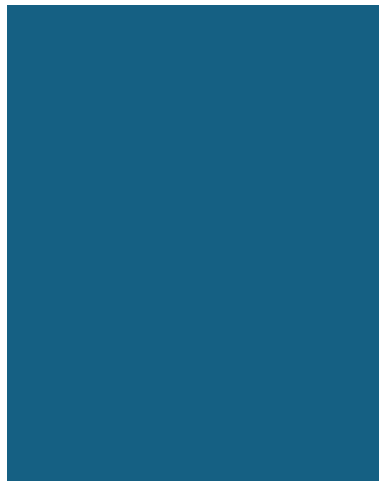
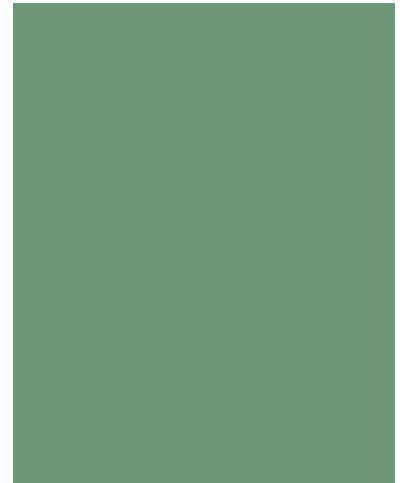


Environmental Checklist and Addendum

Housing Element Update and Related Actions

2021 – 2029



Housing Element Update and Related Actions

Environmental Checklist and Addendum

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CEC	California Energy Commission
City	City of Folsom
Final EIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
General Plan EIR	Folsom 2035 General Plan Environmental Impact Report
LOS	level of service
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
PRC	Public Resources Code
RHNA	regional housing needs allocation
SACOG	Sacramento Council of Governments
SB	Senate Bill
SEIR	subsequent environmental impact report
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SSHCP	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan
TAC	toxic air contaminants
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
US 50	US Highway 50
VMT	vehicle miles travelled

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND ACTION TRIGGERING THE ADDENDUM

The City of Folsom (City) is updating the Folsom 2035 General Plan to incorporate the Housing Element Update for the sixth cycle planning period (June 30, 2021 through August 31, 2029) as well as related updates to the Safety and Noise Element and Land Use Element. In addition, the City is amending the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to modify allowed uses for the land use designation and zoning district related to regional-serving commercial land uses. These actions are hereinafter referred to as the “project”. The Housing Element identifies community housing needs and goals, policies, and programs to address those housing needs. In addition, the Housing Element inventories housing sites suitable to meet the City’s regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) identified by the Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG) in the SACOG Regional Housing Needs Plan Cycle 6 (2021-2029). To meet the RHNA identified for lower-income households, the City is proposing to amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow for residential uses as a permitted use rather than subject to a conditional use permit. In addition, the Housing Element includes implementation programs to consider increasing densities in key locations near transit stations, along the East Bidwell Mixed Use Corridor, and within the Folsom Plan Area Town Center. No specific land use changes to these locations are being proposed for adoption at this time. In compliance with State law, updates to the Safety and Noise Element address climate adaptation and resilience. The City is also proposing updates to the Implementation Element to include new implementation programs associated with the proposed updates, and provide corrections to the responsible department(s) listed within the Implementation Element to better reflect City department procedures.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21000, *et seq.*), the City certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2017082054) for the Folsom 2035 General Plan (General Plan EIR) on August 28, 2018. The City also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

As the lead agency under CEQA, the City has prepared this Environmental Checklist/Addendum in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 to evaluate whether the proposed project’s effects were adequately examined in the previous environmental analysis in the General Plan EIR or whether any changes trigger supplemental or subsequent review under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 or 15163. This Environmental Checklist/Addendum considers whether the environmental conditions that exist today have changed such that new or substantially more severe environmental impacts would occur compared to that evaluated in the General Plan EIR. As described below, no changes associated with the proposed project, and no changes in circumstances, trigger subsequent or supplemental review.

1.2 PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

The environmental process for the General Plan involved the preparation of the following documents that are relevant to the consideration of the proposed project.

- ▶ Draft EIR for the Folsom 2035 General Plan, March 2018;
- ▶ Final EIR for the Folsom 2035 General Plan, May 2018;
- ▶ CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Folsom 2035 General Plan, May 2018; and,
- ▶ Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Folsom 2035 General Plan, May 2018.

1.3 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES REGARDING AN ADDENDUM TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Altered conditions, changes, or additions to the description of a project that occur after certification of an EIR may require additional analysis under CEQA. The legal principles that guide decisions regarding whether additional environmental documentation is required are provided in the State CEQA Guidelines, which establish three mechanisms to address these changes: 1) a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR), 2) a Supplement to an EIR, or 3) an Addendum to an EIR.

Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines describes the conditions under which a SEIR would be prepared. In summary, when an EIR has been certified for a project, no Subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that a lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a Subsequent EIR if:

- (1) any of the conditions described above for Section 15162 would require the preparation of a SEIR; and
- (2) only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation.

Under Section 15164, an addendum is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in significant new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168.

Based on the criteria above, the City has determined that an addendum is the appropriate document.

This addendum is intended to evaluate and confirm CEQA compliance for proposed amendments to the Folsom 2035 General Plan, which would be a change relative to what is described and evaluated in the General Plan Final EIR. This addendum is organized as an environmental checklist and is intended to evaluate all environmental topic areas for any changes in circumstances or the project description, as compared to the adopted General Plan, and

determine whether such changes were or were not adequately covered in the certified EIR. This checklist is not the traditional CEQA Environmental Checklist, per Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. As explained below, the purpose of this checklist is to evaluate the checklist categories in terms of any “changed condition” (i.e., changed circumstances, project changes, or new information of substantial importance) that may result in a different environmental impact significance conclusion from the General Plan EIR. The column titles of the checklist have been modified from the Appendix G presentation to help answer the questions to be addressed pursuant to CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, 15163, 15164 and 15168.

A comprehensive update to the CEQA Guidelines has been completed since certification of the General Plan EIR. The checklist categories follow the updated Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018. Some additional questions have been included for potential impacts related to the project.

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2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project proposes to amend the Folsom 2035 General Plan (General Plan) to update the Housing Element, Land Use Element, and Safety and Noise Element, the Implementation Element, and amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan, as described in further detail below.

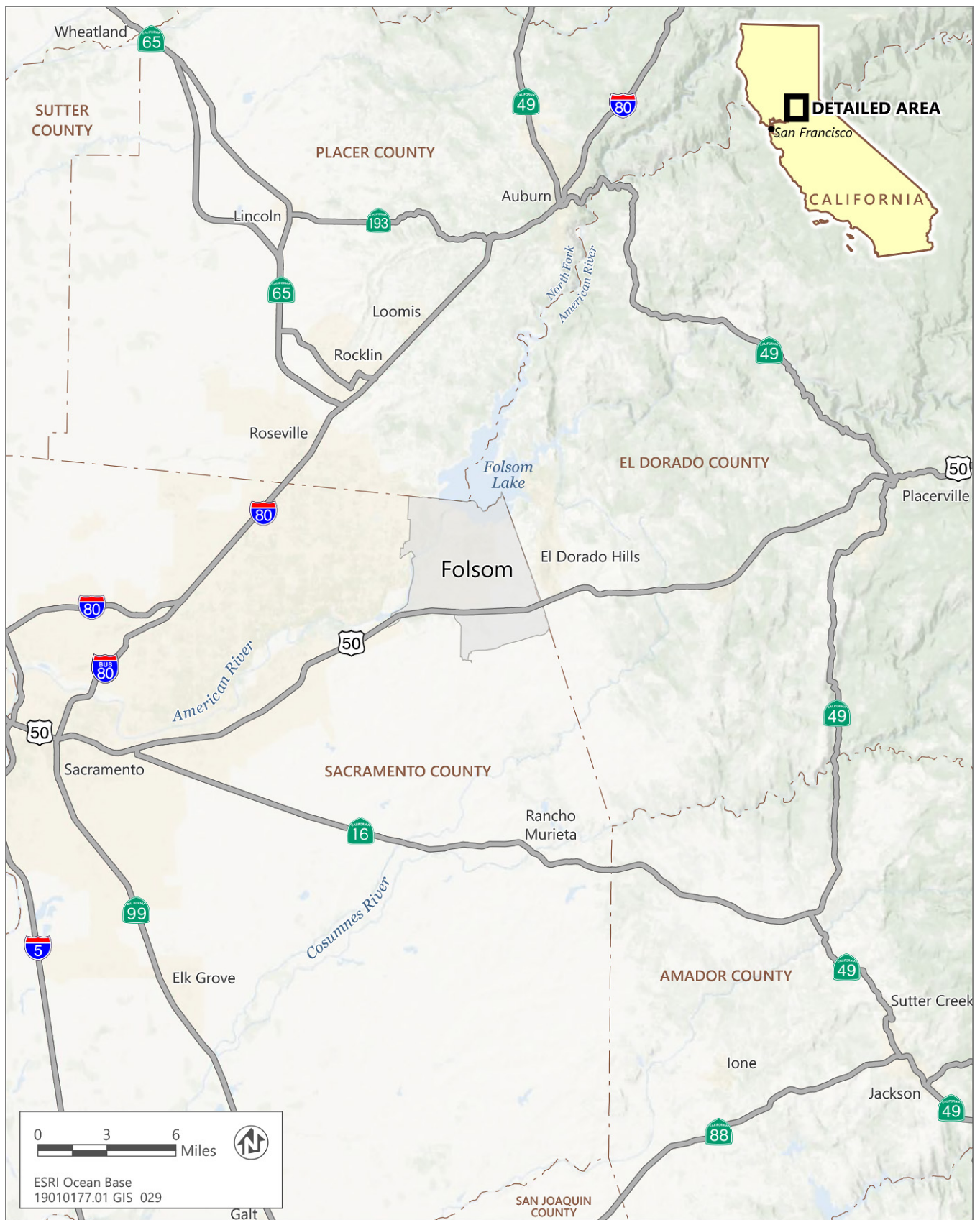
2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Folsom is located in northeastern Sacramento County in California's Sacramento Valley (Figure 2-1). The city limits are largely defined by county borders, physical features, and major roads and highways (US Highway 50 (US 50)). Folsom immediately borders the Sacramento/Placer and Sacramento/El Dorado county lines on its northern and eastern edges. The major natural physical features of the city are Folsom Lake, Folsom Dam, the American River, and Lake Natoma. Folsom Lake forms most of the northern edge of the city, although the city limits extend into it. The lake was formed by the damming of the American River, which flows through the city in a scenic canyon and then, as Lake Natoma, forms part of its western border.

