32 through 4.5-35

B. Air Quality

1. Impacts: (Impact 4.6.A) Cause Inconsistency With Air Quality Plans

Future development associated with the Project represents a reduction in Riverside County capacity and yields lower population growth forecasts, both compared to the existing General Plan and to current SCAG (2008 RTP) projections. Since air quality management plans (AQMPs) are developed using growth forecasts issued by the applicable regional association of governments (SCAG, etc.), a project that is consistent with the applicable growth forecast would generally be consistent with the AQMP. This is the case for the Project. Further, it includes a number of new policies and programs related to greenhouse gas reductions that would also improve air quality for a variety of criteria pollutants addressed in AQMPs. Compliance with existing regulatory programs, Riverside County ordinances and General Plan policies, as well as new ones included in the Project (GPA No. 960), would further reduce this impact by reducing conflicts with or obstruction of the AQMP. However, while the existing General Plan policies and new ones included in GPA No. 960 may reduce conflicts and obstruction of any AQMP, the combined emissions from all proposed General Plan development would exceed the SCAQMD and MDAQMD significance thresholds for criteria pollutants. Exceeding these thresholds has the potential to hinder the region's compliance with each AQMP. Therefore, this impact is significant and unavoidable. However, Riverside County Ordinance No. 706 and Ordinance No. 726 would help to reduce motor vehicle emissions of criteria pollutants through reduction of vehicle miles traveled (refer to General Plan Section 4.6.3). Further, future projects accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be required to demonstrate consistency with several existing and proposed General Plan Land Use, Circulation, and Air Quality policies that would further ensure any potential environmental effects are avoided, reduced or minimized through their application on a case-by-case basis. Refer to page 4.6-50 for a full discussion regarding these policies and their application. The proposed mitigation would reduce impacts in regards to air quality impacts by

requiring development to meet state reduction targets, and requiring compliance with the proposed Climate Action Plan. However, the abovementioned applicable Riverside County regulations and policies would not fully reduce the significant impacts associated with air quality plan compliance, including when applied with the mitigation described below.

Mitigation:

Additional Project-specific mitigation measures are necessary to further avoid, reduce or minimize impacts from operational pollutant emissions. The following mitigation measures from EIR Section 4.7, "Greenhouse Gases" would also reduce air pollution by reducing energy use and vehicle miles traveled and ensure county compliance with applicable air quality management and attainment plans.

New Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N1 states, "In order to ensure GHG emissions resulting from new development are reduced to levels necessary to meet California State targets, the County of Riverside shall require all new discretionary development to comply with the Implementation Measures of the Riverside County Climate Action Plan or provide comparable custom measure backed by a project GHG study (for example, using CalEEMod modeling) demonstrating achievement of the same target. The target to be met is a GHG emissions reduction of 25% below emissions for the adjusted "business as usual" (BAU) scenario for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and mixed-use projects. The adjusted BAU is based upon the 2020 BAU found in the Final Supplement to the AB 32 Scoping Plan (CARB 2011)."

New Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N2 states, "In lieu of a project-specific GHG analysis per Mitigation Measures 4.7.A-N1, a future discretionary project pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan shall incorporate into the project design, operational features and/or Implementing Measures from the County Climate Action Plan (CAP), in such a manner as to garnish at least 100 points. The point values within the CAP's Screening Tables constitute GHG emission reductions."

With implementation of and compliance with the regulatory programs discussed in EIR No. 521, Section 4.6, "Air Quality," Riverside County ordinances, existing and proposed General Plan policies, as well as proposed new Mitigation Measures 4.7.A-N1 and N2, air pollutant emissions from future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be reduced but would still exceed regulatory thresholds for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), and Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). Exceedance of regulatory thresholds would conflict with the implementation of the applicable air quality plans. Implementation of greenhouse gas reduction measures would afford additional reductions in criteria air pollutants; however, it would not reduce criteria pollutant impacts to below regulatory thresholds. Thus, impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project would remain significant and unavoidable with respect to regional air quality plans.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.6-48 through 4.6-52

2. Impacts: (Impact 4.6.B(1)) Cause Significant Construction (Short-Term) Air Emissions

Future development accommodated by the proposed Project would result in construction activities generating air quality emissions that may be quantified based on the level of daily disturbance. However, since GPA No. 960 would be implemented through many (perhaps thousands) of individual projects occurring throughout Riverside County over next roughly 50 years, the level of daily disturbance for GPA No. 960 cannot be calculated and, therefore, the associated construction emissions cannot be quantified. Although implementing projects may be individually consistent with air quality standards, because of the cumulative nature of air emissions, such projects may nonetheless cumulatively exceed an air quality standard. Thus, even with implementation of the regulations, existing policies and mitigation measures outlined herein that reduce emissions, it cannot be guaranteed that they would be cumulatively reduced to below applicable thresholds. Thus, this impact would be significant and unavoidable with respect to violations of air quality standards for construction activities. Future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be

required to comply with the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan, which accommodates growth within the region while introducing enforceable strategies to reduce the high levels of pollutants within areas under the jurisdiction of SCAQMD. Further, there are several existing and proposed General Plan Air Quality policies that would further contribute to reducing construction-related pollutant emissions, including Policies AQ 1.1-1.4, 1.10, 2.1, 4.8-4.10, 15.1, 16.1, 16.3, 17.1, 17.3, 17.4, 17.6, 17.8 and 17.11, which promote the reduction of criteria pollutant emission through the development and enforcement of plans, policies and regulations and fees. Policy AQ 5.1 encourages the use of building methods and use/reuse of materials to reduce the amount of emissions generated during the use or disposal of construction materials. Policy AQ 4.7 promotes the reduction of criteria pollutant emission through the development and enforcement of plans, policies and regulations and fees. Policy AQ 4.1 requires the use of building methods and use/reuse of materials to reduce the amount of emissions generated during the use or disposal of construction materials. Further, applicable mitigation would reduce impacts by imposing a number of site specific operational standards including watering, pavement of access roads, materials hauling protocols, as well as other requirements to reduce air quality impacts. However, the abovementioned applicable Riverside County regulations and policies would not fully reduce the significant impacts associated with construction-related pollutant emissions, including when applied with the mitigation described below.

Mitigation:

In EIR No. 441, prepared for the 2003 RCIP General Plan, Mitigation Measures 4.5.1A, 4.5.1B and 4.5.1C were imposed to reduce impacts to air quality. These measures remain applicable to this Project and would lessen impacts to air quality by minimizing fugitive dust during construction and reducing pollution resulting from construction equipment.

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.5.1A</u> states, "Applicable SCAQMD Rule 403 Measures: Apply nontoxic chemical soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for ten days or more).

- Water active sites at least twice daily. (Locations where grading is to occur will be thoroughly watered prior to earthmoving.)
- All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered, or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard in accordance with the requirements of California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 23114 (freeboard means vertical space between the top of the load and top of the trailer).
- Pave construction access roads at least 100 feet onto the site from main road.
- Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads shall be reduced to 15 mph or less."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.5.1B</u> states, "[Implement the following] additional SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook dust measures to be implemented:

- Re-vegetate disturbed areas as quickly as possible.
- All excavating and grading operations shall be suspended when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph.
- All streets shall be swept once a day if visible soil materials are carried to adjacent streets (recommend water sweepers with reclaimed water).
- Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved roads, or wash trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.5.1C</u> states, "[Implement the following] mitigation measures to be implemented for construction equipment and vehicles exhaust emissions:

- The construction contractor shall select the construction equipment used on site based on low emission factors and high energy efficiency.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that construction grading plans include a statement that all construction equipment will be tuned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

- The construction contractor shall utilize electric- or diesel-powered equipment, in lieu of gasoline-powered engines, where feasible.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that construction grading plans include a statement that work crews will shut off equipment when not in use.
 During smog season (May through October), the overall length of the construction period will be extended, thereby decreasing the size of the area prepared each day, to minimize vehicles and equipment operating at the same time.
- The construction contractor shall time the construction activities so as to not interfere with peak hour traffic and minimize obstruction of through traffic lanes adjacent to the site; if necessary, a flagperson shall be retained to maintain safety adjacent to existing roadways.
- The construction contractor shall support and encourage ridesharing and transit incentives for the construction crew.
- Dust generated by the development activities shall be retained on-site and kept to a minimum by following the dust control measures listed below.
 - During clearing, grading, earthmoving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease.
 - During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas in the late morning, after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 miles per hour.
 - o Immediately after clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation is completed, the entire area of disturbed soil shall be treated until the

area is paved or otherwise developed so that dust generation will not occur.

- Soil stockpiled for more than two days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation.
- Trucks transporting soil, sand, cut or fill materials and/or construction debris to or from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin."

Despite all of the above measures that lessen impacts from construction, additional Project-specific mitigation measures would be necessary to ensure that impacts are less than significant. New Mitigation Measure 4.6.B-N1 would lessen the impact by reducing fugitive emissions of particulate matter. New Mitigation Measures 4.6.B-N2 and 4.6.B-N3 would reduce impacts by limiting the amount of emissions generated by internal combustion engines. Implementation of these additional mitigation measures would further reduce Project impacts, although it would not be guaranteed that the impacts would be cumulatively reduced to below threshold levels (even if individual emissions were reduced). Therefore, impacts from construction activities would still be significant and unavoidable.

New Mitigation Measure 4.6.B-N1 states, "Construction contractors for future projects shall ensure that all disturbed areas and stock piles are watered at least three times per day or soil stabilizers are applied as necessary to prevent visible dust plumes from these areas. Stock piles not in use may be covered with a tarp to eliminate the need for watering or other stabilizers."

New Mitigation Measure 4.6.B-N2 states, "All construction equipment used in development of future projects to have EPA rated engines of Tier 3 or better."

<u>New Mitigation Measure 4.6.B-N3</u> states, "As soon as electric utilities are available at construction sites of future projects, the construction sites shall be supplied with electricity from the local utility and all equipment that can be electrically operated shall use the electric utility rather than portable generators."

In addition to site-specific mitigation that would be determined on a project-by-project basis, existing Riverside County practices, SCAQMD and MDAQMD rules, would reduce construction-related impacts by reducing air pollutant emissions from construction activities. However, even where such measures would reduce an individual project's emissions to less than significant levels, none of the measures herein serve to prevent individual actions from being constructed concurrently, and thus, resulting in cumulatively significant impacts. Additionally, neither the amount of construction occurring nor the exact location within the County is foreseeable; thus, it cannot be determined if the resultant construction emissions could be adequately controlled or reduced to below regulatory thresholds. Without such information, it is not possible to conclude that air pollutant emissions resulting from construction activities would be adequately reduced and, therefore, this impact must be assumed to remain significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.6-52 through 4.6-57

3. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.6.B(2)) Cause Significant Operational (Long-Term) Air Emissions</u>

Stationary and mobile sources would emit criteria pollutants based on the level of daily operation. Modeling results indicate that such emissions would be large, both for individual future projects and cumulatively due to the countywide scale of GPA No. 960. Even with the implementation of regulations, ordinances and existing and proposed General Plan policies, in addition to new mitigation measures, criteria pollutant emissions would not be reduced below regulatory thresholds. Thus, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable with respect to violations of air quality standards for operational activities.

Mitigation:

In addition to the new Mitigation Measures listed below, project-specific Mitigation Measures, found in EIR No. 521, Section 4.7, "Greenhouse Gases" will also reduce air pollutants and further avoid, reduce or minimize impacts from operational pollutant emissions. Specifically, Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N1 would lessen the impact by

requiring new development projects to reduce their individual project emissions through required state air quality standards by compliance with the Climate Action Plan in order to reduce emissions, or through measures developed and supported by a GHG study. Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N2 would lessen the impact by allowing projects to demonstrate compliance with the Implementation Measures of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) by utilizing the Screening Tables which require the implementation of a number of measures to meet a minimum compliance standard. New Mitigation Measures 4.6.B-N4 and 4.6.B-N5 would also contribute to the reduction of impacts from operational pollutant emissions by requiring developments to use coatings low in reactive organic gasses, and the use of low emission appliance to reduce operational impacts of new development, as further described below.

New Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N1 states, "In order to ensure GHG emissions resulting from new development are reduced to levels necessary to meet State of California targets, the County shall require all new discretionary development to comply with the Implementation Measures of the Riverside County Climate Action Plan or provide comparable custom measures backed by a project GHG study (for example, using CalEEMod modeling) demonstrating achievement of the same target. The target to be met is a GHG emissions reduction of 25% below emissions for the adjusted BAU scenario for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and mixed-use projects. The adjusted BAU is based upon the 2020 BAU found in the Final Supplement to the AB 32 Scoping Plan (CARB 2011)."

New Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N2 states, "In lieu of a project-specific analysis per Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N1, a future discretionary project proposed pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan shall incorporate into the project design, operational features and/or Implementing Measures from the Riverside County Climate Action Plan, in such a manner as to garnish at least 100 points. The point values within the CAP's Screening Tables constitute GHG emission reductions."

New Mitigation Measure 4.6.B-N4 states, "All new development shall ensure that all interior and exterior architectural coatings used are low in reactive organic gases."

<u>New Mitigation Measure 4.6.B-N5</u> states, "If hearths are included in new residential developments, they shall be energy-efficient natural gas appliances. No wood-burning hearths or stoves shall be permitted in new residential developments."

