

5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQA defines cumulative impacts as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable, or which can compound or increase other environmental impacts.” Section 15130 of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR evaluate potential environmental impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. These impacts can result from the proposed project alone, or together with other projects. The State CEQA Guidelines state: “The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects” (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355). A cumulative impact of concern under CEQA occurs when the net result of combined individual impacts compounds or increases other overall environmental impacts (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355). In other words, cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time. CEQA does not require an analysis of incremental effects that are not cumulatively considerable nor is there a requirement to discuss impacts that do not result in part from the project evaluated in the EIR.

The State CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 describes the requirements for the discussion of cumulative impacts in an EIR. It states that an EIR must discuss cumulative impacts of a project “when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable, as defined in section 15065(a)(3).” (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130[a].) In other words, CEQA requires a lead agency to undertake a two-step analysis. First, the agency must consider whether the combined effects from the proposed project and other projects would be cumulatively significant. And second, if the answer is yes, the agency must then consider whether the proposed project’s incremental effects are cumulatively considerable. The EIR need not provide as much detail as is provided for the impacts attributable to the project alone. Instead, the discussion will reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence. In addition, the State CEQA Guidelines allow for a project’s contribution to be rendered less than cumulatively considerable with implementation of appropriate mitigation.

5.1 METHODS OF ANALYSIS

The environmental analysis of the 2040 General Plan presented throughout this draft EIR is a cumulative analysis of impacts of future development under the 2040 General Plan, and this draft EIR contains detailed analysis of regional (cumulative) impacts at the county level. Additionally, the following discussion examines impacts associated with future development under the 2040 General Plan, plus future development for jurisdictions that neighbor the unincorporated areas of the county, to assess the potential for cumulative impacts from growth in the greater region. As shown in the analysis below, Ventura County is generally surrounded by other counties that expect varying degrees of growth.

When evaluating cumulative impacts, CEQA allows the use of either a list of past, present, and probable future projects (including projects outside the control of the lead agency), or a summary of projections in an adopted planning document, or a thoughtful combination of the two approaches. The cumulative analysis presented below uses a projections-based approach. As described in Chapter 3, “Project Description,” land use and growth projections for

Ventura County, which are the subject of analysis throughout this draft EIR, are combined with the growth projections for the incorporated cities and adjoining counties. The three counties adjacent to Ventura County— Santa Barbara, Kern, and Los Angeles counties—are shown in Figure 5-1 and described briefly below. The area that includes unincorporated Ventura County, the incorporated cities, and the adjoining counties is referred to in this analysis as the “cumulative impact area.”

As shown in Table 5-1, the population for the three counties surrounding Ventura County is projected to grow from approximately 11,640,000 people in 2018 to 13,200,000 people by 2040, an increase of 13 percent. Growth rates for Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties would be similar to those forecasted for Ventura County, while Kern County’s population is projected to increase by more than five times that of Ventura County through 2040.

Table 5-1 Population Projections of Cumulative Impact Area 2018 – 2040

County	Population		Percentage Increase
	2018 ¹	2040 ²	
Santa Barbara	453,288	520,000	15%
Kern	907,518	1,469,500	62%
Los Angeles	10,278,836	11,514,000	12%
Ventura	855,489	966,000	13%
Total, Counties	12,495,131	14,469,500	16%

¹ 2018 population projects are derived from the California Department of Finance.

² Population projection for Kern County reflects 2042.

Sources: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2013; Kern Council of Governments 2018; SCAG 2016; California Department of Finance 2019

Incorporated Cities: Ten incorporated cities are located within Ventura County: Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. The County of Ventura has land use regulatory authority over most unincorporated land in the county, but lacks land use authority within the incorporated cities. Therefore, this draft EIR does not directly analyze and mitigate for impacts of future development in the incorporated cities. Future development in these cities is included in the draft EIR’s consideration of cumulative impacts. Table 5-2 provides projected population growth within the incorporated cities of Ventura County from 2018 to 2040.