2.3 PROPOSED HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The purpose of the Housing Element Update is to update the current Housing Element to plan for future residential development to meet regional growth objectives and State law (including new State laws passed since adoption of the current Housing Element). The proposed Housing Element Update would be compliant with Government Code Section 65583, which identifies the requirements for General Plan Housing Elements. In summary, Government Code Section 65583 requires that the Housing Element identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs, as well as establish goals, policies, and actions to address these housing needs, including adequate provisioning of affordable and special-needs housing (e.g., housing for agricultural workers, homeless people, seniors, single-parent households, large families, and persons with disabilities).

The Housing Element Update would address changes that have occurred since adoption of the current Housing Element. These changes include, among others, updated demographic information, housing needs data, and analysis of the availability of housing sites. The proposed Housing Element Update identifies available housing sites that could accommodate the City's RHNA for the 2021–2029 planning period. See Section 2.3.2, Housing Element Resource Inventory, for a description of the RHNA allocation for the City of Folsom.



Source: adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 2-1 Regional Location

The Housing Element includes the following components, consistent with the requirement of Government Code Section 65583:

- ▶ A review of the previous element's goals, policies, programs, and objectives to ascertain the effectiveness of each of these components, as well as the overall effectiveness of the Housing Element.
- ▶ An assessment of housing needs, an inventory of resources, and an analysis of constraints related to meeting these needs.
- ▶ An analysis of "at-risk" assisted housing developments that are eligible to change from low-income housing uses during the next 10 years.
- ▶ A statement of community goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the preservation, improvement, and development of housing.
- ▶ Implementation programs which set forth a schedule of actions that the City is undertaking or intends to undertake, in implementing the policies set forth in the Housing Element to identify and maintain adequate sites to accommodate the housing needs of all economic segments of the community.

2.3.1 Housing Element Policy Document

The Housing Element identifies goals and policies to assist the City in meeting its housing needs. The following goals are included in the Housing Element:

- ▶ **GOAL H-1: Adequate Land Supply for Housing.** To provide an adequate supply of suitable sites for the development of a range of housing types to meet the housing needs of all segments of the population.
- ▶ **GOAL H-2: Removing Barriers to the Production of Housing.** To minimize governmental constraints on the development of housing for households of all income levels.
- ▶ **GOAL H-3: Facilitating Affordable Housing.** To facilitate affordable housing opportunities to serve the needs of people at all income levels who live and work in the community.
- ▶ **GOAL H-4: Neighborhood Preservation and Housing Rehabilitation.** To encourage the conservation and maintenance of the existing housing stock, neighborhoods, and historic homes in Folsom.
- ▶ **GOAL H-5: Housing for Special Needs Groups.** To provide a range of housing services for Folsom residents with special needs, including seniors, persons with disabilities, single parents, large families, the homeless, and residents with extremely low incomes.
- ▶ **GOAL H-6: Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing.** To ensure equal housing opportunities for all Folsom residents regardless race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, disability, or source of income.
- ▶ **GOAL H-7: Residential Energy Conservation and Sustainable Development.** To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy conservation in residential development.
- ▶ **GOAL H-8: Administration and Implementation.** To ensure that Housing Element programs are implemented on a timely basis and progress of each program is monitored and evaluated annually.

The Housing Element Policy Document establishes the City's housing program, which includes goals, policies, and implementation programs. The City's housing goals are described above. The policies support achievement of the housing goals. The implementation programs established in the Policy Document are specific steps that the City will take to address its housing needs. The majority of implementations in the Housing Element commit the City to continuing to encourage the provision of affordable housing and housing appropriate for special needs groups and to encourage the maintenance of existing housing. Implementation programs that would ensure that the City continues to meet its RHNA are listed below. Additional programs are available for review in the Housing Element. The extent of potential future density changes under Implementation Program H-2 would be determined once this program is initiated and would be evaluated under subsequent environmental review under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162.

H-1: Adequate Sites Monitoring. The City shall annually update the vacant and underutilized sites inventory and make the updated inventory available on the City website. The City shall make findings related to the potential impact on the City's ability to meet its share of the regional housing need when approving applications to rezone residentially designated properties or develop a residential site with fewer units or at a higher income than what is assumed for the site in the Housing Element sites inventory, consistent with "no-net-loss" zoning requirements in Government Code Section 65863.

H-2: Create Additional Lower-Income Housing Capacity. The City shall create additional opportunities for high-density housing to ensure the City maintains adequate capacity to meet the lower-income RHNA throughout the planning period. The City shall increase maximum allowable densities in the East Bidwell Mixed Use Overlay, SACOG Transit Priority Areas outside the Historic District, and Folsom Plan Area Specific Plan Town Center. The City shall coordinate with property owners along the East Bidwell Street corridor and within the Transit Priority Areas to identify and pursue residential development opportunities. The City shall review and revise Policy 4.7 of the Folsom Plan Area Specific Plan to increase the total number of dwelling units allowed in the Plan Area in order to satisfy the RHNA, as long as infrastructure needs are met. In addition, the City shall coordinate with property owners in the Folsom Plan Area to mitigate for the loss of lower-income housing sites to market rate housing.

After the 2021 Housing Element Update adoption, the City would evaluate specific housing development proposals based on their compliance with the General Plan, development standards (e.g., zoning), and other City Code requirements. Adoption of the 2021 Housing Element Update and associated proposed Program HE-2 would be a policy-level action to allow the City initiate to work on this program but does not commit the City to rezoning of specific parcels or changes in allowed residential density increases. Thus, environmental impacts from future implementation of this program cannot be determined at this time pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15145. Subsequent implementation of proposed Program H-2 would consist of planning activities and coordination with property owners in determining what parcels are appropriate for rezoning and/or increases in allowed residential densities. Once the extent of additional housing is determined, this action would undergo a separate environmental review process to determine if it would cause environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA.