Existing regulations and ordinances would reduce operation-related impacts by reducing air pollutant emissions from stationary and mobile sources. However, even with the implementation of new mitigation measures, the operational emissions under the proposed Project would likely exceed both SCAQMD and MDAQMD thresholds. Therefore, the implementation of proposed GPA No. 960 would result in significant and unavoidable impacts with respect to the emission of criteria pollutants.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.6-57 through 4.6-61

4. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.6.D) Expose Sensitive Receptors to Air Pollutants</u>

Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely and chronically ill, including those with cardio-respiratory diseases. Future development accommodated by the Project would expose sensitive receptors to pollutant emissions from both construction and operational activities. The degree of impact would depend on the type of operation, distance from sensitive receptors and the level of activity at each site. However, as the exact location, timing and level of future development activities arising from GPA No. 960 is unforeseeable, specific impacts to sensitive receptors cannot be quantified. General Plan Policies, as outlined on page 4.6-68 of EIR No. 521, would reduce emissions exposure to sensitive receptors by encouraging building operations to use and reuse materials to reduce energy use and waster generation, promoting reductions in mobile source emissions, and reduction of criteria pollutants through use of energy efficiency measures and site design. Further, applicable mitigation would reduce impacts by requiring installation of devices developed to reduce toxic air contaminants and requiring buffering between incompatible uses. Thus, even after complying with federal, State and County

regulations, existing General Plan policies and mitigation measures, as well as specific new mitigation measures, impacts cannot be guaranteed to be reduced to below applicable agency thresholds. Thus, this impact would be significant and unavoidable with respect to exposure of sensitive receptors.

Mitigation:

In EIR No. 441, prepared for the 2003 RCIP General Plan, Mitigation Measures 4.5.1A, 4.5.1B and 4.5.1C were imposed to reduce impacts to sensitive receptors. These measures, as listed under Impact 4.6.B(1), above, are also applicable to this impact. They would lessen impacts to air quality by minimizing fugitive dust during construction and reducing pollution resulting from construction equipment.

Despite all of the above measures to lessen impacts to air quality, additional Project-specific mitigation measures would be necessary to further avoid, reduce or minimize impacts. For future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 that exceeds regulatory thresholds for construction or operational emissions (even after the inclusion of existing policies and regulations), the following new Mitigation Measures 4.6.D-N1 and 4.6.D-N2 shall be implemented. Additionally, implementation of new Mitigation Measures 4.6.B-N1, 4.6.B-N2 and 4.6.B-N3, as listed under impact 4.6.B(1), above, would further reduce construction or operational emissions, which in turn will reduce the concentration of air pollutants sensitive receptors will be exposed to within the County.

<u>New Mitigation Measure 4.6.D-N1</u> states, new developments shall include the following requirements to reduce emissions associated with toxic air contaminants (TACs):

a. Electrical outlets shall be included in the building design of any loading docks to allow use by refrigerated delivery trucks. Signage shall also be installed, instructing commercial vehicles to limit idling times to five minutes or less. If loading and/or unloading of perishable goods would occur for more than five minutes and continual refrigeration is required, all refrigerated delivery trucks shall use the

- electrical outlets to continue powering the truck refrigeration units when the delivery truck engine is turned off.
- b. Electrical outlets shall be installed on the exterior of new structures for use with electrical landscaping equipment. Further, the property owner(s) shall ensure that the hired landscape companies use electric-powered equipment where available to a minimum of 20% of the equipment used."

New Mitigation Measure 4.6.D-N2 states, "The County shall require minimum distances between potentially incompatible land uses, as described below, unless a project-specific evaluation of human health risks defines, quantifies and reduces the potential incremental health risks through site design or the implementation of additional reduction measures to levels below applicable standards. (e.g., standards recommended or required by CARB, SCAQMD or MDAQMD).

SCAQMD Jurisdiction:

- a. Proposed dry cleaners and film processing services that use perchloroethylene must be sited at least 500 feet from existing sensitive land uses including residential, schools, day care facilities, congregate care facilities, hospitals or other places of long-term residency for people.
- b. Proposed auto body repair services shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing sensitive land uses.
- c. Proposed gasoline dispensing stations with an annual throughout of less than 3.6 million gallons shall be sited at least 50 feet from existing sensitive land uses. Proposed gasoline dispensing stations with an annual throughput at or above 3.6 million gallons shall be sited at least 300 feet from existing sensitive land uses.
- d. Other proposed sources of TACs including furniture manufacturing and repair services that use methylene chloride or other solvents identified as a TAC shall be sited at least 300 feet from existing sensitive land uses.
- e. Avoid siting distribution centers that accommodate more than 100 truck trips per day (or more than 40 truck trips operating transport refrigeration units per day, or

- where transportation refrigeration units operate more than 300 hours per week) within 1,000 feet of existing sensitive land uses.
- f. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing freeways, major urban roadways with 100,000 vehicles per day or more and major rural roadways with 50,000 vehicles per day or more.
- g. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing dry cleaners and film processing services that use perchloroethylene.
- h. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing auto body repair services.
- i. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 50 feet from existing gasoline dispensing stations with an annual throughput of less than 3.6 million gallons and 300 feet from existing gasoline dispensing stations with an annual throughput at or above 3.6 million gallons.
- j. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 300 feet from existing land uses that use methylene chloride or other solvents identified as a TAC.
- k. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 1,000 feet from existing distribution centers that accommodate more than 100 trucks per day, accommodate more than 40 trucks per day with transportation refrigeration units, or where transportation refrigeration units operate more than 300 hours per week.

MDAQMD Jurisdiction:

- a. Proposed industrial projects must be sited at least 1,000 feet from existing sensitive land uses.
- b. Proposed distribution centers with 40 or more truck per day shall be sited at least
 1,000 feet from existing sensitive land uses.
- Proposed dry cleaner using perchloroethylene shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing sensitive land uses.

- d. Proposed gasoline dispensing facility shall be sited at least 300 feet from existing sensitive land uses.
- e. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing freeways, major urban roadways with 100,000 vehicles per day or more and major rural roadways with 50,000 vehicles per day or more.
- f. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 1,000 feet from existing industrial facilities or distribution centers with more than 40 trucks per day.
- g. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 500 feet from existing dry cleaners using perchloroethylene.
- h. Proposed sensitive land uses shall be sited at least 300 feet from existing gasoline dispensing stations."

The existing Riverside County ordinances, policies and programs to implement and comply with SCAQMD and MDAQMD rules would reduce construction and operation related impacts. However, the Project would result in the future development of numerous projects each contributing incrementally to air emissions affecting sensitive receptors. Thus, it is possible that the Project would result in cumulatively significant impacts to sensitive receptors, even if individual projects were each less than significant. This is particularly likely since none of the measures herein would prevent multiple development projects from being constructed concurrently within close proximity to sensitive receptors in such a manner as to cause substantial concentrations within the area. Further, neither the amount of construction occurring nor the exact location within the County is foreseeable and, as such, it cannot be determined if the resultant construction emissions could be adequately controlled or reduced to below regulatory thresholds. Without such information, it is not possible to conclude that air pollutant emissions resulting from construction activities would be adequately reduced to the point that sensitive receptors are not exposed to substantial concentrations of air pollutants, and thus, a significant and unavoidable impact may result.

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Existing regulations and ordinances would reduce operation-related impacts by reducing air pollutant emissions from stationary and mobile sources. Even with the implementation of new Project-specific mitigation measures, cumulative operational emissions resulting from future development would likely exceed both the SCAQMD and MDAQMD thresholds. Therefore, the implementation of GPA No. 960 would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to sensitive receptors.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.6-66 through 4.6-71

C. Greenhouse Gases

1. Impacts: (Impact 4.7.B) Conflict with GHG Reduction Plans, Policies or Regulations

Implementation of the Riverside County General Plan, as updated pursuant to the proposed project (GPA No. 960), would result in future construction and operational activities that generate GHGs. This generation of GHGs would potentially conflict with the implementation of AB 32 and SB 375, California policies for reducing GHG emissions, in addition to Executive Order S-3-05. However, implementation of the proposed General Plan policies, compliance with federal, State, and County regulations (refer to Impact 4.7.A for a full description of these regulations and policies), and particularly the Implementation Measures of the Riverside County CAP, would ensure that buildout of the General Plan, as amended by GPA No. 960, would be consistent with both AB 32 and SB 375 and have a less than significant impact on their implementation. Further, applicable mitigation measures would reduce impacts by requiring compliance with State air quality standards through implementation of the Climate Action Plan in order to reduce emissions, or through measures developed and supported by a GHG study, or using the CAP Screening Tables in order to meet the minimum requirements of the CAP through a variety of proposed measures. However, the achievement of the 2050 reduction target in Executive Order S-3-05 is technologically infeasible at this time and therefore implementation of GPA No. 960 would result in significant and unavoidable impacts.

Mitigation:

Implementation of, and compliance with, the existing regulatory programs, General Plan policies and Riverside County CAP, as well as new Mitigation Measures 4.7.A-N1 and 4.7.A-N2, would ensure that development authorized pursuant to the General Plan, as amended by the proposed project, GPA No. 960, would have less than significant impacts on reducing GHG emissions and achieving the AB32 and SB 375 reduction targets. However, implementation of, and compliance with, the existing regulatory programs General Plan policies and Riverside County CAP, as well as new Mitigation Measures 4.7.A-N1 and 4.7.A-N2, will not achieve the 2050 goal in Executive Order S-3-05 and achievement of that goal is technologically infeasible at this time. Mitigation Measure 4.7.A-N3 commits the County to develop a post 2020 CAP that demonstrates achievement of 2035 and 2050 reduction targets and that the post 2020 CAP is adopted by January 1, 2020. This allows time for the development of new technology needed to achieve the 2050 goal and the County time to provide a post 2020 CAP in sync with the State goals and reductions.

Because achievement of the 2050 reduction target in Executive Order S-3-05 is technologically infeasible to achieve at this time, impacts on GHG emissions are considered significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.7-54 through 4.7-57

D. Noise

1. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.15.A) Generate Noise or Cause Noise Exposure in Excess of Standards</u>

Future development accommodated by the Project would incrementally increase rural, suburban and urban uses in localized areas throughout unincorporated Riverside County. In some locations, this would result in the introduction of new noise-sensitive land uses into areas of existing excess noise or areas in which Riverside County growth would eventually lead to excess noise levels. In addition, future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would contribute incrementally to increased traffic volumes on Riverside County roads, resulting in noise increases

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affecting sensitive land uses along existing and future roads. As a result, new development, particularly residential uses along and adjacent to major transit corridors, could be exposed to noise levels that exceed Riverside County's noise standards. Existing sensitive uses would also be subject to these higher noise levels. Future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be required to conform to several federal, State, and County regulations regarding noise, including the Federal Noise Control Act of 1972, the California Building Standards Code, the California Noise Insulation Standards, and Ordinance No. 847 (regulating noise). Further, there are several existing and proposed General Plan Land Use, Noise, and Open Space policies that would contribute to reducing Project impacts to noise (refer to page 4.15-163). Further, compliance with applicable mitigation would reduce impacts by requiring compliance with indoor and outdoor noise standards, requiring completion of an acoustical study for developments with excessive noise exposure and projects adjacent to sensitive uses, requiring a minimum buffering distance of two miles between schools and airports, as well as requiring buffering between industrial development and other uses. Compliance with existing noise standards, State and County regulatory programs, General Plan policies and mitigation measures would reduce the effects of noise on new development to less than significant levels. However, where noise generators would expose existing receptors (residences and other sensitive uses) to excessive noise, impacts would be significant and unavoidable, as mitigation of these incremental and widespread noise impacts is infeasible.

Mitigation:

In EIR No. 441, certified for the 2003 RCIP General Plan, Mitigation Measures 4.13.2A, B, C and D (described below) were imposed to reduce impacts associated with long-term noise sources that would exceed Riverside County noise standards. These measures remain applicable to this Project. Mitigation Measure 4.13.2A would lessen noise impacts by restricting development of noise-sensitive uses if exterior and

interior noise standards cannot be met. Mitigation Measure 4.13.2B would lessen noise impacts by requiring preparation of a site-specific noise analysis ("describing how the exterior and interior noise standards will be met") for residential projects with a noise exposure greater than 65 dBA Day-Night Average Level (L_{dn}) to ensure that homes are situated in appropriately quiet areas or are constructed with the necessary sound attenuation measures to reduce noise levels to appropriate levels. Mitigation Measure 4.13.2C would lessen impacts by also requiring new commercial and industrial development proposals include a noise study that analyzes site-specific noise impacts and provides mitigation appropriate for achieving the allowable noise levels. Mitigation Measure 4.13.2D would lessen noise impacts on schools by restricting their development within 2 miles of an airport. In addition, EIR No. 441 also included Mitigation Measures 4.13.3A, 4.13.3B and 4.13.3C (described below) to address impacts from stationary noise sources. These measures would also apply to future development accommodated by GPA No. 960.

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.2A states, "All new residential developments within the County shall conform to a noise exposure standard of 65 dBA L_{dn} for outdoor noise in noise-sensitive outdoor activity areas and 45 dBA L_{dn} for indoor noise in bedrooms and living/family rooms. New development, which does not and cannot be made to conform to this standard, shall not be permitted."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.2B states, "Acoustical studies be conducted, describing how the exterior and interior noise standards will be met, for all new residential developments with a noise exposure greater than 65 dBA L_{dn}. The studies shall also satisfy the requirements set forth in Title 24, Part 2 of the California [Building] Code (Noise Insulation Standards), for multiple-family attached homes, hotels, motels, etc. No development permits or approval of land use applications shall be issued until an acoustic analysis is received and approved by the [Riverside] County Planning Department."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.2C states, "The County shall require that proposed new commercial and industrial developments prepare acoustical studies, analyzing potential noise impacts on adjacent properties, when these developments abut noise-sensitive land uses. The County will require that all direct impacts to noise-sensitive land uses be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.2D</u> states, "All new schools, particularly in subdivisions and specific plans, shall be sited more than 2 miles away from any airport."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.3A</u> states "Acoustical studies shall be conducted for all new noise-sensitive projects that may be affected by existing noise from stationary sources."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.3B states, "To permit new development of residential and noise-sensitive land uses where existing stationary noise sources exceed [Riverside] County's noise standards, effective mitigation measures shall be implemented to reduce noise exposure to or below the allowable levels of the zoning code/noise control ordinance."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.3C states, "No industrial facilities shall be constructed within 500 feet of any commercial land uses or within 2,800 feet of any residential uses without the preparation of a noise impact analysis. This analysis shall document the nature of the industrial facility as well as "noise producing" operations associated with that facility. Furthermore, the analysis shall document the placement of any existing or proposed commercial or residential land uses situated within the noted distances. The analysis shall determine the potential noise levels that could be received at these commercial and/or residential land uses and specify measures to be employed by the industrial facility to ensure that these levels do not exceed [Riverside] County noise requirements. Such measures could include, but are not limited to, the use of enclosures for noisy pieces of equipment, the use of noise walls and/or berms for exterior equipment and/or on-site truck operations, and/or

restrictions on hours of operations. No development permits or approval of land use applications shall be issued until an acoustic analysis is received and approved by the County [of Riverside] staff."