Table 5-2 Forecasted Growth of Incorporated Cities within Ventura County

City	Population		Percentage Change
	2018	2040 ¹	
Camarillo	68,452	79,900	17%
Fillmore	15,840	21,800	38%
Moorpark	36,828	43,000	17%
Ojai	7,741	8,400	9%
Oxnard	209,269	237,300	13%
Port Hueneme	23,370	22,400	-4%
San Buenaventura (Ventura)	110,125	125,300	14%
Santa Paula	30,931	39,600	28%
Simi Valley	127,421	142,400	12%
Thousand Oaks	130,283	131,700	1%
Total, Incorporated Cities	760,260	851,800	12%

¹ Population projection for Kern County reflects 2042.

Sources: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2013; Kern Council of Governments 2018; SCAG 2016; California Department of Finance 2019



Source: Ventura County, 2016

Figure 5-1 Cumulative Impact Area

Santa Barbara County: Santa Barbara County is located north of Ventura County along the coast. Similar to Ventura County, developed areas are located primarily along State Route 101. The majority of Santa Barbara County is comprised of government or conservancy-owned lands, including Vandenberg Air Force Base and Los Padres National Forest.

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) adopted the Regional Growth Forecast 2010-2040 in December 2012. The purpose of the Regional Growth Forecast is to provide a consistent economic and population growth forecast to the year 2040 for use in long-range comprehensive planning. The 2040 projections indicate that the population in the SBCAG region is expected to grow by 96,165 people between 2010 and 2040. During this time period, employment within the region is expected to grow by 60,200 jobs and new households are expected to increase by 41,500 (SBCAG 2013).

Kern County: Kern County is located east of Ventura County and extends from the southern San Joaquin Valley into the Sierra Nevada and high desert region of California. Kern County is predominately comprised of rural lands such as open space and productive farming. The majority of Kern County's population lives within the metropolitan area of Bakersfield (Kern Council of Government [Kern COG] 2018).

The population is currently estimated to grow to 1,469,500 by 2042, the horizon year for the Kern COG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Projections indicate that households would increase from 268,306 in 2017 to 443,700 in 2042; and employment rates would increase from 325,300 in 2017 to 483,500 in 2042 (Kern COG 2018).

Los Angeles County: Los Angeles County is located south and east of Ventura County along the coast. Population centers are located in the western portion of the county and more rural lands, located within the eastern portion of the county, are primarily within the Angeles National Forest.

The population of Los Angeles County is forecasted to increase from 9,923,000 in 2012 to 11,515,000 in 2040. Growth during this timeframe would also include an increase of 689,000 new households and 980,000 new jobs (SCAG 2016).

5.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The following analysis examines the cumulative effects of future development under the 2040 General Plan within the cumulative impact analysis area, unless otherwise noted. Because the 2040 General Plan could accommodate development across a large geographical area (unincorporated parts of Ventura County) over a long period of time (through 2040), the analysis presented throughout this draft EIR is inherently cumulative, as discussed above. The potential for cumulative effects associated with future development under the 2040 General Plan in combination with development of the incorporated cities within Ventura County and the surrounding counties are summarized qualitatively below for each of the resource topics analyzed in Chapter 4, "Environmental Impact Analysis."

The State CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(3) directs lead agencies to define the geographic scope of the area affected by the cumulative effect and to provide a reasonable explanation for the geographic limitation used. The geographic scope defines the area within which a proposed project and related projects may contribute to a specific cumulative impact.

The geographic scope of the cumulative impact analysis varies depending upon the specific environmental issue being analyzed. The geographic scope for each environmental issue analyzed in this draft EIR is identified in Table 5-3. For many of the resource areas, including geologic hazards, noise and vibration, and public services and recreation, impacts would by their nature be location specific, and would not be expected to combine with the effects of development outside of the county to result in any additional impacts not already addressed in this draft EIR.