2.3.2 Housing Element Resource Inventory

The RHNA quantifies the need for housing in each region statewide and is determined by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. SACOG is responsible for allocating the RHNA to each city and county in its region, which includes the City of Folsom. The SACOG Regional Housing Needs Plan for the 2021–2029 planning period was adopted in March 2020 and provides the RHNA methodology that applies to the project. Folsom's total RHNA for the 2021–2029 planning period is 6,363 units, allocated to specific income groups as shown in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 City of Folsom Regional Housing Needs Allocation

	Very Low Income Level	Low Income Level	Moderate Income Level	Above Moderate Income Level	Total RHNA Income Level
2021-2029 RHNA	2,226	1,341	829	1,967	6,363

Source: SACOG 2020:ES-3

California Government Code Sections 65583 and 65583.2 require a parcel-specific inventory of appropriately zoned, available, and suitable sites to provide opportunities for the provision of housing to all income segments within the community. The sites inventory addresses how the City can meet projected housing needs. While the inventory analyzes sites available for the construction of new housing at all income levels, particular focus and analysis is done to identify sites available at the lower income categories. The City's evaluation of adequate sites began with a listing of individual sites by General Plan designation and zoning. The suitability analysis demonstrated these sites are currently available and unconstrained to provide development opportunities during the planning period (2021-2029). To demonstrate the development viability of the sites, the analysis addressed the following:

- ▶ vacant sites with zoning that allows for residential development; and

- ▶ nonvacant, underutilized sites with zoning that allows for residential development and are capable of being developed at a higher density or with greater intensity.

The sites inventory also includes a projection of the number of accessory dwelling units and multi-generational housing units expected to be built during the projection period.

Table 2-2 below provides a summary of the current residential holding capacity in the City of Folsom compared to its share of the regional housing need as assigned in the RHNA. Folsom has a total residential capacity (14,430) in excess of its RHNA for all units (6,363), including the residential capacity to meet the RHNA for each income category. The City has a surplus capacity of 4,387 units for above moderate-income households and a surplus capacity of 3,189 units for moderate-income households. Folsom also has a surplus capacity of 491 units for lower-income households (i.e., low- and very low-). This surplus accounts for one parcel within the Empire Ranch Specific Plan discussed below in Section 2.4. Proposed amendments to the Empire Ranch Specific Plan would allow for the development of 217 units, which are included in the row “Additional Housing Site,” shown in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 Estimated Residential Capacity Compared to RHNA by Income, City of Folsom, June 30, 2021 to August 31, 2029

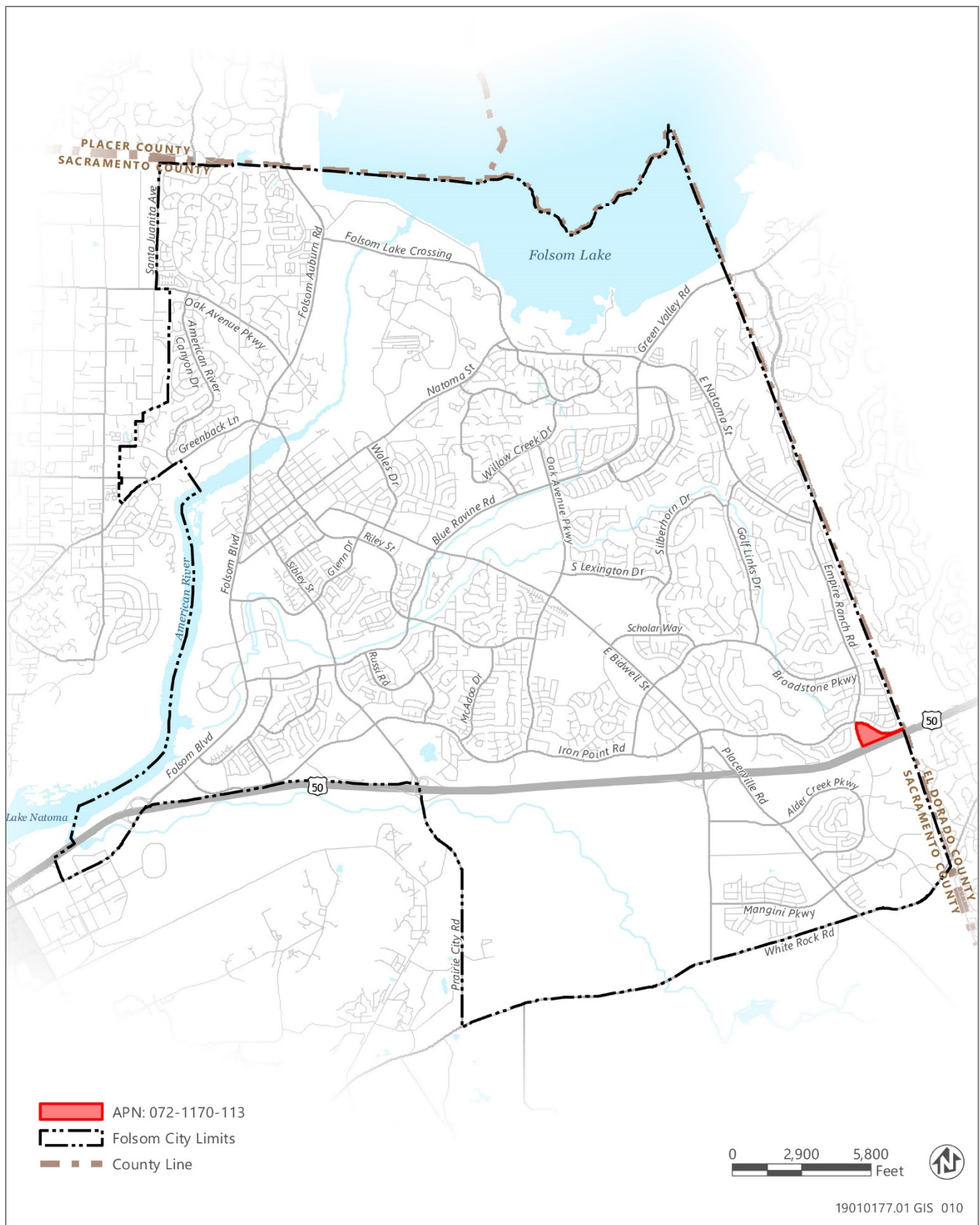
	Very Low- Income Units	Low- Income Units	Moderate- Income Units	Above Moderate- Income Units	Total Unit
	2,226	1,341	829	1,967	6,363
	3,567				
Planned and Approved Projects	129	216	1,269	3,815	5,429
Estimated Residential Capacity on Vacant and Underutilized Land	3,217		2,666	2,537	8,420
East Bidwell Mixed Use Corridor Sites	1,236		0	0	1,236
Transit Priority Area Sites	145		44	10	199
Folsom Plan Area Specific Plan Sites	1,344		2,615	2,190	6,149
Additional Housing Sites	492		7	337	836
Estimated Residential Capacity of Accessory Dwelling Units and Multi- Generational Units	496		83	2	581
Residential Capacity	4,058		4,018	6,354	14,430
Surplus	491		3,189	4,387	

Source: City of Folsom, and Ascent, 2020.

2.4 EMPIRE RANCH SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT

The City is proposing to amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow multifamily dwellings at 15-30 units per acre as a permitted use under the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and Commercial/ Central Business District (C-2) zoning. The specific plan currently allows apartment multifamily dwellings with approval of a conditional use permit under the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and Commercial/ Central Business District (C-2) zoning.

The regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and Commercial/ Central Business District (C-2) zoning is only applicable to one parcel (APN 072-1170-113-0000) within the specific plan area (see Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3). This parcel encompasses a gross area of 19.25 acres. However, only 60 percent of the parcel is developable resulting in a net area of 11.5 acres available for development. The specific plan amendment to allow for multifamily housing on the parcel as a permitted use would provide housing capacity to meet the City’s lower-income RHNA for the sixth cycle planning period. Based on site characteristics and property owner input, the Housing Element Update assumes that approximately 8 acres of the parcel would be developed as multifamily residential providing housing capacity for 217 dwelling units. The remaining 3.5 developable acres of the parcel are anticipated for commercial development.



Source: data downloaded from City of Folsom in 2020 and Sacramento County in 2018

Figure 2-2 Empire Ranch Specific Plan Site Location



Source: data downloaded from City of Folsom in 2020 and Sacramento County in 2018

Figure 2-3 Aerial View of Empire Ranch Specific Plan Site

2.5 LAND USE ELEMENT UPDATE

The City proposes to amend the General Plan land use diagram to correct the East Bidwell Mixed Use Overlay shown on the land use diagram to remove residences located south of Riley Street, between Lembi Drive and Glenn Drive, from the overlay boundary. In addition, the City also proposes to remove Policy LU 9.1.10 Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation Systems of the Land Use Element. The policy is considered to be outdated, given advances in energy efficiency in California including the 2019 California Building Code requirements and local utility district increases in its renewable energy portfolio.

2.6 SAFETY AND NOISE ELEMENT UPDATE

In conjunction with the Housing Element Update, and in compliance with State law, the City is also updating the Safety and Noise Element of the General Plan to address climate adaptation and resilience strategies. This update includes changes to the noise standard table. In addition, the City has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment to identify the effects of climate change in Folsom and assess how these effects impact infrastructure, natural systems, agriculture, and public health. The Safety and Noise Element Update includes goals, policies, and implementation programs to address climate adaptation and resilience and evacuation. Proposed policies are listed below.