Compliance with the above regulations, standards, policies and existing mitigation measures would ensure potentially adverse impacts related to noise generation and noise exposure associated with future new development accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be less than significant. In particular, compliance with Mitigation Measures 4.13.2A and 4.13.2B would ensure that new residential uses are only allowed if they would achieve interior noise levels of 45 dBA, consistent with Riverside County standards. Existing sensitive uses, particularly residences, however, would also be subject to project-related traffic noise increases. Much of the mitigation listed above would not be feasible for reducing widespread noise exposures to existing uses, particularly from roadway noise or other noises generated outside of a new development site. For this reason, noise impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.15-160 through 4.15-165

2. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.15.C) Result in a Substantial Permanent Increase in Ambient Noise</u> <u>Levels</u>

Future development associated with implementation of the Project would contribute to an increase in traffic, resulting in a corresponding increase in traffic noise. In some cases, this would cause ambient noise levels to either exceed the threshold of acceptability (65 dBA CNEL, for example) or to become further unacceptable in areas already exceeding noise thresholds. Buildout accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be required to conform to the State and federal requirements for noise, including the Federal Noise Control Act of 1972, the California Building Standards Code, California Noise Insulation Standards, Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans, and Ordinance No. 847 (regulating noise). Further, there are several existing and proposed General Plan Noise, Land Use, and Circulation Policies that would aid in

reducing impacts associated with increased noise levels (refer to page 4.15-170). Additionally, applicable mitigation measures will further reduce impacts through the methods outlined in Impact 4.15.A above. Compliance with abovementioned existing laws, federal, State and County regulatory programs, General Plan policies and mitigation measures described below, would reduce potential impacts due to increased noise levels. For new development, full mitigation would typically be feasible. For existing noise-sensitive land uses, however, due to the widespread and pervasive nature of the noise impacts, it is generally not feasible to fully mitigate the impact for all affected receptors. Thus, this impact would be significant and unavoidable, even with the implementation of all feasible mitigation.

Mitigation:

In EIR No. 441, certified for the 2003 RCIP General Plan, Mitigation Measures 4.13.3A, 4.13.3B and 4.13.3C (as discussed in the mitigation discussion in Impact 4.15.A, above) were imposed to reduce stationary noise impacts from future development to less than significant. These measures remain applicable to this Project. Mitigation Measure 4.13.3A would lessen noise impacts by requiring the preparation and approval of a site-specific noise study. Mitigation Measure 4.13.3B requires implementation of mitigation measures where development noise levels would expose people to noise levels higher than the identified standard. Mitigation Measure 4.13.3C would lessen impacts associated with this issue by restricting certain types of land uses within a certain distance of noise-sensitive uses. In addition, existing EIR No. 441 Mitigation Measures 4.13.2A, 4.13.2B, 4.13.2C and 4.13.2D, presented in the mitigation discussion for Impact 4.15.A, shall also apply as mitigation for this impact. Excessive (i.e., exceeding regulatory standards) exterior and interior noise in existing and proposed noise-sensitive areas can be remediated by such mitigation strategies as relocating roadways, applying roadway coatings or reducing road speeds, building sound walls, providing buffer zones, retrofitting older homes with insulation or appropriate window treatments (i.e., double-paned windows, interior storm windows,

etc.) or choosing development sites in quiet areas. For new development, it is anticipated that Riverside County standards could be met and substantial noise impacts could be avoided by incorporating such appropriate mitigation strategies which would reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels. However, for existing noise-sensitive uses located in areas adjacent to roadways or rail lines, or close to airports or other stationary sources, it may not be possible or feasible to include noise reduction strategies to address interior noise impacts. The County cannot demonstrate at this time that the revised policies and actions in the GPA No. 960, as well as the identified mitigation measures, would reduce impacts of each project and upon each project that could be developed under GPA No. 960 to a less than significant level. Even with the incorporation of feasible mitigation measures, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.15-168 through 4.15-171

3. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.15.D)</u> Result in a Substantial Temporary or Periodic Increase in Ambient Noise Levels

Future development accommodated by the Project would necessitate construction activities which could temporarily exceed applicable Riverside County standards at nearby noise-sensitive receptors. In many cases, the peak sound levels would be extremely brief and overall ambient noise levels would remain within acceptable limits. In addition, buildout accommodated by GPA No. 960 would be required to conform to federal and local regulations regarding noise, including the Federal Noise Control Act of 1972 and Ordinance No. 847 (regulating noise). Further, there are several existing General Plan Noise policies that would provide mitigation for impacts related to construction noise, including Policy N 13.1 (which requires that future development minimize potential impacts of construction noise on adjacent uses within acceptable practices), Policy N 13.2 (which ensures that construction activities are limited to certain hours of operation in order to minimize adverse noise impacts), Policy N 13.3 (which requires developments adjacent to occupied, noise-sensitive uses

have a construction noise mitigation plan prepared prior to issuance of a grading permit), and Policy N 13.4 (which requires that all construction equipment utilize noise reduction features (mufflers, engine shrouds, etc.) at least as effective as those originally installed by the manufacturer). Further, applicable mitigation would reduce impacts by requiring the implementation of on-site noise reduction measures during construction. Compliance with the abovementioned existing laws, regulatory programs, and General Plan policies, as well as mitigation measures described below, would also help reduce potential short-term noise impacts. On occasion, however, construction requirements and/or the proximity of the sensitive land use (e.g., within 150 feet or less) would make significant noise impacts unavoidable, even though temporary. Because of the close distances involved for such significant impacts, mitigation of sound levels to less than significant are technologically impossible. Thus, no additional Project-specific mitigation is feasible. Future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 may result in significant short-term noise impacts that would be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation:

In EIR No. 441, prepared for the 2003 RCIP General Plan, Mitigation Measures 4.13.1A and 4.13.1B were imposed to reduce impacts associated with construction noise generated from development projects to a less than significant level. These measures remain applicable to this Project. Mitigation Measure 4.13.1A would lessen impacts by requiring the preparation and approval of a construction-related noise mitigation plan. Mitigation Measure 4.13.1B would lessen impacts by limiting the time and frequency of construction haul trucks in the area. These mitigation measures would apply to any new developments and would address any construction noise impacts on adjacent existing sensitive uses.

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.1A states, "Prior to the issuance of any grading plans, the County [of Riverside] shall condition approval of subdivisions adjacent to any developed/occupied noise-sensitive land uses by requiring applicants to submit a

construction-related noise mitigation plan to the County for review and approval. The plan should depict the location of construction equipment and how the noise from this equipment will be mitigated during construction of the project through use of such methods as:

- The construction contractor shall use temporary noise attenuation fences where feasible, to reduce construction noise impacts on adjacent noise sensitive land uses.
- During all project site excavation and grading on site, the construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards. The construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive receptors nearest the project site.
- The construction contractor shall locate equipment staging in areas that will
 create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and
 noise sensitive receptors nearest the project site during all project
 construction.
- The construction contractor shall limit all construction-related activities that
 would result in high noise levels to between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm
 Monday through Saturday. No construction shall be allowed on Sundays and
 public holidays."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.13.1B states that the construction-related noise mitigation plan required shall also specify that haul truck deliveries be subject to the same hours specified for construction equipment. Additionally, the plan shall denote any construction traffic haul routes where heavy trucks would exceed 100 daily trips (counting those both to and from the construction site). To the extent feasible, the plan shall denote haul routes that do not pass sensitive land uses or residential

dwellings. Lastly, the construction-related noise mitigation plan shall incorporate any other restrictions imposed by [Riverside] County staff.

Future development accommodated by the Project must include measures to adequately mitigate construction noise impacts. It is feasible that this could be achieved for new development (through site design, buffers, layout, construction materials, increased insulation, etc.). In addition, compliance with the above-listed regulatory programs and General Plan policies, as well as Mitigation Measures 4.13.1A and 4.13.1B from EIR No. 441, would further reduce any construction-related impacts to future new development. However, in some cases, particularly where existing noise-sensitive land uses occur within 100-150 feet of certain construction activities (pile driving, demolition, etc.), it may not be possible to reduce construction noise levels to less than significant levels. In these locations, impacts may be significant if the construction noise levels exceed regulatory limits and/or exceed "temporary" duration. In these cases, significant construction impacts would result that cannot be reduced to less than significant levels. Such impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.15-171 through 4.15-176

E. <u>Transportation and Circulation</u>

1. Impacts: (Impact 4.18.A) Conflict with an Applicable Plan, Ordinance or Policy Establishing
a Measure of Effectiveness for the Performance of the Circulation System, Taking into
Account All Modes of Transportation, Including Mass Transit and Non-Motorized Travel
and Relevant Components of the Circulation System, Including, but Not Limited to
Intersections, Streets, Highways and Freeways, Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths and Mass
Transit

GPA No. 960 proposes to revise the LOS threshold for determining adverse impacts to Riverside County roadways. At present, the countywide threshold for significance is LOS C, with LOS D and E allowed in certain instances. When a roadway facility is projected to operate at a deficient LOS, this situation is often remedied by upgrading

the facility designation to a higher classification, thus providing more capacity. By lowering the LOS threshold, fewer facilities would need to be upgraded in order to meet the new proposed LOS target. However, even with the lower LOS threshold and upgrades in roadway classifications, several roadways are still projected to operate at a deficient LOS. In addition, a number of roadways that would operate at an acceptable LOS if their classification were upgraded, cannot be upgraded due to physical or environmental constraints.

Future development accommodated by the Project would increase rural, suburban and urban uses in Riverside County relative to existing conditions, and increase travel demand within Riverside County. There are multiple policies which contribute to the reduction of impacts on Riverside County roadways, including Policy C 1.2, which addresses the need to provide a multi-modal transportation network that includes all modes of travel ranging from automobiles to pedestrians. Policy C1.3 specifically addresses transit users by supporting the development of local and regional transit facilities. Policy C 1.7 addresses land use patterns that will reduce vehicular travel such as pedestrian-oriented development and mixed-use community centers. Policy C 4.1 relates to the provision of pedestrian facilities within developments. Policy C 2.4 requires that new development proposals mitigate their direct traffic impacts. Mitigating cumulative and indirect traffic impact through fee programs and other similar methods is addressed through Policy C 2.5. Policy C 2.7 establishes at trip cap for the Highway 79 Policy Area which requires residential projects to limit their trip generation and provide sufficient infrastructure to support their development. Further, applicable mitigation measures would reduce impacts by requiring a "fair share" contribution for new projects to offset off-site transportation impacts, Compliance with the abovementioned existing laws, rules, regulations and policies, both existing and proposed, together with revisions to the Circulation Element for Riverside County would reduce impacts to the maximum extent feasible and practical;

however, even with these measures impacts to the Riverside County roadway system will be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation:

EIR No. 441 was the document used to evaluate the 2003 General Plan. The following mitigations are included in EIR No. 441 with respect to transportation and circulation impacts:

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.16.1A states, "As part of its review of land development proposals, The County [of Riverside] shall require project proponents to make a "fair share" contribution to required intersection and/or roadway improvements. The required intersection and/or roadway improvements shall be based on maintaining the appropriate level of service (LOS D within Community Development Areas designated by the 2003 Riverside County General Plan and within adjacent jurisdictions; LOS C within those portions of unincorporated Riverside County outside of Community Development Areas). The fair share contribution shall be based on the percentage of Project-related traffic to the total future traffic."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.16.1B states, "As part of its review of land development proposals, the County [of Riverside], shall ensure sufficient right-of-way is reserved on critical roadways and at critical intersections to implement the approach lane geometrics necessary to provide the appropriate levels of services."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.16.1C states, "The County [of Riverside] shall add a transportation corridor to its General Plan Circulation Element, if feasible, showing a connection between I-15 and the Orange County freeway system, and complete that portion of the CETAP program involving the bi-county corridor to Orange County as a means of relieving traffic congestion along State Route 91 (SR-91). The transportation corridor shall provide an alternative route for traffic on SR-91 between I-15 and State Route 241."

GPA No. 960 is in compliance with Mitigation Measure 4.16.1B; however, Mitigation Measure 4.16.1A is affected by the proposed change in the LOS threshold for

significance. New policies will impose similar mitigation measures and continue to provide for "fair share" participation in improvement measures to maintain appropriate levels of service. Mitigation Measure 4.16.1C included the bi-county corridor through the Cleveland National Forest. This corridor is not actively being studied by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the appropriate public agency charged with making such determinations, at this time and was not included in the modeling for the Project (GPA No. 960). The County has no jurisdiction over the planning for this facility and can no longer count on this facility as mitigation, and as such, the facility is proposed to be removed from the Riverside County Circulation Element. The removal of this facility has been analyzed as part of the traffic modeling to evaluate the impacts of GPA No. 960.

Table 4.18-U, "Mitigation Recommendations for GPA No. 960 (Build Out)" provided in EIR No. 521, on pages 4.18-91 through 4.18-98 of Section 4.18, "Transportation and Circulation" summarizes the recommended roadway designation changes needed to mitigate impacted roadway facilities located in the unincorporated areas of Riverside County under the GPA No. 960 Buildout scenario. The table includes the proposed road designation as well as the designation necessary to mitigate roadway impacts. The last column of Table 4.18-U contains Recommendation Codes indicating whether the County of Riverside can adopt the Mitigation Designation for the respective roadway, or if constraint(s) exists that would preclude the County from implementing the Mitigation Designation. The codes are summarized below:

- 1. Recommend adoption of mitigation designation.
- 2. Implementation of mitigation would require coordination with other public agencies such as cities, Caltrans, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), March JPA, federal agencies, etc.
- 3. Mitigation is affected by design constraints such as terrain, road standard exceptions and geometrics.