Table 5-3 Geographic Scope of Cumulative Impacts

Environmental Issue Area	Geographic Scope of Cumulative Analysis
Aesthetics, Scenic Resources, and Light Pollution	County and land in surrounding counties that have views of county land
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	County and surrounding counties
Air Quality	South Central Coast Air Basin
Biological Resources	County and surrounding counties (and statewide as appropriate)
Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Paleontological Resources	Local (limited to plan area and off-site improvement areas), with regional implications
Energy	County and surrounding counties
Geologic Hazards	County (impacts are primarily localized)
Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change	Global
Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire	County (impacts are primarily localized) for hazards and hazardous materials; regional for wildfire
Hydrology and Water Quality	County and shared watersheds, aquifers, and waterways of surrounding counties
Land Use and Planning	County (impacts are primarily localized)
Mineral and Petroleum Resources	County (impacts are primarily localized)
Noise and Vibration	County (impacts are primarily localized)
Population and Housing	County and surrounding counties
Public Services and Recreation	County and surrounding counties, local service areas for public services
Transportation and Traffic	County and surrounding counties
Utilities	Local service areas

Source: Prepared by Ascent in 2019

5.2.1 Aesthetics, Scenic Resources, and Light Pollution

Visual resources impacts associated with future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.1, “Aesthetics, Scenic Resources, and Light Pollution.” Effects on scenic resources generally occur at the interface between development and the scenic resources, and tend to be localized. The county has been growing and developing over many years and individual projects have been subject to General Plan policies, zoning, and other ordinances or regulations in place to protect scenic resources. As described in Section 4.1, impacts resulting from implementation of the 2040 General Plan associated with changes to scenic resources, visual character and quality, light and glare affecting day or nighttime views, and glare effects along Regional Road Network Roadways would be less than significant (with mitigation measures) at the county scale due to the designation of key resource areas as open space by the land use diagram of the 2040 General Plan, existing and proposed restrictions on development within established scenic resource protection zones, the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO),

Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO), implementation of 2040 General Plan policies, and compliance with Area Plan policies that protect scenic resources. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to scenic resources, visual character and quality, and light and glare would not combine with development that would occur as a result of forecasted growth in adjacent counties to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because adjacent jurisdictions, including incorporated cities and adjacent counties, have general plan policies, zoning, and other ordinances or regulations in place to protect scenic resources and limit light and glare within their jurisdictions. Projected growth within these jurisdictions would be required to comply with applicable regulations pertaining to scenic resources and light and glare. The 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to aesthetics, scenic resources, and light and glare would not be cumulatively significant, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact would occur.

5.2.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

As described in Section 4.2, "Agriculture and Forestry Resources," as of 2016, the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) had inventoried over 555,000 acres of land in the county, classifying over 18,000 acres of land as Important Farmland. Overall, a total of 39 percent of the land within the county is designated as Important Farmland. Past development has resulted in the conversion of land from agricultural production to urban development, leading to a substantial loss of Important Farmland to other uses; this trend is expected to continue. Future development under the 2040 General Plan has the potential to result in conversion of land uses, including agricultural lands, to urban uses. Implementation of mitigation measures would require that discretionary development avoid Important Farmland as much as feasibly possible and require agricultural conservation easements as compensatory mitigation for the conversion of agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. While conservation easements would prevent other existing agricultural lands from future conversion, they would not prevent the loss of agricultural lands nor would they fully compensate for this loss. Further, implementation of cumulative development outside the county, particularly in Kern County where the majority of growth in the cumulative impact area would occur, would be expected to result in conversion of farmland, due to its location on the San Joaquin Valley floor, which contains large areas of Important Farmland. The potential for cumulative impacts related to agricultural resources is cumulatively significant, and the impact would be cumulatively considerable. The proposed mitigation measures, which would include avoiding development of agricultural land and conserving Important Farmland at a 2:1 ratio through conservation easements, provide the maximum feasible mitigation. While this mitigation would reduce the 2040 General Plan's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact, the 2040 General Plan would have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a cumulatively significant impact because there are no actions or policies to fully replace the loss of Important Farmland.

Forest lands, specifically the Los Padres National Forest, are also present in Ventura County; however, forestry resources are concentrated in the national forest, which is protected from future development. As described in Section 4.2, the 2040 General Plan would not conflict or result in a loss of land zoned as forestland, timberland, or Timberland Production Zone. Therefore, implementation of the 2040 General Plan, when taken together with other projected growth and development within the region, would not combine to create a cumulatively significant impact to forest resources.