Emergency Preparedness

- ▶ SN 1.1.5 Climate Change Capacity Assessment

Maintain the City's capacity to respond to hazards affected by climate change by assessing future increases in the severity and frequency of these events and increase capacity as needed to adequately respond to future hazard impacts.

Flood Hazards

- ▶ SN 3.1.6 Climate Change Informed Flood Standards

In coordination with Sacramento County, update and maintain the City's flood management and development design standards based on the best available data regarding the increased intensity, duration, and frequency of future flood events due to climate change.

Wildfire Hazards

- ▶ SN 4.1.5 Wildfire Smoke Protection

Protect the City's population from the impacts on indoor and outdoor air quality from wildfire smoke through education and outreach and updated development standards, focusing on protection of vulnerable populations including youth and seniors.

Extreme Heat

The Safety and Noise Element Update would include a new section and goal, Extreme Heat. One new goal would be established for Extreme Heat: Goal SN7.1, Protect the City's critical infrastructure and citizens from the most severe effects of extreme heat events with an increased focus on protecting vulnerable populations including youth, seniors, and individuals with underlying health conditions. Policies proposed for this goal are provided below.

- ▶ SN 6.1.1 Upgrading Heat Sensitive Infrastructure

Upgrade existing heat-sensitive infrastructure in the city to withstand the future intensity and frequency of extreme heat events and update relevant design standards to ensure future infrastructure can withstand future extreme heat events.

▶ SN 6.1.2 Comprehensive Cool City Strategy

Develop and implement a Cool City Strategy, in coordination with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, to reduce the impacts of the Urban Heat Island effect through various measures including increasing the urban tree canopy and use of cool roofs and cool pavements as well as increasing green space in the city.

▶ SN 6.1.3 Heat Sensitive Populations

Implement an education and outreach program to relevant businesses and institutions such as elderly care facilities and schools to help protect vulnerable populations from the increasing intensity of extreme heat events.

▶ SN 6.1.4 Climate-Smart Electricity Grid

Work with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to promote and help educate residents about SMUD's time-of-day energy rates and the cost benefits of reducing electricity use during peak demand periods.

2.7 IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT UPDATE

The City is proposing to update the Implementation Element of the General Plan to reflect the Safety and Noise Element Update, discussed above under Section 2.6. The Implementation Element would be revised to include new implementation programs to address evacuation routes, stormwater and flood management, wildfire and wildfire smoke protection, and extreme heat. In addition, the City would make corrections to the responsible department(s) listed under the Implementation Programs to better reflect City department procedures.

2.8 PROJECT APPROVALS

If approved, the Project would:

- ▶ Amend the City's General Plan to update the Housing Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Land Use Element, including revisions to the General Plan Land Use Diagram;
- ▶ Amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow multifamily residential development as a permitted use under the regional commercial land use designation and commercial/central business district zoning.

After adoption, the updated Housing Element would be submitted to HCD for certification.

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

3.1 EXPLANATION OF CHECKLIST EVALUATION CATEGORIES

The purpose of this checklist is to evaluate the categories in terms of any “changed condition” (i.e., changed circumstances, project changes, or new information of substantial importance) that may result in environmental impact significance conclusions different from those found in the General Plan EIR. The row titles of the checklist include the full range of environmental topics, as presented in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, as updated December 28, 2018. The column titles of the checklist have been modified from the Appendix G presentation to help answer the questions to be addressed pursuant to CEQA Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. A “no” answer does not necessarily mean that there are no potential impacts relative to the environmental category, but rather that there is no change in the condition or status of the impact because it was previously analyzed and adequately addressed with mitigation measures in the General Plan EIR. For instance, the environmental categories might be answered with a “no” in the checklist because the impacts associated with the proposed project were adequately addressed in the General Plan EIR, and the environmental impact significance conclusions of the General Plan EIR remain applicable. The purpose of each column of the checklist is described below.

3.1.1 Where Impact was Analyzed

This column provides a cross-reference to the pages of the General Plan EIR where information and analysis may be found relative to the environmental issue listed under each topic. Unless otherwise specified, all references point to the General Plan Draft EIR document. Changes to the Draft EIR included in the Final EIR does not affect any information provided in this document.

3.1.2 Do Proposed Changes Involve New Significant Impacts?

The significance of the changes proposed by the Housing Element Update and Safety and Noise Element Update, as it is described in the certified General Plan EIR is indicated in the columns to the right of the environmental issues.

3.1.3 Any New Circumstances Involving New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?

Pursuant to Section 15162(a)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines, this column indicates whether there have been changes to the project site or the vicinity (circumstances under which the project is undertaken) that have occurred subsequent to the prior environmental documents, which would result in the current project having new significant environmental impacts that were not considered in the prior environmental documents or having substantial increases in the severity of previously identified significant impacts.

3.1.4 Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?

Pursuant to Section 15162(a)(3)(A-D) of the CEQA Guidelines, this column indicates whether new information of substantial importance which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous environmental documents were certified as complete is available, requiring an update to the analysis of the previous environmental documents to verify that the environmental conclusions and mitigation measures remain valid. If the new information shows that: (A) the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the prior environmental documents; or (B) that significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the prior environmental documents; or (C) that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more

significant effects or the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the Mitigation Measure or alternative; or (D) that mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the prior environmental documents would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the Mitigation Measure or alternative, the question would be answered 'Yes' requiring the preparation of a subsequent EIR or supplement to the EIR. However, if the additional analysis completed as part of this Environmental Checklist Review finds that the conclusions of the prior environmental documents remain the same and no new significant impacts are identified, or identified significant environmental impacts are not found to be substantially more severe, the question would be answered 'No' and no additional EIR documentation (supplement to the EIR or subsequent EIR) would be required.

Notably, where the only basis for preparing a subsequent EIR or a supplement to an EIR is a new significant impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact, the need for the new EIR can be avoided if the project applicant agrees to one or more mitigation measures that can reduce the significant effect(s) at issue to less than significant levels.

3.1.5 Do Prior Environmental Documents and Mitigation Address/Resolve Impacts?

This column indicates whether the prior environmental documents and adopted CEQA Findings provide mitigation measures to address effects in the related impact category. In some cases, the mitigation measures have already been implemented. A "yes" response will be provided in either instance. If "NA" is indicated, this Environmental Checklist Review concludes that there was no impact, or the impact was less-than-significant and, therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

3.2 DISCUSSION AND MITIGATION SECTIONS

3.2.1 Discussion

A discussion of the elements of the checklist is provided under each environmental category to clarify the answers. The discussion provides information about the particular environmental issue, how the project relates to the issue, and the status of any mitigation that may be required or that has already been implemented.

3.2.2 Mitigation Measures

Applicable mitigation measures from the prior environmental review that would apply to the proposed amendment are listed under each environmental category. New mitigation measures are included, if needed.

3.2.3 Conclusions

A discussion of the conclusion relating to the need for additional environmental documentation is contained in each section.

3.2.4 Acronyms Used in Checklist Tables

Acronyms used in the Environmental Checklist tables and discussions include:

EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
MM	Mitigation Measure
NA	not applicable

4 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.1 AESTHETICS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
1. Aesthetics. Would the Project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Setting pp. 6-1 to 6-4; Impact AES-1	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway?	Setting pp. 6-1 and 6-2; Impact AES-2	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
c. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	Setting pp. 6-1 to 6-4; Impact AES-1	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Setting p. 6-4; Impact AES-3	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable

4.1.1 Discussion

Since certification of the General Plan EIR, construction of planned development of the Folsom Area Plan Specific Plan area (south of US 50) has commenced that has altered the visual character of this area. No other new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be significant impacts related to adverse effects on a scenic vista or scenic character, damage to scenic resources within a scenic corridor, and new sources of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure AES-3a: Add New Policy NCR 2.1.3: Light Pollution Reduction.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure AES-3b: Add New Implementation Program NCR-6: Lighting Design Standards.

The General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts on existing scenic vistas and visual character, damage to a scenic corridor, and new skyglow effects.

The project includes updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element including revisions to policies and programs, which would not result in physical changes affecting scenic vistas, visual character, scenic highways, or light and glare. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to scenic quality, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's development standards (e.g., Municipal Code and design review process), entitlement process and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to aesthetic resources.

No new significant effect related to aesthetic resources would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on aesthetic resources included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the EIR.	Any New Circumstances Involving New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	Setting pp. 7-1 and 7-2; impact discussed on pp. 7-4 and 7-5	No	No	Not applicable
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	Setting p. 7-2; impact discussed on p. 7-5	No	No	Not applicable
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	Setting pp. 7-1 and 7-2; impact discussed on page 7-5	No	No	Not applicable
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land?	Setting page 7-5; impact discussed on page 7-5	No	No	Not applicable
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	Setting p. 7-1; Impact AG-1	No	No	No mitigation measures are available

4.2.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be no impact related to a conflict with zoning of forest land or the loss or conversion of forest land; a less-than-significant impact related to the conversion of Farmland and a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract; and a significant impact involving other changes in the environment that, because of their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use. No mitigation measures are available to address this significant impact. The General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in a significant and unavoidable impact involving other changes in the environment that, because of their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use.

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less-than-significant impacts related to conversion of Farmland to other uses, conflicts with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract, and forest land or timberland.

The project includes revisions to housing policies and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting agriculture or forestry resources. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to agricultural and forest resources, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

No new significant effect related to agriculture or forestry resources would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on agriculture and forestry resources included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
3. Air Quality. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Setting p. 8-10 to 8-14; Impact AQ-3, p. 8-31 to 8-32;	No	No	Not Applicable
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	Setting p. 8-2 to 8-8; Impact AQ-1 and AQ-2, p. 8-21 to 8-30; Impact AQ-4, p. 8-33 to 8-34;	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Setting p. 8-5 to 8-8; Impact AQ-5, p. 8-34 to 8-41	No	No	Yes, impact remains significant and unavoidable
d. Result in other emissions (e.g. those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	Setting p. 8-9; Impact AQ-6, p. 8-38 to 8-41	No	No	Yes, impact remains significant and unavoidable

4.3.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification that would change the impact conclusions of the General Plan EIR.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less than significant impacts related to consistency with air quality plans and increased mobile-source emissions of carbon monoxide. Potentially significant impacts were identified related to increased operational emissions, increase health risks associated with toxic air contaminants (TACs), and increased exposure to odor emissions.

The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure AQ-2a: Modify Policy NCR 3.1.5: Emission Reduction Threshold for New Development.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure AQ-2b: Implement Mitigation Measures GHG-1 through GHG-17.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure AQ-6: Modify Policy NCR 3.1.6: Sensitive Uses.

Implementation of identified mitigation measures in the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to increased operational emissions, increased health risks associated with toxic air contaminants, and increased exposure to odor emissions.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting implementation of air quality plans, increases in criteria air pollutants, exposure to pollutant concentrations,

or result in exposure of other emissions, such as odors. Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to air quality, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process, compliance with Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District rules and guidance, and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to air quality.

No new significant effect related to air quality would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to air quality included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
4. Biological Resources. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Setting p. 9-5 to 9-20; Impact BIO-1, p. 9-27 to 9-34	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	Setting p. 9-2 to 9-4. Impact BIO-2, p. 9-34 to 9-39	No	No	Not Applicable
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	Setting p. 9-4 Impact BIO-3, p. 9-39 to 9-43	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish and wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Setting p. 9-3 to 9-4 and 9-11 to 9-19 Impact BIO-4, p. 9-44 to 9-46	No	No	Not Applicable
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.	Setting p. 9-21 to 9-24 Impact p. 9-26	No	No	Not Applicable
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Impact p. 4-6 and 9-26	No	No	Not Applicable

4.4.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less than significant impacts related riparian habitat and natural communities as well as migratory fish and wildlife. Potentially significant impacts were identified for adverse effects to special-status species and wetlands.

The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Modify Policy NCR 1.1.1: Habitat Preservation.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Implement Mitigation Measure BIO-1.

The General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to adverse effects to special-status species and wetlands.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting special-status species, riparian or natural communities' habitat, wetlands, migratory fish and wildlife, and local policies, ordinances, or habitat conservation plans. Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to biological resources, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to biological resources.

No new significant effect related to biological resources would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to biological resources included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
5. Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	Setting p. 10-1 to 10-2 and p. 10-8 to 10-16; Impact CUL-1, p. 10-19 to 10-22	No	No	No mitigation measures are available
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	Setting p. 10-7 to 10-16; Impacts CUL-2, p. 10-23 to 10-26	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Impact CUL-4, p. 10-30 to 10-32	No	No	Not Applicable

4.5.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less than significant impacts related to disturbance of human remains. Potentially significant impacts were identified in the General Plan EIR related to adverse changes in the significance of historical resources and archaeological resources. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Add new Implementation Program NCR 7: Management of Inadvertently Discovered Cultural Resources

Even after implementation of identified mitigation measures, the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to historical resources and archaeological resources.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting historical or archaeological resources, or human remains. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to cultural resources, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to cultural resources.

No new significant effect related to cultural resources would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on cultural resources included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.6 ENERGY

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
6. Energy. Would the project:				
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	Setting p. 21-12 to 12-15; Impact ENR-1, p. 21-16 to 12-19	No	No	Yes
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	Setting p. 12-7 to 12-8; Impact GHG-1, p. 12-21 to 12-34	No	No	Yes

4.6.1 Discussion

A comprehensive update to the CEQA Guidelines has been completed since certification of the General Plan EIR. Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018, was revised to include Energy as a category of analysis. At the time of the 2035 General Plan EIR, energy was included in Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines and energy-related impacts were addressed under Section 21, "Required CEQA Analyses." This analysis has been added into the checklist, in response to the 2018 update to the CEQA Guidelines. Because energy was previously addressed in the EIR, this analysis does not constitute new information of substantial importance under CEQA Guidelines section 15162.

The 2019 Title 24 Part 6 Building Energy Efficiency Standards were adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on May 9, 2018 and took effect on January 1, 2020. The standards are designed to move the State closer to its zero net energy goals for new residential development. It does so by requiring all new residences to install enough renewable energy to offset all the site electricity needs of each residential unit (CCR, Title 24, Part 6, Section 150.1(c)14). CEC estimates that the combination of mandatory on-site renewable energy and prescriptively-required energy efficiency features will result in new residential construction that uses 53 percent less energy than the 2016 standards. Nonresidential buildings are anticipated to reduce energy consumption by 30 percent compared to the 2016 standards primarily through prescriptive requirements for high-efficacy lighting. The building efficiency standards are enforced through the local plan check and building permit process. Local government agencies may adopt and enforce additional energy standards for new buildings as reasonably necessary in response to local climatologic, geologic, or topographic conditions, provided that these standards are demonstrated to be cost effective and exceed the energy performance required by Title 24 Part 6.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be potentially significant impacts related to consumption of energy and conflicts with applicable plans. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure ENR-1: Implement Mitigation Measures GHG-1 through GHG-17
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Add new Implementation Program PFS-22: Renewable Energy in City-Operated Facilities
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-2: Add new Policy PFS 8.1.9 Water Heater Replacement

- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Add new Implementation Program PFS-23 High-Efficiency or Alternatively-Powered Water Heater Replacement Program
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-4: Add new Implementation Program PFS-24 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Retrofits and Programs
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-5: Modify Policy LU 1.1.13 Sustainable Building Practices
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-6: Add new Implementation Program LU-6 Encourage Green Building
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-7: Add new Implementation Program LU-7 Encourage Zero Net Energy
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-8: Add new Implementation Program PFS-25 Zero Net Energy Development
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-9: Add new Implementation Program PFS-26 Renewable Diesel
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-10: Amend Implementation Program M-1 Transportation Demand Management
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-11: Amend Implementation Program PFS-14 Energy Efficient Fleet
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-12: Amend Policy M 1.1.4 Existing Streets Retrofits
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-13: Amend Implementation Program M-8 Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-14: Amend Policy PFS 9.1.3 Recycling Target
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-15: Add new Implementation Program PFS-27 Reduce Water Consumption in New Development
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-16: Add new Policy NCR 3.2.8 GHG Analysis Streamlining for Projects Consistent with the General Plan

Through implementation of the identified mitigation measures, the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts related to energy.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting energy resources or conflicts with energy-related plans. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to energy, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to energy.

No new significant effect related to energy would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on energy included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
7. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	Setting pp. 11-1 to 11-4; Impact GEO-1	No	No	Not applicable
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)				
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv. Landslides?				
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Setting pp. 11-5 and 11-6; Impact GEO-2	No	No	Not applicable
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	Setting pp. 11-4 and 11-5; Impact GEO-3	No	No	Not applicable
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	Setting p. 11-4; Impact GEO-3	No	No	Not applicable
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	Impact discussed on p. 11-11	No	No	Not applicable
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	Setting pp. 10-7 and 10-12; Impact CUL-3	No	No	Yes

4.7.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less-than-significant impacts related to risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, or landslide; substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; hazards related to unstable or expansive soils; and soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. The General Plan EIR also indicated that there would be a significant impact related to damage to or destruction of previously unknown unique paleontological resources during construction-related activities. The following mitigation measure was included in the General Plan EIR analysis to address the significant impact on paleontological resources and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Add new Implementation Program NCR 8: Management of Paleontological Resources.