4. Implementation of mitigation would require overcoming development constraints such as pre-existing development limiting the ability to acquire right-of-way or provide widening of roads.

Of the 153 identified roadways in the table, 99 roadways have mitigation designations recommended for adoption. The remaining 54 roadways require coordination with other jurisdictions and/or are constrained by existing development or environmental considerations. These roadways have the recommendation cells shaded in gray; refer to Table 4.18-U, "Mitigation Recommendations for GPA No. 960 (Build Out)" provided in EIR No. 521, on pages 4.18-86 through 4.18-93 of Section 4.18, "Transportation and Circulation".

Table 4.18-U contains all of the roadways that are subject to Riverside County's jurisdiction. All of the other roadways listed fall outside the jurisdiction of Riverside County (i.e. State of California and cities). These roadways similarly have impacts which require mitigation measures. However, since these roadways are not within the jurisdiction of Riverside County, the impacts may potentially remain significant unless improved by others to standards that are higher than those modeled.

The implementation of GPA No. 960 will generally improve traffic conditions throughout Riverside County compared to the buildout of the Existing General Plan. This is due to the decreased population estimates, decreased employment estimates, a refined roadway network and implementation of revised policies that provide more realistic parameters for mobility planning. However, the buildout of GPA No. 960 will still result in increased traffic levels in the future that will contribute to deficient operations within its proposed circulation network. The proposed policies incorporated in GPA No. 960 in the Circulation and Land Use Element will partially address these deficient conditions. However, these policies will not fully address these

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deficiencies, nor will the proposed revisions to the Riverside County Circulation Element fully mitigate these impacts. Therefore, the cumulative impacts to Riverside County roadways are considered to be significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.18-44 through 4.18-98

F. Water Resources

1. Impacts: (Impact 4.19.A) Result in Insufficient Water Supply

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project has the potential to result in demand for water supplies where such are insufficient or unavailable to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, thus necessitating new or expanded entitlements in order to adequately serve future development, or result in development in locations in which water supply adequacy cannot be ascertained. Due to the unavailability of potable water in some areas, as well as the variability and unpredictability of supply adequacy in light of future growth, as well as environmental and regulatory constraints, adequate water supplies for all forecast future development cannot be assured. As a result, within certain areas of Riverside County where sufficient water supply is not available or cannot be assured into the future, impacts would be significant and unavoidable. However, there are several federal and State regulations that would aid in reducing significant impacts related to insufficient water supplies, including a demonstrated compliance with the Clean Water Act, Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, CCR Title 22 (Recycled Water), SBX 7-7, Senate Bill 610, and Senate Bill 221. There are also several existing Riverside County regulations that would prevent or reduce significant impacts to water supplies (refer to page 4.19-296). Further, there are multiple water-resources related General Plan policies that would help reduce the effects of future development on water supply, including Policies OS 1.1 and 1.3 (which address water supply issues at the county level and when considering projects for approval), Policies OS 2.2 and 2.5 (which address water conservation by encouraging the use of recycled water), and Policies LU 5.3, 21.2, 28.3, 29.7, 30.7, 31.4 and 32.6 (which address project consistency with urban water management plans and require projects be reviewed to ensure water resources are adequate for the proposed level of development). Policies OS 1.4, 2.3 and 2.4 (which address water conservation by encouraging the use of recycled water), New Policies OS 2.1 and 18.1-18.6 (which address water conservation through requirements for water-efficient landscaping), and New Policy LU 22.2 (which ensures water resources are adequate for the proposed level of development) would also aid in reducing significant impacts. Compliance with abovementioned existing laws, federal, State and County regulatory programs, General Plan policies and the existing mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 described below, would reduce potential on water supply; however, they do not mitigate the potential significant impacts that would arise from project-driven future increases in demand for and use of water. Impacts remain significant and unavoidable in this regard.

Mitigation:

These specific mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 address water supplies directly: existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.2A and 4.17.3A (described under Impact 4.19.B, below), would also aid in reducing impacts to water supplies.

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.1C "Development within unincorporated areas of the County shall not use water of any source of quality suitable for potable domestic use for non-potable uses, including cemeteries, golf courses, parks, highway landscaped areas, industrial and irrigation uses, or other non-domestic use if suitable recycled water is available as provided in Sections 13550-13566 of the [California] Water Code and/or Sections 65591-65600 and 65601-65607 of the Public Resource Code. Prior to the issuance of any land use permit, the County shall determine to what extent and in which manner the use of recycled water is required for individual water projects. Future development shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the recycled water measures mandated by the County."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.1D states, "The County [of Riverside] shall enforce compliance with federal, state and local standards for water conservation within residential, commercial or industrial projects. Prior to approval of any development within the County, the applicant shall submit evidence to the County that all applicable water conservation measures have been met."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.1E states, "For any development within the [Department of Water Resources [DWR]-designated] Palo Verde Planning Area supplied with water from the Colorado River, the project applicant shall enter into a contract with the City of Needles [the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project [LCWSP] water contractor], pursuant to the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project program. Evidence of such a contractual agreement shall be submitted to the County prior to the approval of any development entitlement for the project."

Implementation of the above regulations, General Plan policies and Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.1E would reduce or minimize potential impacts to water supply associated with future development accommodated by GPA No. 960. However, they do not fully mitigate potential significant impacts that would arise from Project-driven future increases in demand for and use of water; nor do they provide the means to ensure water supplies are secured for the proposed areas. Thus, even with the above measures, impacts to water supply would remain significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-293 through 4.19-298

2. <u>Impacts: (Impact 4.19.B) Substantially Deplete Groundwater Supplies or Interfere</u> <u>Substantially With Groundwater Recharge</u>

Future development accommodated by the land use and policy changes proposed by the Project would increase population size within Riverside County, triggering increased water demands on areas relying on groundwater supplies. This is particularly likely in areas of Riverside County without municipal water service or other access to imported water supplies or where new development would rely solely

on groundwater for supply. Increased and new uses may also conflict with groundwater management plans, monitoring programs or lead to groundwater extractions that individually or cumulatively exceed the groundwater basins' safe yields or cause a net deficit in the aquifer volume or reduction in the local water table level. In addition, there is the potential for future development accommodated by the Project to occur in vacant areas that are currently available for groundwater recharge. Development of such areas would reduce the area available for aguifer recharge and could substantially interfere with the process of groundwater recharge. A number of federal and State regulatory policies and programs address groundwater impacts, including those outlined in the Clean Water Act, Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1970, CCR Title 22 (recycled water), SBX 7-7, Senate Bill 610, and Senate Bill 221. There are also several Riverside County regulations that would play a role in reducing impacts to groundwater, including Ordinance No. 682 (construction, reconstruction, abandonment and destruction of wells), Ordinance No. 856 (establishing a septic tank prohibition for specified areas of Quail Valley and requiring the connection of existing septic systems to sewer), and Ordinance No 871 (prohibiting the installation of specified septic tank systems in Cherry Valley). Further, there are also several existing and proposed General Plan Open Space and Land Use policies that would address potential impacts to water resources (refer to page 4.19-301 for a full discussion of these policies). However, where groundwater recharge is insufficient, such increased demand on aquifers would result in significant and unavoidable impacts.

Mitigation:

Several specific mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 address groundwater supplies and recharge. Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.1C, 4.17.1D and 4.17.1E, listed under Impact 4.19.A, above, would also aid in reducing impacts to groundwater supplies.

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.2A</u> states, "In areas where it is not practical to conserve soils suitable for recharge (as determined by the Riverside County Flood

Control and Water Conservation District), water harvesting and recharge facilities shall be built within the same groundwater basin in which the recharge area is lost. The construction of 'replacement' recharge areas shall equal the amount of recharge area lost and/or shall incorporate equipment or facilities capable of replacing (at an equal volume) the amount of groundwater recharge capacity lost as a result of development. The identification, designation, location or installation of 'replacement' groundwater recharge capacity shall be reviewed and approved by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District prior to the issuance of grading permits."

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.17.3A states, "New development that includes more than one acre of impervious surface area (including roofs, parking areas, streets, sidewalk, etc.) shall incorporate features to facilitate the onsite infiltration of precipitation and/or runoff into groundwater basins. Such features shall include (but not be limited to): natural drainage systems (where economically feasible), detention basins incorporated into project landscaping; and the installation of porous areas within parking areas. Where natural drainage systems are utilized for groundwater recharge, they shall be managed using natural approaches (as modified to safeguard public health and safety). Groundwater recharge features shall be included on development plans and shall be reviewed by the Riverside County Building and Safety Department and/or Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District prior to the issuance of grading permits."

While the above existing mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 would reduce or minimize potential impacts to groundwater usage and its recharge as a result of future development accommodated by GPA No. 960, they do not address specific groundwater basin usage or the site-specific groundwater recharge impacts that would result indirectly from implementation of the proposed Project. In some cases, such onsite recharge mitigation may be infeasible for insufficient to offset the impact to groundwater. In addition, agency data demonstrating groundwater supply and

demand into the future only extends to 2035, thus making supply assumptions for this Project to full buildout (approximately 2060) tenuous at best. Thus, even with the above measures, impacts to groundwater and groundwater recharge would remain significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.19-298 through 4.19-303

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that the following environmental issues associated with the Riverside County General Plan Update are determined to have no cumulative environmental impacts in consideration of existing regulations:

A. Mineral Resources

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.14.A) Result in the Loss of Availability of Delineated Locally Important Minerals</u>

Since the Riverside County General Plan does not contain any "locally important mineral resource recovery sites," no cumulative impacts would occur in this regard.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-201

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that the following cumulative environmental impacts associated with the Riverside County General Plan Update are determined to be less than significant in consideration of existing regulations:

A. Land Use

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.2.A: Physically Divide an Established Community, Impact 4.2.B: Conflict With Environmental Land Use Policies Intended to Avoid or Mitigate an Environmental Effect, and 4.2.C: Conflict With Any Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan)</u>

A substantial increase in growth is anticipated to result in the implementation of future GPAs over the next 50 years if all of the changes proposed by GPA No. 960 and the cumulative General Plan scenario occur. These changes and growth pressures will have a direct bearing on land uses within Riverside County. However, the analysis provided in Section 5.5, "Cumulative Impacts" in EIR No. 521 (pages 5-50 through 5-55) indicates that future development consistent with the proposed Project, GPA No.

960, would contribute less than significant incremental impacts on land use-related environmental issues, including physical division of an established community, consistency with land use plans, policies and regulations adopted to avoid or mitigate environmental effects, and consistency with habitat conservation plans. Moreover, compliance with State and County regulations would further prevent already significant impacts to physical access to and through established communities. Additionally, there are several existing and proposed General Plan Policies that would address impacts to established communities (refer to page 4.2-43 for a full discussion of these policies). Implementation of, and compliance with, key regulations, Riverside County ordinances and General Plan policies listed above and on pages 5-57 and 5-59 of General Plan Section 5.5 would ensure that cumulative impacts on land use are either avoided or minimized to less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-58 and 5-199

B. Population and Housing

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impacts 4.3.B: Displace Residential Units and 4.3.C: Displace People)</u>

A small number of homes and their residents will be displaced where new development, particularly new highways and major roadways, is constructed on previously developed lands. Such displacements would be insubstantial, however, because of the existing and future housing inventories available within Riverside County for replacement. Displacement would not necessitate the construction of additional replacement housing elsewhere. As a result of population growth and new homes, in particular, the amount of roadways, storm drains, water reservoirs and storage tanks, pipelines, transmission lines and other infrastructure needed within Riverside County would also increase. However, this incremental impact would be insubstantial.

The analysis provided in Section 5.5, "Cumulative Impacts" in EIR No. 521 (pages 5-59 through 5-63) indicates that future development consistent with the proposed Project, GPA No. 960, would contribute less than significant incremental impacts on

population and housing-related environmental issues, including the displacement of residential units and people. Policy LU 8.1 ensures that future development be developed in a balanced manner, and LU 9.4 allows clustering to facilitate growth without adversely affecting sensitive resources. Policy C 2.4 requires new development, which includes residential, to provide necessary circulation improvements to ensure adequate levels of service, and Policy C 7.9 ensures that future development, which includes residential, does not impinge upon lands needed for future circulation service. Moreover, implementation of, and compliance with, key regulations, Riverside County ordinances and General Plan policies described above and on page 5-60 of General Plan Section 5.5 would ensure that cumulative impacts regarding displacement of residential units and people are either avoided or minimized to less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-60 and 5-62 through 5-63

C. Agricultural and Forestry Resources

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.5.C) Adversely Affect Forest Lands and Forestry Uses</u>

Table 5.5-M, "Cumulative Biological Effects" on pages 5-92 through 5-93 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 provides data on cumulative effects to woodland and forest acreage throughout Riverside County. This data indicates that land use changes occurring as the General Plan builds out (regardless of scenario) will affect only sporadic or occasional stands of forest vegetation at altitudes above 5,000 feet sea level. This includes stands of "Montane Hardwood" and "Montane Hardwood-Conifer Forest," primarily in the San Jacinto Mountains of central Riverside County. None of these forest resources, however, support industrial or commercial timber production. Overall, compliance with existing and proposed State and County regulations and policies listed earlier in the document would ensure forestry impacts are less than significant. The California Forest Practice Act would ensure any future timberland uses within Riverside County are conducted according to the standards established by the State of California for the protection and safe utilization of forest lands and timber

resources. County Ordinance No. 559 protects forest and timber resources within the County by requiring review and issuance of a permit for the removal of living native trees on parcels or property greater than one-half are and located above 5,000 feet elevation. In addition, there are several existing and proposed/revised General Plan Land Use and Open Space policies ensuring that development impacts on forest lands, including their conversion to non-forest uses, are less than significant. Neither the Project nor the cumulative General Plan buildout scenarios would result in significant cumulative forestry impacts. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-70 to 5-71 and 5-92 through 5-93

D. Biological Resources

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.8.E) Conflict with Adopted Habitat Conservation Plans</u>

The with-Project General Plan buildout scenario will further increase habitat loss to development and urbanization in general, though in incremental amounts generally not substantial. Of particular note, the with-Project General Plan buildout scenario would add over 9,200 additional acres of natural habitat within vacant and open space uses. For the cumulative General Plan buildout, the incremental losses of native habitat and gains in developed acreage continue in larger, but still incrementally insignificant amounts. In particular when compared against the offsetting habitat conservation targets to be achieved throughout Western Riverside County and Coachella Valley MSHCPs, the incremental effects of habitat loss for the Project and cumulative scenarios are not cumulatively significant. Additionally, there are several existing and proposed General Plan policies that would lessen conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Compliance with the provisions of these MSHCPs, in addition to the federal, State, and County regulations and General Plan policies described previously in the document would ensure that future development accommodated by GPA No. 960 is consistent

with the plans and that cumulative impacts are less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-97 through 5-98

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.8.F) Conflict with Local Biological Resource Protections</u> <u>Policies or Ordinances</u>

Similar to Project impacts discussed above, the cumulative General Plan buildout scenario would increase rural, suburban and urban uses in the County that could result in conflicts with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources; however, the incremental effects are not considered to be cumulatively significant. The Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines and Riverside County Ordinance No. 559 – Regulating the Removal of Trees both prevent conflicts with local biological resource regulations. In addition, Policies OS 9.3 and 9.4 provide for the maintenance and preservation of natural trees and vegetation, including oak trees, for ecosystem, aesthetic, and water conservation purposes. Compliance with the abovementioned existing laws, federal, State, and County regulatory programs, Riverside County Ordinance No. 559, and General Plan policies would be sufficient to further ensure that cumulative impacts are less than significant. No mitigation is required in this regard.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-99

E. Flood and Dam Inundation Hazards

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.11.C) Expose People or Structures to Flooding Risks, Including Flooding Due to Dam or Levee Failure</u>

Future development within Riverside County (regardless of scenario) also has the potential to incrementally introduce people, property, public facilities, roads and other infrastructure into areas potentially at risk of dam inundation or flooding due to other sources, e.g., failure of a levee or of a debris basin above an alluvial fan. As with 100-year floodplain effects, without measures that reduce flooding risks, this impact would be potentially cumulatively considerable. However, compliance with existing

federal, State and County regulations and programs, as previously described above as well as on pages 5-116 through 5-117 of EIR No. 521 Section 5.5, would ensure that risks associated with development in dam inundation zones and other areas potentially prone to flooding or inundation hazards due to failure of a flood control facility are less than significant. These regulations include, but are not limited to, various Riverside County ordinances including Ordinance No. 458 (as it pertains to standards for flood control structures), as well as Ordinances No. 348, 457, 659 and 461. In addition, several existing and proposed new or revised General Plan Policies would lessen potential dam inundation hazards associated with future development. As such, No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-114 and 5-116 through 5-117.

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.11.D) Cause the Adverse Alteration of Drainage Patterns or Substantially Increase Surface Runoff</u>

Future development would result in the incremental alteration of drainage patterns throughout Riverside County that would contribute to cumulative changes in drainage patterns, runoff and hydrological alterations. In addition to direct drainage alterations, temporary ponding or flooding could also result from development activities, reducing the water-carrying capacity of drainages, flood control facilities, storm drains, etc. Such drainage alterations and changes in runoff conditions must be reduced to prevent serious cumulative flooding risks.

Future development would also result in new land uses that would convert permeable surfaces (such as undisturbed soils and vacant lands) to impermeable surfaces, such as buildings (rooftops), parking lots and roadways. Increased impermeable surfaces would substantially alter the existing drainage patterns by incrementally increasing surface runoff, thereby increasing flooding hazards. Impermeable surfaces and development would also divert natural runoff patterns potentially resulting in flooding. Developed areas where much of the land surface is covered by roads, buildings and other impermeable structures have little capacity to store rainfall. As a

result of accelerated runoff from disturbed areas, peak discharge, volume and frequency of floods increases incrementally in nearby streams. To prevent this urban runoff from creating flood hazards, future development must be designed to direct and channel runoff appropriately into storm drain facilities adequately sized to handle expected flows. Such measures are, in fact, included as Conditions of Approval required for implementing projects; see the regulatory compliance measures listed above under Impact 4.11.D as well as on pages 5-116 and 5-117 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521. Compliance with the existing federal, State and County regulations would ensure that risks associated with alterations of drainage patterns or increased surface runoff impacts would be less than significant. These regulations include, but are not limited to, the Clean Water Act, NPDES program, and various Riverside County ordinances including Ordinance No. 457, Ordinance No. 458, Ordinance No. 461 and Ordinance 754. In addition, compliance with existing General Plan Policies S 4.4, S 4.5, S 4.8, S 4.9 and S 4.10 would further ensure that flooding hazards would be less than significant. As such, no mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-114 and 5-116 through 5-117

F. Geology and Soils

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.12.F) Result in Development on Unstable Geological Units or Soils</u>

In terms of development on unstable geologic units and soils, as well as expansive soils, future growth may incrementally increase the potential for structure damage or interruption of utility service (through disruption of the facility). However, such impacts are not considered cumulatively considerable since the regulatory compliance measures identified above under Impact 4.12.F as well as on page 5-125 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 would ensure that impacts are avoided, reduce or minimized to less than significant levels. As such, no mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-124 through 5-127

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.12.H) Result in Development on Soils Incapable of Supporting Septic Tanks or Alternative Wastewater Disposal Systems</u>

Cumulative impacts to subsurface sewer services would be avoided, reduced or minimized to less than significant levels with implementation of regulatory compliance measures identified above under Impact 4.12.H as well as on page 5-125 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521. These measures would ensure that impacts are avoided, reduce or minimized to less than significant levels. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-125

G. Hazardous Materials and Safety

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.A) Create a Significant Hazard Through the Routine</u>

<u>Transport, Use of Disposal of Hazardous Materials</u>

Future cumulative development would introduce more people, property and structures to potential hazards as a result of the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials, for example through toxic spills or other contamination events. However, compliance with key regulations and programs previously discussed above, as well as on pages 5-134 and 5-135 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521, would be sufficient to reduce cumulative (incremental) impacts to a less than significant level. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-134 through 5-135

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.B) Cause a Significant Hazard Through the Accidental Release of Hazardous Materials</u>

Effects from the accidental release of a hazardous material into the environment could have serious consequences on the environment, property and human health depending upon the size, location, type and quantity of the release. However, hazardous material uses, siting, transport and disposal are subject to extensive federal and state regulation and permit requirements. These measures ensure that risks are minimized, regardless of location. Thus, buildout of Riverside County, regardless of

General Plan scenario, would not result in cumulatively considerable hazardous material effects due to accidental release.

As discussed above, under Cumulative Impact 4.13.A, a number of federal, State and local regulations exist that would ensure that any future risks from the accidental release hazardous materials would be less than significant. There are a number of federal laws that regulate hazardous materials, including federal laws such as SARA addressing Superfund sites, RCRA and HMTA for hazardous waste disposal, tracking and transportation, OSHA, TSCA and also the federal Clean Air Act. Implementation of and compliance with CCR Titles 22, 26 and 27, as well as Riverside County Ordinances No. 615, 617, 651, 718 and 348 would help monitor and reduce the potential risks to future development resulting from GPA No. 960 for the reasons discussed under Impact 4.13.A, above. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-132 through 5-134

3. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.C) Result in Hazardous Emissions or Related Hazards</u> <u>Within One-Quarter Mile of a School</u>

Future development would also increase the potential for hazardous emissions or related hazards within one-quarter mile of a school, both by increasing use of hazardous substances near existing schools and by introducing new schools potentially into proximity of hazardous materials. However, hazardous material uses, siting, transport and disposal are subject to extensive federal and state regulation and permit requirements, which are briefly described above under Impact 4.13.C. These measures ensure that risks are minimized, regardless of location. Thus, buildout of Riverside County, regardless of General Plan scenario, would not result in cumulatively considerable hazardous material effects due to accidental release. Compliance with key regulations and programs discussed on pages 5-134 and 5-135 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 would be sufficient to reduce cumulative (incremental) impacts to a less than significant level. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-134 through 5-135

4. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.D) Result in a Significant Hazard Due to Development</u> on a Cortese List Hazardous Materials Site

Future development would also increase the potential for hazards due to development on or near a site on the State of California's Cortese List of contaminated sites, leaking underground storage tanks, hazardous waste sites, etc. As discussed in Cumulative Impacts 4.13A, B, and C, above, hazardous material uses, siting, transport and disposal are subject to extensive federal and state regulation and permit requirements, which ensure that risks are minimized, regardless of location. Compliance with key regulations and programs discussed both above and on pages 5-134 and 5-135 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 would be sufficient to reduce cumulative (incremental) impacts regarding Cortese List hazardous material sites to a less than significant level. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-134 through 5-135

5. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.E) Result in Safety Hazard for People Within Two Miles</u> <u>of a Public or Public Use Airport</u>

Future development would introduce more people, property and structures to potential hazards as a result of their proximity (generally within 2 miles) to public use airports, military air bases, etc. An unforeseeable air accident could result in substantial loss of life or property damage, even within the safety zones outlined in the General Plan and the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). However, compliance with applicable County of Riverside and ALUC regulations described previously under Impact 4.13.E would ensure that air hazard risks to the areas affected by cumulative future development would be minimized to less than significant levels. Cumulative (incremental) impacts would be non-substantial, and no mitigation would be required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-134

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6. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.F) Result in a Safety Hazard for People in the Vicinity of a Private Airstrip or Heliport</u>

Future development would introduce more people, property and structures to potential hazards as a result of their proximity (generally within 2 miles) to private air strips and heliports. An unforeseeable air accident could result in substantial loss of life or property damage, even within the safety zones outlined in the General Plan and the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). However, compliance with the applicable County of Riverside and ALUC regulations described previously under Impact 4.13.F would ensure that air hazard risks to the areas affected by cumulative future development would be minimized to less than significant levels. Cumulative (incremental) impacts would be non-substantial, and no mitigation would be required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-134

7. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.13.G) Impair or Interfere With an Adopted Emergency Response Plan or Emergency Evacuation Plan</u>

Future development would result in more people and their vehicles needing to evacuate an area in the event of an emergency, particularly for wildfires. This additional traffic could hinder emergency response plans for public safety personnel and equipment in a disaster or emergency. However, construction of new roads and connecting road segments that would occur as part of the cumulative General Plan buildout would improve circulation and access, subsequently facilitating evacuations and emergency responses. As such, cumulatively substantial impacts that would interfere with emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans would not occur; incremental impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. In addition, compliance with key safety regulations and programs discussed previously under

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Impact 4.13.G, as well as on pages 5-134 and 5-135 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 would ensure that cumulative impacts would remain less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-134 through 5-135

H. Mineral Resources

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.14.B) Result in the Loss of Availability of Known Mineral Resources</u>

Future development will contribute incrementally to cumulative mineral resource and mining impacts as Riverside County builds out over time pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario). Specific impacts include the following:

- Future development pursuant to any of the General Plan buildout scenarios, including that with the Project, will contribute incrementally, but not significantly, to the loss of availability of known mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State of California, including within Sectors containing significant aggregate resources.
- Future development would also contribute incrementally, but not significantly, to the loss of lands where the availability and/or economic viability of mineral resources has yet to be established (for example, MRZ-3, MRZ-4 or unstudied areas).
- Indirect incremental impacts could also occur where MRZ-2 lands are encroached upon by incompatible uses, particularly residences and other sensitive uses, and where development lies adjacent to MRZ-2 sites otherwise suitable for mining.
- The incremental loss of areas with potentially viable mineral resources could also result in the need for development of mineral resources further away from the locations where they would be used. This would result in additional incremental contributions to other cumulative effects, such as traffic, air pollutants, noise and loss of biological habitat.

However, implementation of key regulations and General Plan policies described previously under Impact 4.14.B above, as well as those provided on page 5-139 and 5-140 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 would be sufficient to ensure that all of the incremental impacts listed above would be less than significant. As such, the Project's incremental impacts to mineral resources and their availability would not be cumulatively substantial. Therefore, significant cumulative impacts to known mineral resources of regional or statewide significance would be either avoided or minimized to less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-139 through 5-140

I. Parks and Recreation

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.16.B) Trigger Growth Effects Resulting in the Need for Additional Parks or Recreational Facilities</u>

Table 5.5-W, "Cumulative Theoretical Parkland Effects" on page 5-150 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 provides an analysis of theoretical park acreage needs based on population predictions for each buildout scenario. General Plan buildout will contribute incrementally to growth in populations throughout Riverside County which will utilize existing recreational facilities and add to the demand for additional recreational uses. Even with no project, buildout of the current General Plan shows that over 3,400 acres of additional parklands, more than double the existing amount, will be necessary to serve expected urban/suburban populations. The Project would incrementally increase the need for parklands by 2% (80 acres), and the cumulative General Plan buildout scenario would also incrementally add 50 acres. Neither of these increases is cumulatively considerable in terms of demand for additional parklands. Compliance with the abovementioned existing State and Riverside County regulatory programs (the Quimby Act, specifically), as well as existing General Plan

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policies, would ensure cumulative impacts to parks, trails and other recreation would be less than significant. Therefore, a less than significant cumulative impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-150 through 5-151

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.16.C) Result in Significant Adverse Environmental Effects</u> <u>Due to the Need for Additional Parks or Recreational Facilities</u>

Incremental population growth over time will necessitate construction of new or expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities. The construction or expansion of such facilities could have an adverse physical effect on the environment. However, compliance with existing regulations, Riverside County ordinances, and General Plan policies, described above," would be sufficient to ensure that resultant cumulative environmental impacts associated with the need for construction or expansion of new or physically altered parks or recreational facilities are less than significant. No mitigation is required in this regard.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-151

J. <u>Transportation and Circulation</u>

1. <u>Cumulative Impact: (4.18.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</u>

Future growth within Riverside County as a result of any of the General Plan buildout scenarios will contribute incrementally to changes in air traffic patterns, including increases in air traffic at some airport locations and expansion of air services or facilities at some airports. The increase or expansion of air operations will incrementally increase the areas potentially at risk from air-related safety hazards. Such incremental increases, however, would be non-substantial and would not be cumulatively significant. Further, no new airports or expansions are included in GPA No. 960.

Compliance with the existing laws, rules and regulations described above under "Project Impacts," including the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan,

would be sufficient to ensure that this cumulative impact is less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-175

2. Cumulative Impact: (4.18.D) Alter Waterborne or Rail Traffic

Future growth within Riverside County as a result of any of the General Plan buildout scenarios will contribute incrementally, but non-substantially, to increased demand for rail and air travel and increased use of these systems. Waterborne travel effects will be minimal (and not individually or cumulatively significant) as recreational water uses are the only type occurring in Riverside County; there are no navigable waterways used in Riverside County. Any incremental increases in usage that would occur in association with GPA No. 960 would be non-substantial and not cumulatively significant. Further, no new air, rail or water facilities are included in GPA No. 960. Compliance with the existing laws, rules and regulations described above under "Project Impacts" would be sufficient to ensure that this cumulative impact is less than significant. No mitigation is required in this regard.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-175

3. <u>Cumulative Impact: (4.18.E) Substantially Increase Hazards Due to a Design Feature (e.g., Sharp Curves or Dangerous Intersections) or Incompatible Uses (e.g., Farm Equipment)</u>

Future growth within Riverside County as a result of any of the General Plan buildout scenarios will contribute incrementally to increases in road hazards due to design issues or incompatible uses. These incremental hazards, however, will be avoided, reduced or minimized to cumulatively less than significant levels through adherence to Riverside County Transportation design, engineering, construction, operation and maintenance standards.

Compliance with the existing laws, rules and regulations described above under

"Project Impacts" as well as those described within General Plan Section 4.18.E would be sufficient to ensure that this cumulative impact is less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-176

4. <u>Cumulative Impact: (4.18.F) Cause an Effect Upon, or a Need for New or Altered</u> Maintenance of Roads

Roadway improvements to existing roads plus the addition of new roads will incrementally increase the need for and demand upon roadway maintenance. Such increases will not be cumulatively significant, however, according to Section 4.18. As indicated in the "Project Impacts" discussion regarding Impact 4.18.F above, a process exists that will ensure that proper road maintenance is supported by the demand levels which contribute to maintenance revenue, making the cumulative impact less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-176

5. <u>Cumulative Impact: (4.18.G) Cause an Effect Upon Circulation During the Project's</u> <u>Construction</u>

Future growth within Riverside County (pursuant to any of the buildout scenarios, including the with-Project, will trigger roadway improvements and new road construction that will have short-term, non-substantial cumulative impacts on portions of the roadway network and the travelers that use it. As indicated in the "Project Impacts" discussion regarding Impact 4.18.G above, General Plan policies will ensure that "traffic circulation [will be] maintained and impacts... maintained at less-than-significant levels." Use of the Riverside County Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), in particular, to establish and prioritize the timing and construction of Riverside County roadway projects will ensure such cumulative impacts are less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-176

6. <u>Cumulative Impact: (4.18.H) Result in Inadequate Emergency Access or Access to Nearby</u> Uses

Where incremental traffic increases cause roadway segments to operate below applicable standards, the resultant congestion could indirectly affect the safety and well-being of residents and visitors to Riverside County by delaying response times for emergency services, such as ambulances, fire trucks and law enforcement. Similarly, delays to trucks and other goods movement could slow delivery schedules and increase the cost of shipping through greater fuel consumption. These delays, however, are not expected to be cumulatively considerable overall for GPA No. 960. Similarly, increased traffic congestion, reduced operating levels and construction impacts would also incrementally contribute to inadequate emergency access at times for any of the buildout scenarios. Such incremental increases will be non-substantial and not cumulatively significant however, as GPA No. 960 incorporates policies to ensure adequate emergency vehicle access according to the "Project Impacts" discussion above regarding Impact 4.18.H as well as in Section 4.18.5 of EIR No. 521.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-176

7. <u>Cumulative Impact: (4.18.I) Conflict with Adopted Policies, Plans or Programs Regarding</u> <u>Public Transit, Bikeways or Pedestrian Facilities, or Otherwise Substantially Decrease the</u> <u>Performance or Safety of Such Facilities</u>

Where incremental traffic increases cause roadway segments to operate below applicable standards, the resultant congestion could result in delays to mass transit services (namely, buses), which would delay commuters' transit times and possibly cause fare increases to cover increased fuel costs (if passed on to customers). These delays, however, are not expected to be cumulatively considerable overall.

Future growth within Riverside County as a result of any of the buildout scenarios, including the with-Project scenario, will incrementally increase the demand for and use of public transit, bikeways and pedestrian facilities. These increases will not be cumulatively considerable, however, because, as pointed out in the "Project Impacts"

discussion regarding Impact 4.18.I above, as well as in Section 4.18.5 of EIR No. 521, GPA No. 960 incorporates policies to ensure adequate transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. These policies, described above in "4.18.I Impacts" will also ensure that the performance and safety of such facilities are likewise maintained. Therefore, this cumulative impact is considered less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-176

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that the following cumulative environmental impacts associated with the Riverside County General Plan Update are potentially significant unless otherwise indicated, but each of these impacts will be avoided or substantially lessened to a level of less than significant by the identified existing regulations or mitigation measures specified in the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) which is incorporated herein by this reference. Accordingly, the County makes the following finding as to each of the following impacts pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15091(a): "Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR."

A. Aesthetics and Visual Resources

1. Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.4.C) Adversely Affect Existing Visual Character

Future development per any of the buildout scenarios would contribute incrementally to changing the visual character of Riverside County over time. However, implementation of key regulations, General Plan policies and mitigation measures discussed above in "Project Impacts," as well as those on pages 5-68 and 5-69 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521, would be sufficient to ensure that the incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts to the existing visual character would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.4.A-N1, discussed above, is also applicable to cumulative impacts related to existing visual character. This Mitigation Measure

would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts to existing visual character remain less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-68 through 5-69

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.4.E) Interfere with Nighttime Use of the Palomar</u> <u>Astronomical Observatory</u>

Table 5.5-F, "Cumulative Palomar Lighting Zone Effects," on page 5-65 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521, shows how each of the General Plan buildout scenarios (including cumulative) would incrementally affect light and glare levels within Riverside County relative to the Palomar Special Lighting Zones established under Riverside County Ordinance No. 655. Due to its proximity, excessive lighting from future development occurring within Zone A in particular (0 to 15-mile radius) has the greatest potential to incrementally affect observatory operations. Because of the additive nature of light, such incremental contributions would be cumulatively significant. However, implementation of the key regulations, General Plan policies and mitigation measures discussed above under "Project Impacts," as well on pages 5-68 and 5-69 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521 would be sufficient to ensure that the incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts to nighttime use of the Palomar Astronomical Observatory would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.4.2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, and 2E, discussed above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts related to nighttime use of the Palomar Astronomical Observatory. These Mitigation Measures would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts to nighttime use of the Palomar Astronomical Observatory are reduced to less than significant levels.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-68 through 5-69

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B. Air Quality

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.6.E) Cause or Expose People to Objectionable Odors</u>

Although almost any land use has the potential to emit odors, some land uses, such as chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, certain agricultural activities, landfills, etc., are more likely to produce odors because of their operations. For such uses, however, setbacks or buffers, and other site-specific and industry-specific measures are typically required to control odors. Although incremental odor emissions would result, such uses are not typically allowed to be developed in concentrations that would yield cumulatively considerable impacts.

Construction activities associated with Project implementation would generate airborne odors as a result of operation of construction vehicles (i.e., diesel exhaust), paving with hot asphalt and the application of architectural coatings. Because of the volatile nature of odor compounds, they either react quickly in the atmosphere or are diluted as they are carried away from the odor source. Therefore, construction odors are generally isolated and limited to the duration of construction and its immediate site vicinity. As such, they would not affect a substantial number of people as impacts related to these odors are limited to the number of people living and working nearby the source. Further, while some components of asphalt and diesel emissions are considered toxic air contaminants, construction activities do not generally cause significant odor impacts because of the duration of exposure. Future buildout of any of the various General Plan scenarios, including the proposed Project, would not have cumulatively significant impacts due to odors.

Implementation of key regulations, General Plan policies and mitigation measures discussed previously under "Project Impacts," as well as on pages 5-81 through 5-87 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521, would be sufficient to ensure that the incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts regarding objectionable odors would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Cumulative Mitigation:

New Mitigation Measures 4.6.E-N1, N2 and N3, described above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts related to objectionable odors. These Mitigation Measures would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts regarding objectionable odors are reduced to less than significant levels.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-81 to 5-87

C. <u>Biological Resources</u>

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.8.A) Adversely Affect Riparian and Other Sensitive Habitats</u>

Spatial analyses were performed to examine the cumulative results of General Plan buildout on biological resources. To encapsulate the scope of impacts resulting from buildout of Riverside County, the various General Plan buildout scenarios were analyzed against the natural communities mapped within Riverside County (refer to General Plan Figures OS-4a, 4b and 4c). These land use and habitat analyses reflect the range of impacts to species, as site-specific or species-specific surveys are well beyond the scope of the programmatic EIR No. 521. Table 5.5-M, "Cumulative Biological Effects in Unincorporated Riverside County" on pages 5-96 and 5-97 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521, shows the cumulative conditions for the three General Plan buildout scenarios examined Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521: the existing (2009) General Plan, the General Plan updated per the Project, and the cumulative General Plan as per the additional proposed GPAs through 2009.

Growth pressures within Riverside County will result in development that causes the incremental loss, fragmentation and degeneration of natural habitat regardless of the General Plan buildout scenario. Per Table 5.5-M, General Plan buildout will contribute incrementally to the loss of species and habitat within Riverside County and result in varying degrees of impacts, depending on the size, scope and location of the incremental future development. Under buildout of the current (2009) General Plan, the amount of disturbed and developed land overall would increase 20% countywide. This includes increases in urban/suburban uses of roughly 32% (25,700 acres) and a

doubling of interface/wildland uses, approximately 1.5 million acres. Due to greater accuracy in mapping, public facility uses would decrease nearly 10%, which is a gain of roughly 2,400 acres of mainly undisturbed habitat. These land use changes show similar trends across the various natural communities; that is, habitat acreage within vacant/open uses decreasing and in urban/suburban and, in particular, interface/wildland uses increasing.

Future development accommodated will contribute incrementally to cumulative biological impacts, including adverse effects to riparian and other sensitive habitats, as Riverside County builds out over time pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario). However, a variety of existing regulatory compliance and specific mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid, reduce and minimize adverse cumulative biological impacts. The key regulations and programs and General Plan policies are provided previously under the "Project Impacts" section of this document, as well as on pages 5-99 through 5-102 in Section 5.5 of EIR No 521, and the mitigation is provided below.

Cumulative Mitigation:

New Mitigation Measures 4.8.A-N1 and 4.8.A-N2, described above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts. These measures would be sufficient to reduce incremental cumulative impacts to riparian and other sensitive habitats to a level that is less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-97 through 5-102

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.8.B) Cause Direct and Indirect Impacts to Protected Species</u> <u>or Their Habitats</u>

Future development accommodated as Riverside County builds out over time, pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario), will contribute incrementally to cumulative biological impacts, including direct take of species (that is, kill, harass, harm, etc.), including species protected by law (threatened or endangered under the federal or California Endangered Species Act), as well as

species otherwise protected or identified as sensitive (e.g., within the WR-MSHCP or CV-MSHCP, etc.), and indirect impacts to these species. However, as described above under the "Project Impacts" section of this document, a variety of existing regulatory compliance and specific mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid, reduce and minimize adverse cumulative biological impacts. The key regulations and programs and General Plan policies are also provided on pages 5-99 in Section 5.5 of EIR No 521, and the mitigation is provided below.

Cumulative Mitigation:

New Mitigation Measure 4.8.B-N1, described above, is also applicable to cumulative impacts. This measure would be sufficient to reduce incremental cumulative impacts to protected species or their habitats to a level that is less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-98 through 5-102

3. Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.8.C) Adversely Affect Wetlands

Future development accommodated as Riverside County builds out over time, pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario), will contribute incrementally to cumulative biological impacts, including adverse effects to (including loss of) wetlands and riparian habitat through direct removal, fill or hydrological interruption; or indirectly through topographic changes, alteration of soils, slopes or hydrology. However, a variety of existing regulatory compliance and specific mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid, reduce and minimize adverse cumulative biological impacts. The key regulations and programs and General Plan policies are provided above beneath the "Project Impacts" section of this document as well as on page 5-99 in Section 5.5 of EIR No 521, and the mitigation is provided below.

Cumulative Mitigation:

New Mitigation Measures 4.8.C-N1 and 4.8.C-N2, described above, are also applicable

to cumulative impacts. These measures would be sufficient to reduce incremental cumulative impacts to wetlands to a level that is less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-98 through 5-99 and 5-101 through 5-102

4. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.8.D) Impede Species Movement, Migration, Wildlife</u> Corridors and Use of Wildlife Nursery Sites

Future development accommodated as Riverside County builds out over time, pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario), will contribute incrementally to cumulative biological impacts, including adverse effects to (including loss of) areas used for the movement of both resident and migratory native species of fish and wildlife. This includes loss of wildlife corridors and open space lands connecting natural habitat areas, as well as the use of wildlife nursery and hibernation sites. However, a variety of existing regulatory compliance and specific mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid, reduce and minimize adverse cumulative biological impacts. The key regulations and programs and General Plan policies are provided above in the "Project Impacts" section of this document, as well as on pages 5-99 in Section 5.5 of EIR No 521, and the mitigation is provided below.