5.2.3 Air Quality

Air quality impacts are assessed at the air basin level. As a result, the impacts identified in Section 4.3, "Air Quality," are inherently cumulative. Ventura County is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB), along with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Thus, for this cumulative analysis, the SCCAB and the regions that affect air quality within Ventura County define the geographic context.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-3, the development of individual discretionary projects associated with the 2040 General Plan would not result in the exposure of new sensitive receptors to a substantial increase in future operational toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions from roadway traffic or stationary sources. While this is a localized impact, cumulative development within incorporated cities located adjacent to the plan area and elsewhere in the SCCAB could result in increased operational TAC emission sources. This would be a cumulatively significant impact. The 2040 General Plan includes a new policy that would protect sensitive receptors from exposure to TAC emissions. This policy would reduce the 2040 General Plan's contribution to this cumulatively significant impact to a level that is less than cumulatively considerable.

Ventura County is in nonattainment for ozone with respect to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), and nonattainment for particular matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter (PM₁₀) with respect to the CAAQS. Construction activities resulting from implementation of the 2040 General Plan could contribute substantially to Ventura County's nonattainment status for ozone and PM₁₀ and could result in an increase in the potential for adverse health impacts to occur from ozone and PM₁₀. Cumulative development within incorporated cities located adjacent to the plan area and elsewhere in the SCCAB would also result in increased criteria air pollutant emissions due to construction and operational activities, including increased ozone and PM₁₀ emissions. This is a cumulatively significant construction and operational impact. Implementation of mitigation measures described in Section 4.3, "Air Quality," would reduce construction-related air pollutant emissions. However, because Ventura County is in nonattainment for PM₁₀ with respect to the CAAQS, construction associated with the 2040 General Plan could further worsen this existing air quality condition. The 2040 General Plan's contribution to this cumulatively significant construction air quality impact would remain cumulatively considerable.

Additionally, because the number and nature of future development projects that could be under construction at the same time is unknown, reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions could exceed Ventura County Air Pollution Control District's (VCAPCD's) thresholds within the Ojai Valley. Furthermore, future development and other physical changes that could occur as a result of 2040 General Plan implementation would result in long-term operational emissions of ROG, NO_x, PM₁₀, and particular matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter (PM_{2.5}). While individual projects may be able to reduce emissions to levels below applicable thresholds, the total operational emissions attributable to forecasted growth accommodated under the 2040 General Plan would exceed VCAPCD's thresholds and would be a considerable contribution to significant cumulative air pollutant impacts in the region. There is no feasible mitigation for this impact beyond the policies and programs included in the 2040 General Plan; therefore, the 2040 General Plan's incremental contribution to this significant cumulative operational air quality impact would remain cumulatively considerable.

The 2040 General Plan would have a less than significant odor impact, and when considered in combination with odors generated by cumulative development, would not result in a cumulatively significant odors impact affecting substantial numbers of people. Same as the 2040 General Plan, cumulative development would be subject to VCAPCD and other air district rules addressing the generation of odors. The 2040 General Plan would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a cumulatively significant odors impact.

5.2.4 Biological Resources

Past development in Ventura County has resulted in a substantial loss of native habitat to other uses, with adverse effect on native plants and animals. Although most future projects proposed in the region would be required to mitigate significant impacts on terrestrial biological resources, in compliance with CEQA, the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and other State, local, and federal statutes, many types of common habitats and species are provided no protection. Therefore, it can be expected that the net loss of native habitat for plants and wildlife, agricultural lands, and open space areas that support important terrestrial biological resources in Ventura County will continue.