The General Plan EIR concluded that the impact on paleontological resources under the 2035 General Plan would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-3.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting geology or soils. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to geology and soils, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's development standards under the Municipal Code (e.g., grading requirements and City Standard Construction Specifications), entitlement process and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to geology and soils.

No new significant effect related to geology or soils would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on geology and soils included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Setting p. 12-2 to 12-4; Impact GHG-1, p. 12-21 to 12-33; Impact GHG-2, p. 12-33 to 12-38.	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Setting p. 12-6 to 12-10; Impact GHG-1, p. 12-21 to 12-33.	No	No	Yes

4.8.1 Discussion

Senate Bill (SB) 743 changes the way that public agencies evaluate the transportation impacts of projects under CEQA. The proposed revisions to the State CEQA Guidelines would establish new criteria for determining the significance of a project’s transportation impacts that will more appropriately balance the needs of congestion management with statewide goals related to infill development, promotion of public health through active transportation, and reduction of GHGs. In 2018, the State CEQA Guidelines were updated to reflect analysis of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) rather than congestion when considering transportation impacts. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) provided updated guidance for how to consider VMT impacts in December 2018. Section 4.17, Transportation, below, provides more information related to this guidance.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be potentially significant impacts related to conflicts with an applicable plan, policy or regulation governing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as generation of greenhouse gas. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Add new Implementation Program PFS-22: Renewable Energy in City-Operated Facilities
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-2: Add new Policy PFS 8.1.9 Water Heater Replacement
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-3: Add new Implementation Program PFS-23 High-Efficiency or Alternatively-Powered Water Heater Replacement Program
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-4: Add new Implementation Program PFS-24 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Retrofits and Programs
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-5: Modify Policy LU 1.1.13 Sustainable Building Practices
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-6: Add new Implementation Program LU-6 Encourage Green Building
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-7: Add new Implementation Program LU-7 Encourage Zero Net Energy

- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-8: Add new Implementation Program PFS-25 Zero Net Energy Development
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-9: Add new Implementation Program PFS-26 Renewable Diesel
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-10: Amend Implementation Program M-1 Transportation Demand Management
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-11: Amend Implementation Program PFS-14 Energy Efficient Fleet
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-12: Amend Policy M 1.1.4 Existing Streets Retrofits
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-13: Amend Implementation Program M-8 Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-14: Amend Policy PFS 9.1.3 Recycling Target
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-15: Add new Implementation Program PFS-27 Reduce Water Consumption in New Development
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-16: Add new Policy NCR 3.2.8 GHG Analysis Streamlining for Projects Consistent with the General Plan
- ▶ Mitigation Measure GHG-17: Modify Policy NCR 3.2.5 Climate Change Assessment and Monitoring.

Even after implementation of the identified mitigation measures, the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to greenhouse gases.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting GHG generation or conflicts with applicable plan, policy or regulations related to reducing GHG emissions. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to GHGs that would include the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy (Appendix A of the General Plan).

No new significant effect related to GHGs would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on GHGs included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Impacts HZ-1 and HZ-2	No	No	Not applicable
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Setting p. 13-1 to 13-5; Impacts HZ-1 and HZ-2	No	No	Not applicable
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	Setting p. 13-1 to 13-5; Impact HZ-4	No	No	Not applicable
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	Setting pp. 13-1 to 13-4; Impact HZ-3	No	No	Not applicable
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	Setting p. 13-9; Impacts discussed on page 13-17	No	No	Not applicable
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Impacts discussed on page 17-47	No	No	Not applicable
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	Setting pp. 13-5, 13-7 to 13-9; Impact HZ-5	No	No	Yes

4.9.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be no impact related to airports and less-than-significant impacts related to creating a significant hazard through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; creating a significant hazard through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment; emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; and being located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites and, as a result, creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment. The General Plan EIR also indicated that there would be a significant impact related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. In addition, the 2035 General Plan contains policies that will avoid impacts to emergency access. The following mitigation measure was included in the General Plan EIR analysis to address the significant impact related to wildland fires and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure HZ-5: Add new Policy SN 4.1.4: Wildland Fire Risk Reduction.

The General Plan EIR concluded that the impact related to wildland fires under the 2035 General Plan would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure HZ-5.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting hazards to the public or the environment related to exposure to hazardous materials or sites; location of a project near an airport; or exposure to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional-serving commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to hazards and hazardous materials, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to hazards and hazardous materials.

No new significant effect related to hazards and hazardous materials would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
10. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the Project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	Setting pp. 14-4 and 14-5; Impacts HWQ-1	No	No	Not applicable
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	Setting pp. 14-4 to 14-5; impact discussed on page 14-14	No	No	Not applicable
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	Setting pp. 14-1 to 14-3; Impacts HWQ-2, HWQ-3, HWQ-4, and HWQ-5	No	No	Not applicable for Impact HWQ-2 Yes for Impacts HWQ-3, HWQ-4, and HWQ-5
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;				
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?				
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	Setting pp. 14-6 and 14-7; impact discussed on page 14-14	No	No	Not applicable
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Not addressed, no impact	No	No	NA

4.10.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less-than-significant impacts related to violations of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or other substantial degradation of surface water or groundwater quality; substantial decreases in groundwater supplies or substantial interference with groundwater recharge such that

sustainable groundwater management of the basin would be impeded; substantial alteration of the drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; and in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk of release of pollutants related to project inundation.

The General Plan EIR also indicated that there would be significant impacts related to substantial alteration of the drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that would result in a substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site, create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, and impede or redirect flood flows. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure HWQ-3a: Modify Policy SN 3.1.1: 100-Year Floodway.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure HWQ-3b: Modify Policy SN 3.1.4: Flood Control Costs.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure HWQ-3c: Modify City of Folsom Municipal Code Chapter 14.32.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure HWQ-4: Implement Mitigation Measure HWQ-3a, HWQ-3b, and HWQ 3c.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure HWQ-5: Implement Mitigation Measure HWQ-3a, HWQ-3b, and HWQ 3c.

The General Plan EIR concluded that all three of these significant hydrology and water quality impacts under the 2035 General Plan would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures HWQ-3a, HWQ-3b, HWQ-3c, HWQ-4, and HWQ-5.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes that would lead to violations of any water quality standard or waste discharge requirements or other degradation of water quality; a substantial decrease in groundwater supplies or substantial interference with groundwater recharge; a substantial alteration in the drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site, a substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site, creation or contribution of runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, or the impeding or redirecting of flood flows; or, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the risk that pollutants would be released because of project inundation. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to hydrology and water quality, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's development standards (Municipal Code and Standard Construction Specifications), entitlement process, and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to hydrology and water quality.

No new significant effect related to hydrology and water quality would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on hydrology and water quality included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
11. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	Setting p. 4-1 to 4-4; Impact discussion p. 4-5	No	No	Not Applicable
b. Create a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Setting p. 4-2 to 4-4; Impact discussion p. 4-6	No	No	Not Applicable

4.11.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR states that the 2035 General Plan has been designed as a cohesive plan that builds upon existing neighborhoods and previously approved development. Because the majority of new development in existing neighborhoods would occur within existing subdivisions or other approved project areas, or within the existing vacant area south of Highway 50, implementation of the 2035 General Plan would not physically divide an existing established community. Additionally, the City of Folsom is not a participating party in the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP), and all areas of the city are outside of the SSHCP coverage boundaries. Except for Planning Areas 1 (Easton/Glenborough) and 2 (south of White Rock Road), which both remain in Sacramento County and would be subject to the SSHCP, no other Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans have been adopted or are in process within the area covered by the 2035 General Plan.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting division of an established community or conflicts with any land use plans. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to land use and planning, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's development standards (Municipal Code), entitlement process, and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to land use.

No new significant effect related to land use would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on land use included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
12. Mineral Resources. Would the Project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	Setting p. 11-6; Impact GEO-4	No	No	No mitigation measures are available
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	Setting p. 11-6; Impact GEO-4	No	No	No mitigation measures are available

4.12.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be a significant impact related to the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No mitigation measures are available to address this impact. Therefore, the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in a significant and unavoidable impact related to the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting the availability of mineral resources. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional-serving commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to mineral resources, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's development standards (Municipal Code), entitlement process and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to mineral resources.

No new significant effect related to mineral resources would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on mineral resources included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.13 NOISE

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
13. Noise. Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Setting p. 15-1 to 15-19, p. 15-21 to 15-25 Impacts N-1 and N-2, p. 15-37 to 15-43	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Setting p. 15-1 to 15-19 Impact discussion Impact N-4, p. 15-46 to 15-47	No	No	Not applicable
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Setting p. 15-11 to 15-13; Impact discussion p. 15-36 and Impact N-3, p. 15-44 to 15-45	No	No	Yes

4.13.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less than significant impacts related to temporary increases in ambient noise levels, as well as noise and vibration. Potentially significant impacts were identified in the General Plan EIR related to permanent increases in ambient noise levels and exposure to adverse levels of aircraft noise. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure N-1: Add Implementation Program SN-1: Adopt a Noise Reduction Program
- ▶ Mitigation Measure N-3: Issue disclosure statements

Even after implementation of identified mitigation measures, the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to permanent increases in ambient noise levels. Impacts related to vibration would be less than significant.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting ambient noise levels, adverse levels of aircraft noise, or noise and vibration. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to noise, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's noise standards, entitlement process, and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to noise and vibration.

No new significant effect related to noise and vibration would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to noise and vibration included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
14. Population and Housing. Would the Project:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Setting p. 4-6 to 4-8 Impact discussion p. 4-14 to 4-17	No	No	NA
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Setting p. 4-8 to 4-11; Impact discussion p. 4-17	No	No	NA

4.14.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that implementation of the 2035 General Plan would not result in the displacement of substantial numbers of persons or housing. The General Plan EIR also indicated there would be no growth-inducing impacts related to the 2035 General Plan.

The purpose of the Housing Element Update is to identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs, as well as establish goals, policies, and actions to address these housing needs, including adequate provisioning of affordable and special-needs (e.g., agricultural workers, homeless people, seniors, single-parent households, large families, and persons with disabilities) housing. It would not remove housing or otherwise displace substantial numbers of people or homes.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR.

SACOG produces housing projections for the cities and counties in the Sacramento region, including the city of Folsom. Based on SACOG’s most recent projections, released in 2019, the number of housing units in the City is projected to grow from 27,550 in 2016 to 38,010 in 2040 (with a 1.35 percent annual growth rate). The population increase and development potential associated with the project would be included within the relevant estimates and SACOG projections and thus generally consistent with City and regional growth assumptions. Because the project would not propose new homes or businesses, or extend roads or other infrastructure, it would not induce substantial growth. In addition, no people or housing would be displaced due to the project, and thus no replacement housing necessary.

No new significant impacts or substantially more severe impacts would occur. Therefore, the findings of the certified EIR/EIS remain valid and no further analysis is required.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances or the project have occurred nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the General Plan EIR remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to population and housing.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
15. Public Services.				
a.	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any public services:			
i.	Fire protection? Setting pp. 16-1 to 16-3; Impact PSR-1	No	No	Not applicable
ii.	Police protection? Setting pp. 16-2 to 16-4; Impact PSR-1	No	No	Not applicable
iii.	Schools? Setting pp. 16-4 to 16-7; Impact PSR-1	No	No	Not applicable
iv.	Parks?	See below in Section 4.16, "Recreation"		
ii.	Other Government Facility? Not addressed, no impact	No	No	Not applicable

4.15.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be a less-than-significant impact related to providing new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, and schools. No mitigation is required for these impacts.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to public services, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's development standards, entitlement process, and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant County General Plan policies related to public services.

No new significant effect related to public services would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on public services included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.16 RECREATION

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
16. Recreation.				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Setting pp. 16-7 to 16-17; Impact PSR-2	No	No	Not applicable
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	Setting pp. 16-7 to 16-17; Impacts PSR-1, PSR-3, and PSR-4	No	No	Not applicable for Impacts PSR-1 and PSR-3 Yes for Impact PSR-4

4.16.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less-than-significant impacts related to the physical deterioration of neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities as a result of increased use and related to possible adverse physical effects on the environment associated with constructing or expanding City of Folsom recreational facilities. The General Plan EIR also indicated that there would be a significant impact related to possible adverse physical effects on the environment associated with constructing or expanding State and regional recreational facilities. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4a: Modify Policy LU 1.1.10: Network of Open Space.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4b: Modify Goal LU 5.1.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4c: Modify Policy LU 5.1.1: River District Overlay.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4d: Modify Policy LU 5.1.2: Vision for the River District.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4e: Modify Policy LU 5.1.3: River District Master Plan.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4f: Modify Policy LU 5.1.4: Enhance Lake Natoma with Compatible Recreation Uses.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4g: Modify Policy PR 4.1.1: Coordination with State and County Parks.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4h: Modify Policy PR 4.1.3: County, State, and Federal Cooperation.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4i: Modify Policy PR 4.1.5: Waterway Recreation and Access.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4j: Modify the 2035 General Plan Land Use Diagram – Transit Priority Areas.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4k: Modify the 2035 General Plan Land Use Diagram – River District.

- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4l: Modify the General Plan Land Use Diagram – Planning Area 1.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure PSR-4m: Modify the 2035 General Plan Land Use Diagram – Planning Area 2.

The General Plan EIR concluded that the impact related to possible adverse physical effects on the environment associated with constructing or expanding State and regional recreational facilities under the 2035 General Plan would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of these mitigation measures.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes related to the use, construction, or expansion of neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to recreation, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation, where residential development is currently allowed with the Conditional Use Permit.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's park dedication requirements and associated fees, entitlement process, and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to recreation.

No new significant effect related to recreation would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts on recreation included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
17. Transportation/Traffic. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	Impact discussed on p. 17-47 to 17-48	No	No	Not Applicable
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	Setting p. 17-31 to 17-28 – 8-29. VMT estimates p. 17-38	No	No	Not Applicable
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Impact discussed on p. 17-47 to 17-48	No	No	Not Applicable
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	Impact discussed on p. 17-47 to 17-48	No	No	Not Applicable

4.17.1 Discussion

The General Plan EIR used automobile delay or level of service (LOS) as the primary metric to evaluate the project’s CEQA transportation impacts, consistent with industry standards and the City General Plan goals and policies at the time.

On September 27, 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 743 (Steinberg) into law and started a process to change transportation impact analysis as part of CEQA compliance. SB 743 directed the California Office of Planning and Research (“OPR”) to revise the CEQA Guidelines to modify the criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses. Section 15064.3 of the State CEQA Guidelines, adopted in December 2018, provides that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the “most appropriate measure of transportation impacts” and mandates analysis of VMT impacts effective July 1, 2020. LOS, or other measures of automobile delay, are no longer considered significant environmental impacts under CEQA. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21099(b)(2).)

As provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15007, “amendments to the guidelines apply prospectively only,” and CEQA documents must meet the “content requirements in effect when the document was set out for public review,” and “shall not need to be revised to conform to any new content requirements in guideline amendments taking effect before the document is finally approved.” (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15007(c)). An assessment of the change in VMT under existing and 2035 conditions was disclosed as part of the General Plan EIR. This assessment determined that implementation of the General Plan would result in a net increase in total VMT of approximately 45.6 percent as compared to existing conditions (from 2,001,884 miles to 2,915,651 miles – General Plan Draft EIR Table 17-14). However, a VMT impact analysis consistent with the requirements of PRC Section 21099, and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 was not conducted because it was not required under CEQA at the time; and thus, no significance conclusion related to VMT was provided in the General Plan EIR.

The use of VMT as the primary metric for analyzing transportation impacts was not common in CEQA documents at the time of certification of the General Plan EIR. However, the effects of VMT on the environment as it relates to GHG emissions, multimodal transportation networks, and land use development patterns were known at the time the

General Plan EIR was prepared; and thus, could have been evaluated in the transportation chapter of the EIR at that time. Therefore, the evaluation provided below does not constitute “new information” as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The analysis provided below does consider whether the project could result in a substantial increase in severity of city-wide total VMT anticipated under the General Plan at buildout (2,915,651 miles).

As directed by Section 15007, the General Plan EIR does not need to be revised to conform to the new VMT requirements. In addition, the change in law (replacement of the LOS standard with VMT) does not constitute new significant information under CEQA (PRC 21166 or CEQA Guidelines 15162) as it does not constitute a new impact caused by the changes proposed in the project.

For these reasons, this section provides the environmental and regulatory setting related to VMT, as well as new analysis of the VMT generated by the project. LOS may be reviewed by the City as part of development review and mitigation measures identified in the General Plan EIR related to LOS may be required by the City as a condition of approval. However, because LOS is no longer considered an appropriate metric for analyzing transportation impacts on the environment, analysis and mitigation measures related to LOS are not included in this discussion. Additionally, as part of the 2018 updates to the CEQA Guidelines the analysis of safety as it relates air traffic patterns and facilities was removed from Section XVII. Transportation in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, transportation impacts related to a change in air traffic patterns or facilities are not included in this discussion.

The General Plan EIR includes Implementation Program M-14. Vehicle Miles Travelled Thresholds to be addressed in the updated Mobility Element of the 2035 General Plan., The City of Folsom will do the following as set forth in 2035 General Plan:

- ▶ Anticipate the need to establish VMT thresholds for CEQA analysis within two years after OPR’s guidelines are fully adopted
- ▶ Retain an LOS policy in the General Plan and continue to conduct an LOS analysis as part of its review of development projects
- ▶ Conduct an LOS analysis of its roadway system and a general analysis of changes in VMT as part of the environmental documents prepared to assess the effects of a future Mobility Element Update

At the time of preparation of this document, the City of Folsom has not developed VMT thresholds.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less-than-significant impacts related to hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses; the provision of emergency access; and conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, and the performance or safety of such facilities.

As discussed above, the General Plan EIR provided an analysis of LOS to evaluate transportation and circulation impacts. The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be a significant impact related to traffic LOS on local intersections and on US 50. The following mitigation measures were included in the General Plan EIR analysis and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure T-1: Implement all feasible improvements identified in Table 17-20 at impacted intersections.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure T-2: Implement Mitigation Measures GHG-10, GHG-12, and GHG-13.
- ▶ Mitigation Measure T-3: Implement the new interchanges and improvements along US Highway 50.

The General Plan EIR concluded that the impacts related to traffic LOS on local intersection and on US 50 would remain significant and unavoidable with implementation of these mitigation measures.

As noted above, the CEQA Guidelines did not include a VMT threshold at the time that the General Plan EIR was prepared. Regardless, the General Plan EIR does address the implications of SB 743 and OPR’s recommendation to consider VMT as the preferred metric for transportation impact analysis. In addition, the General Plan EIR notes that

the Mobility Element of the 2035 General Plan requires the City of Folsom to establish VMT thresholds for CEQA analysis within two years after OPR's guidelines are fully adopted (Implementation Program M-14).

The General Plan EIR indicated that total VMT within the City would increase through implementation of the General Plan but did not attempt to discuss the significance of an impact in terms of VMT. However, the General Plan EIR states that Mitigation Measure T-2: Implement Mitigation Measures GHG-10, GHG-12, and GHG-13 would result in new policies and regulations for reducing VMT and encourage non-automobile modes of travel. Specifically, Mitigation Measure GHG-10 requires adoption of a citywide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program designed to achieve an overall 15 percent VMT reduction over 2014 levels and a 20 percent reduction in City-employee commute VMT; Mitigation Measures GHG-12 supports bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements within existing streets and intersection; and, Mitigation Measure GHG-13 requires bicycle and pedestrian improvements as conditions of approval for new development on roadways and intersections with the City of Folsom.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in changes affecting transportation such that hazards due to a design feature or incompatible use, inadequate emergency access, or conflicts with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system would occur. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The proposed updates to the Housing Element and Safety and Noise Element would not include land use changes through rezoning or entitle development that would create changes in land use conditions resulting in a substantial increase in projected city-wide total VMT at buildout identified in the General Plan EIR. The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit (see Figure 2-2). No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR that would substantially alter city-wide VMT anticipated under the General Plan at buildout (2,915,651 miles). The potential inclusion of residential development in combination with commercial uses could provide VMT benefits on this site through the reduction of vehicle trip lengths between residential and retail uses. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to transportation, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to transportation.

No new significant effect related to transportation would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to transportation included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
18. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
<p>a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</p> <p>(i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or</p> <p>(ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</p>	Setting p. 18-1 to 18-4 Impact TCR-1, p. 18-6 to 18-8	No	No	Yes, but impact remains significant and unavoidable

4.18.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

Potentially significant impacts were identified in the General Plan EIR related to tribal cultural resources. No available mitigation measures were identified to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the 2035 General Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to tribal cultural resources.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting tribal cultural resources. Please refer to the Project Description, which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than

under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to tribal cultural resources, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation. No additional consultation under AB 52 is required for an addendum to an EIR.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to tribal cultural resources.

No new significant effect related to transportation would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to tribal cultural resources included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
18. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the Project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Setting p. 19-1 to 19-25 Impact USS-2, p. 19-35 to 19-37; Impact USS-3, p. 19-37 to 19-39; Impact USS-4, p. 19-40 to 19-42; Impact USS-6, p. 19-45 to 19-46	No	No	Not Applicable
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	Setting p. 19-10 to 19-23; Impact USS-1 p. 19-33 to 19-34; Impact USS-4, p. 19-40 to 19-42	No	No	Not Applicable
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	Setting p. 19-3 to 19-10; Impact USS-3 p. 19-37 to 19-39	No	No	Not Applicable
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Setting p. 19-23 to 19-25; Impact USS-5, p. 19-43 to 19-44	No	No	Not Applicable
e. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Setting p. 19-27 Impact USS-5, p. 19-43 to 19-44	No	No	Not Applicable

4.19.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR indicated that there would be less than significant impacts related to wastewater treatment, new or expanded utility infrastructure, wastewater generation, water supply, solid waste generation, and demand for utility services.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting construction of new utility infrastructure, water supply, wastewater treatment capacity, generation of solid

waste, or compliance with solid waste regulations. Please refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations pertaining to utilities and service systems, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects will continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and CEQA to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to utilities.

There is no new significant effect, and the impact is not more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances or the project have occurred nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the General Plan EIR remain valid and approval of project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to utilities and services systems.

4.20 WILDFIRE

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
19. Wildfire. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Not addressed/No Impact	No	No	Not applicable
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	Not addressed/No Impact	No	No	Not applicable
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	Not addressed/No Impact	No	No	Not applicable

4.20.1 Discussion

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred, nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification.

IMPACT DISCUSSION

The General Plan EIR discusses wildfire in the “Hazards and Hazardous Materials” section. It does not specifically address the criteria listed in the table above; however, it does indicate that there would be a significant impact related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The following mitigation measure was included in the General Plan EIR analysis to address the significant impact related to wildland fires and would continue to apply to subsequent development:

- ▶ Mitigation Measure HZ-5: Add new Policy SN 4.1.4: Wildland Fire Risk Reduction.

The General Plan EIR concluded that the impact related to wildland fires under the 2035 General Plan would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure HZ-5.

The project includes revisions to housing policy and programs and updates to the Housing Element, Land Use Element, Safety and Noise Element, and Implementation Element, which would not result in physical changes affecting exposure to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Please refer to Chapter 2, “Project Description,” which summarizes the types of policy and program changes contemplated in this update.

The project would amend the Empire Ranch Specific Plan to allow residential development as a permitted use in the regional commercial land use designation (RCC) and commercial/ central business district (C-2) zoning, rather than under a conditional use permit. No substantial changes to the type or intensity of development at this site would occur beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR. Development would be consistent with regulations

pertaining to wildfire, and impacts would be of similar type and severity as what could occur under the current zoning district and land use designation.

Future housing projects would continue to be reviewed through the City's entitlement process and the CEQA process to ensure consistency with all relevant federal and State policies and consistency with all relevant City General Plan policies related to wildfire.

No new significant effect related to wildfire would occur, and the impact would not be more severe than the impact identified in the General Plan EIR.

CONCLUSION

No substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, nor has any new information of substantial importance been identified requiring new analysis or verification. In addition, approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, compared to those discussed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the conclusions regarding impacts related to wildfire included in the General Plan EIR remain valid.

4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the General Plan EIR.	Do Any New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Mitigation Measures in the EIR Address/Resolve Impacts, Including Impacts That Would Be New or Substantially More Severe?
20. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 18	No	Yes, discussed throughout environmental checklist	Yes
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when view in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	Page 21-1 to 21-11	No	No	Yes
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Chapter 6 through Chapter 19	No	Yes, discussed throughout environmental checklist	Yes

CONCLUSION

All approved mitigation in the EIR would continue to be implemented with the proposed project. Therefore, no new significant impacts would occur with implementation of the project.

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5 LIST OF PREPARERS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

5.1 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Kirsten Burrows	Environmental Planner
Jim Merk.....	Environmental Planner
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6 REFERENCES

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