Cumulative Mitigation:

New Mitigation Measure 4.8.D-N1, described above, is also applicable to cumulative impacts. This measure would be sufficient to reduce incremental cumulative impacts to species movement, migration, wildlife corridors, or use of wildlife nursery sites, to a level that is less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-98 through 5-99 and 5-102

D. **Energy Resources**

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.10.C) Cause the Inefficient Use of Energy</u>

As outlined in EIR No. 521 Section 4.7, "Greenhouse Gases," implementation of specific building energy-efficiency standards outlined in Riverside County's proposed Climate Action Plan and other energy-related measures affecting electricity supplies, are documented to reduce 2020 electricity demands by nearly half (48%). A full

discussion of these measures, including their relationship to existing and proposed energy conservation efforts of both the State of California and the County of Riverside, is provided above in the "Project Impacts" section of this document, as well as in EIR No. 521 Section 4.7. Implementation of Existing Mitigation Measure 4.8.1B would ensure that potential impacts resulting from the Project and cumulative General Plan buildout scenarios remain less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.8.1B states, "The County [of Riverside] shall review all development plans prior to approval to guarantee that energy conservation and efficiency standards of Title 24 are met and are incorporated into the design of the future proposed projects. Implementation of this measure would reduce cumulative impacts regarding inefficient use of energy to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-110 through 5-112

E. Flood and Dam Inundation Hazards

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.11.A) Result in Housing Within Flood Hazard Areas</u>

Future development accommodated will contribute incrementally to cumulative flooding and inundation impacts as Riverside County builds out over time pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario). Encroachment into areas of mapped 100-year floods (including some alluvial fans) and other delineated flood hazards areas may occur; these encroaching land uses would incrementally increase the people, structures and property at risk from a flooding event. However, with the regulatory and mitigation measures proposed (refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document, for a complete discussion of these measures), cumulative impacts would be avoided, reduced or minimized to non-substantial levels.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.9.2A, 4.9.2B, 4.9.2C, and 4.9.2D, described above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts. Implementation of these mitigation measures

would reduce cumulative impacts regarding housing within flood hazard areas to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-115 through 5-117

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.11.B) Cause Impediment of Flows</u>

Future development accommodated will contribute incrementally to cumulative flooding and inundation impacts as Riverside County builds out over time pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario). Placement of structures within 100-year flood hazard areas to accommodate future growth can incrementally contribute to the impediment or redirection of flood flows. This could expose existing people, structures and property, as well as those introduced by new development, to increased flooding risks. However, with the regulatory and mitigation measures previously described under the "Project Impacts" section of this document, cumulative impacts would be avoided, reduced or minimized to non-substantial levels.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.9.1A, 4.9.1B, 4.9.1C, and 4.9.1D, described in the project impacts section above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce cumulative impacts regarding impediment of flows to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-115 through 5-117

3. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.11.E) Cause Inundation Risk Due to Seiche, Tsunami or</u> <u>Mudflow</u>

Future development accommodated will contribute incrementally to cumulative flooding and inundation impacts as Riverside County builds out over time pursuant to the Riverside County General Plan (regardless of scenario). Future development in areas subject to seiche has the potential to threaten people, structures and property. There is no documented significant potential for seiche in any of the waterbodies within Riverside County. Based on morphology and hydrology, however, two

waterbodies in Riverside County (Lake Perris and Lake Elsinore) may have the potential for seismically induced seiche. Thus, future development downstream from or within the seiche flooding zones of these waterbodies may cumulatively increase the number of people and property potentially at risk. However, setbacks and flood hazard area regulations are expected to be sufficient protection against significant risks, and thus, future development along or near lakes and reservoirs is considered to be at minimal risk.

Due to its inland location, by definition there are no tsunami risks, cumulative or otherwise, in Riverside County.

Mudflow or debris flow can occur in areas with steep slopes, particularly areas with loose soils and/or denuded of vegetation (e.g., fire burn areas) when exposed to large amounts of precipitation, and narrow canyons, arroyos and desert channels are also susceptible to flashfloods which can cause flooding damage directly or indirectly through mudflows. Growth within Riverside County will incrementally increase the people and property potentially at risk for mudslide. However, when addressed through the required soil engineering, site design and maintenance, these risks can be maintained at less than significant.

Therefore, cumulative impacts regarding inundation risks due to seiche, tsunami or mudflow would be avoided, reduced or minimized to non-substantial levels. Project design, soils engineering and construction requirements, including NPDES, CWA section 404, Riverside County ordinances and others would be sufficient to ensure that cumulative impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation is required. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of the document for a full discussion of the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-116 through 5-117

F. Geology and Soils

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.12.A) Expose People or Structures to Substantial Adverse</u>

<u>Effects Due to Rupture of a Known Earthquake Faults</u>

Future development as the General Plan builds out (per any of the scenarios) will increase the potential for property loss, injury or death resulting from development where it occurs on or adjacent to known or as of yet undetected earthquake fault zones. This will incrementally expose people and structures to adverse effects due to rupture of a known earthquake fault. This risk, however, will be mitigated through compliance with various regulatory measures, including the prohibition on building on or adjacent to active faults, and cumulative impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less than significant level. Cumulative Mitigation:

Implementation of Existing Mitigation Measure 4.10.1A, discussed above, is applicable to cumulative impacts as well. This mitigation measure would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts regarding exposing people or structures to adverse effects due to rupture of a known earthquake fault are reduced to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-124 through 5-126

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.12.C) Expose People or Structures to Substantial Adverse</u>

<u>Effects Due to Seismic Related Ground Failure, Including Liquefaction</u>

Portions of unincorporated Riverside County are susceptible to liquefaction, a destructive secondary effect of strong seismic shaking. This will incrementally expose people and structures to adverse effects due to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. This risk, however, will be mitigated through compliance with various regulatory measures and mitigation measures, described above in "Project Impacts," and cumulative impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.10.3A and 4.10.3B, discussed above, are applicable to cumulative impacts as well. These mitigation measures would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts regarding seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, are reduced to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-124 through 5-126

3. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.12.E) Result in Substantial Soil Erosion or Topsoil Loss</u>

Areas potentially subject to soil erosion or topsoil loss will be incrementally exposed during future development activities as the General Plan (any scenario) builds out. Wind and water are the two biggest factors causing soil erosion, particularly where human activities have removed vegetation or otherwise disturbed the underlying soil. However, compliance with the existing laws, General Plan policies and existing mitigation measures described above in "Project Impacts" would help reduce potential soil erosion impacts and ensure that future cumulative development would have a less than significant impact on soils.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.10.9A, 4.10.9B, 4.10.9C, and 4.10.8A, discussed above, are applicable to cumulative impacts as well. These mitigation measures would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts regarding soil erosion are reduced to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-124 through 5-127

4. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.12.G) Result in Development on Expansive Soils</u>

Expansive soils are widely distributed throughout Riverside County. Thus, any future development may incrementally increase the potential for the placement of structures and facilities in areas susceptible to damage resulting from expansive soils. However, compliance with the existing laws, General Plan policies, and existing mitigation measures described above in "Project Impacts" would help reduce

potential expansive soil impacts and ensure that future cumulative development would have a less than significant impact.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.10.7A, discussed above, is also applicable to cumulative impacts regarding expansive soils. This mitigation measure would be sufficient to ensure that incremental (non-substantial) cumulative impacts regarding expansive soils are reduced to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-124 through 5-127

G. Noise

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.15.B) Generate or Cause Exposure to Excessive</u>

<u>Groundborne Vibration</u>

Future development (of any of the General Plan buildout scenarios, including the with-Project scenario) will require construction activities that will cause incremental increases in temporary, short-term vibrations. These vibrations would be disruptive if located near sensitive receptors and will result in various levels of temporary groundborne vibration. Construction vibration can affect existing buildings (i.e., through structural damage) and their occupants (i.e., through activity disruption, annoyance, etc.) if they are located close enough to the construction sites. However, the temporary nature of the construction activities means that the disturbance would be of limited duration and, for this reason, would not be cumulatively significant.

Future development near major rail lines or truck routes would also introduce new sensitive receptors into areas affected by existing groundborne vibration, incrementally increasing the people and properties exposed. In general, the potential for vibration-induced structural damage from such sources would be low, but disruptions or annoyance to occupants could occur if the uses were close enough to such sources. However, such vibration-induced disruption/annoyance can be avoided by not approving vibration-sensitive uses in areas where FTA vibration criteria (shown in Table 4.15-I in Section 4.15, "Noise" in EIR No. 521, for example) are exceeded and

requiring setbacks of sufficient distance to ensure vibration levels are within acceptable limits. Thus, compliance with regulations, as well as existing mitigation measures would ensure that operational vibration effects on new development are not cumulatively considerable. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a discussion of the regulations and mitigation measures that would lessen cumulative impacts related to vibration to a less than significant level.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Compliance with existing Riverside County ordinances and General Plan policies provided on page 4.15-167 in Section 4.15, "Noise" of EIR No. 521, as well as New Mitigation Measure 4.15.B-N1, described above, would also be applicable to cumulative impacts, and would be sufficient to reduce incremental impacts to a non-substantial level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 4.15-167 to 4.15-168 and 5-144 through 5-147

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.15.E) Expose People to Excessive Airport-Related Noise</u> <u>Levels</u>

Future development resulting from buildout of any of the General Plan scenarios may result in incremental increases in new noise-sensitive land uses that would be exposed to noise from operations at public and private airports, airstrips and helipads. Around larger public airports, noise levels can exceed acceptable standards in certain areas, as shown by noise-contour maps of existing, future and ultimate buildout operational conditions for public airports. Compliance with ALUC, Riverside County and other applicable standards, as well as existing mitigation measures described below, would ensure that airport-related noise impacts on future development are not cumulatively considerable. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the applicable regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would reduce airport-related noise levels to a less than significant level.

Cumulative Mitigation:

All future development proposed would be required to comply with applicable ALUC policies, as well as state and county regulations and policies, regarding site design and building construction to achieve acceptable interior and exterior noise exposure levels for habitable structures. In addition, Existing Mitigation Measures 4.13.2A, 4.13.2B, 4.13.2C, and 4.13.2D, described above, would ensure that cumulative airport-related noise impacts on future development would be reduced to less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-144 through 5-147

H. Public Facilities

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.17.C-2) Cause Inconsistencies With Applicable Statutes</u>

<u>and Regulations Related to Solid Waste, Including the County Integrated Waste</u>

<u>Management Plan</u>

The increase in disposal need may hasten existing landfills in reaching their permitted capacity, decreasing their expected lifespan. This incremental contribution of growth, as projected for the proposed Project or any of the other General Plan cumulative buildout scenarios, will result in incremental, but non-substantial, cumulative impacts to existing landfills. Continued long-range planning by the Riverside County Waste Management Department will ensure that new disposal facilities (landfills) are developed to meet increasing needs and, in particular, to accommodate the loss of existing landfills as they reach permitted capacity and lifespan. The construction of additional landfills will result in additional incremental environmental impacts in their own right that would be addressed through both existing mitigation from both EIR No. 441 and EIR No. 521) and additional mitigation as deemed necessary based on future project-specific analyses.

All future development will be required to comply with all applicable state, federal and county requirements for solid waste disposal, including the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP). Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the relative regulations, policies, and

mitigation measures that would lessen the Project's cumulative impacts to solid waste disposal to a less than significant level. Accordingly, such development should not interfere with the implementation, attainment or compliance with any of these statutes or regulations. Nor will it cause inconsistencies with applicable statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the CIWMP. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.15.3A through 4.15.3F, discussed in Impact 4.17.C(1), above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts regarding solid waste statutes and regulations. This measure would be sufficient to reduce incremental cumulative impacts regarding solid waste statutes and regulations to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-162 and 5-164 through 5-166

I. Water Resources

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.19.C) Substantially Degrade Water Quality</u>

Future development per buildout of any of the General Plan scenarios will incrementally increase water demands, thus increasing reliance on lower-quality water either from the Colorado River or marginal groundwater sources. It would also contribute to increased levels of pollutants in local/regional groundwater reserves and local/regional surface waters. These conditions would contribute incrementally to the deterioration of drinking water quality in Riverside County. However, as all potable water must meet the state's minimum standards of purity for water quality, adherence to such standards would ensure that cumulative impacts are not significant.

Future development will incrementally increase Riverside County's population, increasing the amount of wastewater generated, increasing the need for effluent disposal. When discharged into a stream or other surface water, effluents can degrade water quality. Additionally, stormwater runoff from urban areas contains a variety of organic and inorganic substances that would also reduce the quality of

groundwater when introduced into their aquifers. Adherence to strict state water quality standards would ensure such impacts are not cumulatively considerable. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would contribute to ensuring the Project's cumulative impacts to water quality are less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.5A, 4.17.5B, 4.17.5C, 4.17.5D and 4.17.5E, described above, are also applicable to cumulative water quality impacts, would also aid in reducing cumulative impacts to water quality to a less than significant level. Refer to the full text of these measures in "4.19.C Mitigation" above.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-190 through 5-193 and 5-196 through 5-197

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.19.D) Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge</u> <u>Requirements</u>

Future development will result in incremental changes to existing hydrology, increased impervious surfaces and increased urban runoff. Such changes would increase the discharge of pollutants into receiving waters, if not properly managed and controlled. Compliance with the State's extensive water quality regulations, including MS4 permits (for municipal separate storm sewer systems) and the NPDES program of the federal Clean Water Act, would ensure that no significant violations of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements occur individually or cumulatively. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would contribute to ensuring the Project's cumulative impacts to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements are less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.5A, 4.17.5B, 4.17.5C, 4.17.5D and 4.17.5E, described above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts specific to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements, and would also aid in reducing

cumulative impacts to a less than significant level. Refer to the full text of these measures in the "Mitigation" discussion under Impact 4.19.C, above.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-191 to 5-197

3. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.19.E) Exceed Wastewater Treatment Requirements</u>

Future development pursuant to any of the General Plan buildout scenarios will incrementally increase the amount of wastewater (sewage) generated in the County. All such wastewater must be disposed of pursuant to a variety of state and federal water quality laws (see list on page 5-192 and page 5-193). Accordingly, compliance with extensive regulations would ensure that future development does not individually or cumulatively exceed any wastewater treatment requirements. Similar compliance requirements that strictly regulate the construction and maintenance of septic tanks will ensure that incremental increases in use of septic systems do not result in cumulative exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would contribute to ensuring the Project's cumulative impacts related to exceeding wastewater treatment requirements are less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.15.4A, 4.17.5A, 4.17.5E, and 4.10.9A, and New Mitigation Measure 4.19.E-N1, described above, are also applicable to cumulative wastewater treatment requirement impacts, would also aid in reducing cumulative impacts to a less than significant level. Refer to the full text of these measures in Impact 4.19.E "Mitigation" above.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-191 through 5-193 and 5-194 through 5-197

4. Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.19.F) Exceed Wastewater Treatment Capacity

Future development will incrementally increase wastewater generation, increasing the need for its treatment and potentially exceeding the capacities of existing treatment facilities, necessitating the construction of additional facilities. In addition, where sanitary sewer connection and treatment are not available, septic systems would be necessary. The proliferation of septic systems in rural communities may potentially contaminate groundwater with nitrates, ammonia, salts, metals, organic solvents, grease and oil, and other substances, impairing the beneficial uses of local water supplies. However, compliance with existing laws, regulatory programs, ordinances, General Plan policies and existing mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 would be sufficient to ensure that cumulative impacts associated with wastewater treatment capacities are less than significant. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would contribute to ensuring the Project's cumulative impacts related to exceeding wastewater treatment capacity are less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.5D (listed under Impact 4.19.D, above), 4.15.4A and 4.10.9A (Impact 4.19.E, above), 4.9.1C (Impact 4.19.H, below) and 4.17.5E (Impact 4.19.I) are also applicable to cumulative impacts, and would also aid in reducing cumulative impacts associated with wastewater treatment facilities to less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-191 through 5-193 and 5-194 through 5-197

5. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.19.G) Result in Significant Adverse Effects Due to the</u> Construction of New or Expanded Water or Wastewater Facilities

Future development would incrementally increase demand for water supply, wastewater treatment and infrastructure to supply these services. These increases would contribute incrementally to the need for new or expanded water and wastewater treatment facilities. Since future development would be implemented on a case-by-case basis across many individual sites spread across the County over roughly 50 years, however, it would not result in significant impacts tied to specific, inalterable areas. Rather, the future locations of such facilities can be established (located) so as to minimize potential environmental effects. Thus, cumulative impacts

due to the need for new or expanded water and wastewater facilities would not be significant. Refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a full discussion of the regulations, policies, and mitigation measures that would contribute to ensuring the Project's cumulative impacts due to the need for new or expanded water or wastewater facilities are less than significant.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measures 4.17.1C and 4.17.1D, described above, and Mitigation Measure 4.17.5A, described under Impact 4.19.E, above, are also applicable to cumulative impacts, and would also aid in reducing cumulative impacts associated with the need for new or expanded water and wastewater facilities to less than significant.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-191 through 5-193 and 5-195 through 5-197

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that the following environmental impacts associated with the Riverside County General Plan Update cannot be fully mitigated and will be only partially avoided or lessened in consideration of existing regulations or mitigation measures hereinafter specified in Attachment A (Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program). Accordingly, and as further explained below, the County makes the following findings as to each of the following impacts as allowed by State CEQA Guidelines § 15091(a): "Changes or alterations [that might further reduce Project impacts] are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the [County]. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency"; or "Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR." Therefore, a statement of overriding considerations consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, 15126(b), and 15126.2(b) and discussed in the Final EIR Section 1.6 is required and included herein:

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A. Population and Housing

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.3.A) Induce Direct or Indirect Population Growth</u>

The analysis provided in Section 5.5, "Cumulative Impacts" in EIR No. 521 (pages 5-59) through 5-63) indicates that future development consistent with any of the General Plan buildout analyzed, including the proposed Project (GPA No. 960), would contribute mostly non-substantially to incremental impacts related to population and housing issues. However, even with avoidance and minimization measures discussed on page 5-63 of Section 5.5, the Project would contribute substantially to significant cumulative impacts stemming from the inducement of substantial population growth directly and indirectly. Buildout of the cumulative General Plan scenario would do likewise. Due to the inherently growth-inducing and growth-accommodating nature of a General Plan, there is no feasible mitigation to fully reduce these cumulative impacts to below the level of significance. There are several existing General Plan policies and mitigation measures that would aid in reducing significant impact associated with population growth (refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document). However, even though Project effects would be individually limited, GPA No. 960's incremental contribution to cumulative housing and population impacts would be significant and unavoidable. Buildout of the cumulative General Plan scenario would also result in significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts to population and housing within Riverside County.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-59 through 5-63

B. <u>Aesthetics and Visual Resources</u>

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.4.A) Adversely Affect Scenic Vistas</u>

In addition to infill, future development would result in the physical conversion of open space, vacant and agricultural lands to more urban types of uses, incrementally affecting scenic vistas and leading to cumulatively substantial impacts to these resources. The extension of roadways and infrastructure into previously undeveloped areas, particularly in undisturbed wildlands, would add incrementally to visual

impacts. Long, linear improvements, such as roads and powerlines, can be particularly noticeable in open vistas. Where located in, or immediately adjacent to, large expanses of scenic open space, future development would have major visible aesthetic effects, particularly for sites with limited or no existing access ways that would require road construction, leading to cumulatively considerable impacts.

The existing laws, County regulatory programs, General Plan policies and existing mitigation measures from EIR No. 441 previously described in the "Project Impacts" section of his document help reduce potential impacts to scenic resources. However, even with existing and additional Project-specific mitigation, regulatory programs, and policies, the cumulative impacts associated with buildout of any of the General Plan scenarios would be significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.4.1A states "Development projects shall be subject to the requirements of all relevant guidelines, including the community center guidelines, Riverside County supervisorial district guidelines and all applicable standards, policies and/ or regulations of the County of Riverside or other affected entities pertaining to scenic vistas and aesthetic resources. Factors considered in these guidelines include the scale, extent, height, bulk or intensity of development; the location of development; the type, style and intensity of adjacent land uses; the manner and method of construction, including materials, coatings and landscaping; the interim and/or final use of the development; the type, location and manner of illumination and signage; the nature and extent of terrain modification required; and the potential effects to the established visual characteristic of the project site and identified scenic vista or aesthetic resource."

<u>New Mitigation Measure 4.4.A-N1</u> states "No development shall be approved for parcels without adequate legal access and adequate physical access. Adequate and accessible circulation facilities must also exist to meet the demand of the proposed land use."

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-67 through 5-69

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.4.B) Adversely Affect Scenic Resources Within State Scenic</u> <u>Highways</u>

Within proximity to State-designated scenic highways, interface/wildland areas would see the greatest increase in development potential (roughly 10,000 acres); rural/agricultural areas would also see a roughly three-fold increase as well. The amount of land devoted to public facilities would decrease slightly, but the increased development would occur mainly at the expense of available vacant and open space lands. Since much more land is in proximity to State-eligible and County-eligible scenic highways, this pattern of development potential increasing in urban/suburban and rural/agricultural areas at the expense of vacant and open space lands is even more pronounced. In particular, development potential within interface/wildland areas greatly increases under the existing General Plan. Proposed changes from both the Project and for the cumulative scenario slightly lessen these increases, but the overall impact on scenic resources is still significant. More detailed discussion of these cumulative impacts is provided on pages 5-66 and 5-67 on Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521. Development would incrementally damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historical buildings within a State scenic highway. Where located along a designated or eligible scenic highway, scenic vista or other scenic resource, these incremental impacts could substantially impair the aesthetics of the resource. Even with the abovementioned existing State and County regulatory programs, General Plan policies and existing Mitigation Measures from EIR No. 441, the cumulative impacts associated with buildout of any of the General Plan scenarios would be significant and unavoidable (refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document for a description of these programs, policies, and mitigation measures).

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Cumulative Mitigation:

Existing Mitigation Measure 4.4.1A from EIR No. 441, discussed in Impact 4.4.A above, is also applicable to this impact. Implementation of this Mitigation Measure would not be sufficient to reduce this cumulative impact to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-66 through 5-69

3. Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.4.D) Cause Adverse Light and Glare Effects

Future development would create new sources of light and glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the areas. Lighting associated with higher intensity and density uses will increase nighttime light levels and daylight glare effects on sensitive areas, such as residences and natural habitat areas. Even with the abovementioned variety of existing federal, State, and County regulatory programs, including the General Plan policies and existing measures from EIR No. 441 (refer to the "Project Impacts" section of this document), the cumulative impacts associated with buildout of any of the General Plan scenarios would be significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Mitigation:

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.4.2A</u> states, "Riverside County shall require that sources of lighting within the General Plan area be limited to the minimum standard required to ensure safe circulation and visibility.

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.4.2B</u> states, "Riverside County shall require street lighting to be limited to intersections and other locations that are needed to maintain safe access (e.g., sharp curves)."

<u>Existing Mitigation Measure 4.4.2C</u> states, "Riverside County shall require exterior lighting for buildings to be of a low profile and intensity."

Implementation of these Mitigation Measures would not be sufficient to reduce this cumulative light and glare impact to a less than significant level.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-67 through 5-69

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C. Agricultural and Forestry Resources

1. Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.5.A) Cause the Conversion of Designated Farmlands

Table 5.5-H, "Cumulative Farmland Effects", on pages 5-71 and 5-72 in Section 5.5 of EIR No. 521, shows the cumulative conditions for impacts to farmlands for the General Plan buildout scenarios examined in Section 5.5 of the EIR. Cumulative effects of General Plan buildout were compared to the farmland mapping data from the State Department of Conservation and several trends were noted. The amount of Prime Farmland lost to urban/suburban development would increase nearly 250% under the existing General Plan. For both the Project and cumulative General Plan buildout scenarios, Prime Farmlands lost to urban/suburban development would increase by roughly 12% and 20%, respectively. Both these losses are cumulatively considerable. Rural/agricultural lands designated as Prime Farmland would also be lost as the County develops over time, though in incrementally insignificant amounts. However, compared to the existing General Plan, both the project and cumulative General Plan scenarios would affect slightly (1-2%) less Prime Farmland. The amount of vacant/open land would decrease roughly 80% under the existing General Plan, but either the Project or cumulative scenarios would lessen these losses by roughly 10%. The other types of designated farmlands show similar trends. These development trends would have similar incremental effects on existing agricultural preserves and result in incremental land use conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Depite the inclusion of all feasible and reasonable mitigation, the applicable Riverside County regulations and policies identified in the "Project Impacts" section of this document would not reduce the significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts associated with the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

Cumulative Mitigation:

As discussed in the Mitigation discussion above, EIR No. 441 finds that policies regarding agricultural lands do not set specific requirements that would limit the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, nor do the policies identify

the amount, extent or location of agricultural land to be conserved. Therefore, it is impossible to assess if policies would effectively reduce potentially significant impacts associated with the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Due to the inherently growth-inducing and growth-accommodating nature of a General Plan, there is no feasible mitigation to fully reduce these cumulative impacts to below the level of significance. Thus, even where impacts from future implementing project effects would be individually limited, GPA No. 960's incremental contribution to cumulative agricultural impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 pages 5-70 through 5-72

2. <u>Cumulative Impacts:</u> (Impact 4.5.B) Encroach On or Conflict With Existing Agricultural Uses

Indirectly, the growth accommodated and facilitated by the Project and cumulative General Plan buildout would result in additional development and infrastructure demand that would further conversion of designated Farmlands to urban uses and result in other changes in the existing environment leading to additional Farmland conversion. Despite mitigation, the applicable Riverside County regulations and policies described in the "Project Impacts" section of this document would not fully reduce the significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts associated with development impacts on agricultural activities, and as such, a significant and unavoidable impact would occur.

Cumulative Mitigation:

As discussed in the mitigation section of the "Project Impacts" section of the document, there are no feasible mitigation measures for the Project or cumulative General Plan Buildout with regard to existing agricultural uses, because development resulting from the Project not foreseeable at this time. Even where impacts from

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future implementing project effects would be individually limited, GPA No. 960's incremental contribution to cumulative agricultural impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

Reference: Draft EIR No. 521 page 5-72 to 5-73

D. Air Quality

1. <u>Cumulative Impacts: (Impact 4.6.A) Cause Inconsistency With Air Quality Plans</u>

Relative to the 2008 SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCP), the existing (2009) General Plan would be consistent because it predates the projections used in the RCP and the RCP includes this county buildout scenario in its forecasts. For the Project scenario (buildout of the General Plan as amended by GPA No. 960), the buildout capacity, populations and overall densities are reduced compared to that of the current General Plan. However, when gaged against the existing conditions, buildout of the General Plan with the Project would result in a cumulatively considerable impact. The same holds for the cumulative buildout scenario. The cumulative scenario represents increases in capacity, density, land uses and populations that greatly exceed that of the current General Plan. As such, its incremental contributions would result in cumulatively considerable conflicts with the regional air quality plans.

Incremental contributions of future development, including that accommodated by GPA No. 960, would result in cumulatively considerable impacts due to associated violations of air quality standards or thresholds, both locally and regionally. Even where individual future development projects were successfully mitigated to less than significant levels, they would still contribute incrementally to cumulatively significant air quality impacts. Further, the abovementioned applicable Riverside County regulations and policies described in the "Project Impacts" section of this document would not fully reduce the significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts associated with air quality plan compliance, despite the mitigation described below. Because there is no feasible mechanism for the County of Riverside to control individual