The effect of future development under the 2040 General Plan on biological resources is analyzed in Section 4.4, "Biological Resources." As noted in Section 4.4, implementation of the proposed land use diagram could result in adverse impacts on special-status species and sensitive habitats, such as riparian habitats, sensitive plant communities, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA), coastal beaches, sand dunes, and other sensitive natural communities. Compliance with federal, State, and local laws protecting biological resources as well as 2040 General Plan policies and programs would substantially lessen the likelihood of adverse effects on special-status species and sensitive habitats; however, because the exact location of future development is not known, and because countywide mapping or inventory of special-status species and habitats has not been conducted, impacts to these resources could still occur and would be significant and unavoidable. Similarly, development pursuant to other local and regional planning efforts within the greater cumulative impact area could also have impacts on special-status species and sensitive habitat, which could be significant even with compliance with federal, State, and local laws protecting biological resources. Regional development in surrounding counties may result in similar impacts, although cumulative development in some portions of the cumulative analysis area are expected to occur in areas with different habitat types (e.g., habitat associated with the San Joaquin Valley floor and surrounding existing urban areas such as Bakersfield). Because impacts on special-status species and sensitive habitats would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative impacts related to special-status species and sensitive habitats would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution.

Future development under the 2040 General Plan may result in potential loss or degradation of State or federally protected wetlands and other waters. However, future development would be concentrated in the Existing Community area designation (boundary) and Urban area designation (boundary), and the 2040 General Plan includes several mitigation measures that would further reduce potential impacts on state or federally protected wetlands and other waters. Additionally, compliance with State law, federal law, and the Ventura County Coastal Area Plan would reduce potential impacts of future development under the 2040 General Plan and require project-level environmental review under CEQA to evaluate potential impacts on biological resources and mitigate significant impacts on wetland habitats.

Nonetheless, while these laws, policies, and implementation programs would reduce the likelihood of adverse effects on wetlands, the project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact due to the wide variety of future project types, site conditions, and other circumstances associated with future development. Because impacts on special-status species and sensitive habitats would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative impacts related to State or federally protected wetlands and other waters would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution.

Implementing the 2040 General Plan could result in the potential loss or degradation of wildlife movement corridors or disturbances to wildlife nursery sites. Due to the wide variety of future project types, site conditions, and other circumstances associated with future development, this impact would be significant and unavoidable. Because impacts on wildlife movement corridors and wildlife nursery sites would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative impacts related to wildlife movement corridors and wildlife nursery sites would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution.

Because applicants for projects requiring discretionary approval would be required to abide by the restrictions in and implement mitigation based on the Ventura County Oak Woodland Management Plan and Tree Protection Regulations, future development under the 2040 General Plan is not expected to conflict with these plans and ordinances. Similarly, other cumulative development would be required to adhere to these plans and ordinances. Thus, the incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with cumulative development that would occur as a result of future growth to produce cumulatively considerable impacts related to potential conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

5.2.5 Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Paleontological Resources

As described in Section 4.5, “Cultural, Tribal Cultural, and Paleontological Resources,” the county is archaeologically and culturally significant, with many archaeological resources located near former water and food sources. Some of these resources could have regional significance, while for others the resources themselves are site-specific, and impacts to them are project-specific. For example, impacts to a subsurface archeological find at one project site are generally not made worse by impacts from another project to a cultural resource at another site. Rather, the resources and the effects upon them are generally independent. However, other resources, such as archaeological resources, tribal cultural resources, and paleontological resources, could have regional importance, and individual impacts to these resources could collectively result in greater, more adverse impacts. Because all significant cultural resources are unique and nonrenewable members of finite classes, meaning there are a limited number of significant cultural resources, all adverse effects erode a dwindling resource base. As a result, the potential for cumulative impacts related to cultural, tribal cultural, and paleontological resources is cumulatively significant, and the impact would be cumulatively considerable. The impacts of future development under 2040 General Plan would be individually significant even with the implementation of mitigation measures. Similarly, cumulative development would be required to implement similar mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts. Nonetheless, because the potential for permanent loss of known or unknown resources cannot be guaranteed, the impacts of the 2040 General Plan would combine with cumulative impacts to cultural, tribal cultural, and paleontological resources in the incorporated cities and surrounding counties to create cumulatively significant impacts, and the incremental impact of the 2040 General Plan would be cumulatively considerable.

5.2.6 Energy

Potential impacts related to increased energy consumption from future development under the 2040 General Plan are evaluated in Section 4.6, “Energy.” Construction that could occur with future development under the 2040 General Plan would result in a temporary increase in fuel consumption. However, it is anticipated that fuel would not typically be consumed in a wasteful manner during construction of individual projects under the 2040 General Plan, as it is in the interest of construction contractors to meet project schedules and minimize costs. This translates to various efficiencies, including in the use of energy resources. Through the policies and programs of the 2040 General Plan, transportation-related energy would be reduced through improved access to transit alternatives and innovative shared transportation models. Under the 2040 General Plan, the county’s energy demand would increase along with population growth; however, State regulations would require a higher proportion of electricity to be generated from zero carbon electricity sources due to State regulations and energy efficiency measures would be integrated into new construction and existing buildings. In addition, the 2040 General Plan contains policies that include the use of biomethane produced from organic waste, installation of electric vehicle charging stations at public facilities to further transition vehicle ownership to zero emissions vehicles, and a robust set of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction measures that encourage alternative modes of transportation to reduce overall motor vehicle use and associated gas and diesel consumption.

Development in surrounding counties will also consume energy; however, it is likely that the same or similar factors governing development in these areas would result in efficient energy use. For example, construction contractors would be encouraged to be energy efficient as a matter of best business practices, and would be required to adhere to air quality standards that require minimization of emissions and strict energy standards. Therefore, the potential for cumulative impacts related to energy would not be cumulatively significant on a regional scale. As such, despite other growth and development in the cumulative impact analysis area that could result in increases in the demand for energy, future development under the 2040 General Plan would not result in the wasteful or inefficient use of energy and its incremental contribution to cumulative energy impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

5.2.7 Geologic Hazards

Impacts related to geologic hazards that may result from future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.7, “Geologic Hazards.”. Geology and soils impacts may be related to increased exposure to seismic hazards and increased risks associated with landslide, soil expansion, and subsidence. These effects would occur independently of one another and are related to site-specific and project-specific characteristics and conditions. Because these effects are generally localized, they typically do not combine to result in greater cumulative impacts. In addition, existing regulations specify mandatory actions that must occur during project development, which would adequately address the potential for effects from construction or operation of projects related to geology, soils, and seismicity. For example, construction of future projects would be subject to applicable codes and regulations and seismic safety requirements and recommendations contained in project-specific geotechnical reports. It is anticipated, therefore, that any potential impacts associated with geologic and soil conditions would be mitigated within the respective sites of these future projects.

As described in Section 4.7, impacts resulting from implementation of the 2040 General Plan associated with geologic hazards would be less than significant because future development under the General Plan would be required to adhere to existing regulations (including the Ventura County Building Code) and General Plan policies and programs. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to geologic hazards would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because future projects would also be required to comply with applicable regulations to minimize geologic hazards. Therefore, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to geologic hazards would not be cumulatively significant, and the project's contribution to this impact would not be cumulatively considerable such that a new cumulatively significant impact would occur.

5.2.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Climate change is an inherently cumulative issue and relates to development in the region, California, and, most of all, the world. Therefore, the impacts discussed in Section 4.8, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions," are also the cumulative effects of implementation of future development under the 2040 General Plan. The 2040 General Plan includes a number of policies and programs that would help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in all sectors, including policies and programs that would reduce GHG emissions from the two largest GHG sectors in the county: energy and mobile sources. However, while evidence demonstrates that the policies and programs of the 2040 General Plan would support GHG reductions, for several reasons as described in Section 4.8, the future GHG reduction effectiveness of 2040 General Plan implementation cannot be reliably quantified and compared to the State's 2030 target and post-2030 reductions. Several mitigation measures are identified to further lessen future GHG emissions, but not to a less than significant level. As a result, the 2040 General Plan would result in a significant and unavoidable impact. No additional mitigation or information regarding future available technology advancements or future State plans for achieving post-2030 emission reductions is available at this time that can be further quantified or estimated qualitatively. