

CHAPTER 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

This chapter includes an analysis of the potential significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the proposed project. Each environmental issue section provides a description of existing environmental conditions¹; a discussion of applicable local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to that particular resource; criteria for determining significance of potential environmental impacts; an analysis of the project impacts and a determination of significance; a cumulative impact analysis considering past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects; and feasible mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts.

The following environmental issue areas are addressed in Chapter 2.

2.1	Aesthetics	2.8	Hydrology and Water Quality
2.2	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	2.9	Mineral Resources
2.3	Air Quality*	2.10	Noise
2.4	Biological Resources	2.11	Public Services
2.5	Cultural Resources	2.12	Recreation
2.6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions*	2.13	Transportation/Traffic*
2.7	Wildfire*	2.14	Utilities and Service Systems

* Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Wildfire, and Transportation/Traffic do not rely on the FCI EIR. The baseline for these subject areas were updated as detailed in each of these topic sections.

The Initial Study/Environmental Checklist (Appendix A) prepared for the proposed project determined that the Alpine Community Plan Update (CPU) would have either no impact or a less than significant impact associated with Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials (airports and vectors), Noise (airports), Population and Housing (displacement), and Transportation and Traffic (Congestion Management Program and air traffic patterns). In addition, it was determined during preparation of this Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) that the proposed project would have either no impact or a less than significant impact associated with Land Use and Planning, all other Hazards and Hazardous Materials issue topics, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Energy. These topics are discussed in Chapter 3.0, *Other CEQA Considerations*, of this Draft SEIR. The proposed project's potential to result in significant irreversible environmental changes and the growth inducement analysis associated with population and housing are also discussed in Chapter 3.0, *Other CEQA Considerations*.

The State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist questions provided in Sections 2.1 through 2.14 of this SEIR generally reflect those included in the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist (Appendix A) prepared for the NOP, which was published on August 30, 2018. In some instances, however, the checklist questions have been updated to reflect the revisions to Appendix G that were adopted and certified by the California Resources Agency in December 2018 as part of a comprehensive update to the State CEQA Guidelines. It

¹ As discussed further in Chapter 1.0, *Project Description, Location, and Environmental Setting*, of this SEIR, the baseline conditions have been updated for Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Wildfire, and Transportation/Traffic. All other issue areas rely on the existing conditions described in the 2011 General Plan EIR and FCI GPA EIR.

should be noted that because the Appendix G checklist questions are advisory in nature, the County is not required to adhere to the specific language in Appendix G and has the discretion to modify the checklist questions to suit the issues specific to its jurisdiction.

Lastly, as discussed further in Chapter 1.0, the County has prepared an SEIR to the 2011 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and 2016 Forest Conservation Initiative (FCI) General Plan Amendment (GPA) EIR because only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the prior EIRs adequate to apply to the proposed Alpine CPU. As a result, this SEIR incorporates by reference these two EIRs. It should be noted that the FCI GPA EIR, which was certified in October 2016, tiered from the 2011 General Plan EIR. For a majority of issue areas analyzed, no new or more severe impacts were identified in the FCI GPA EIR compared to the 2011 General Plan EIR. Therefore, unless noted otherwise, the findings from the FCI GPA EIR are not provided in Sections 2.1 through 2.1 to reduce redundancy, as the summary of impacts from the 2011 General Plan EIR accurately captures the impacts from the FCI GPA project.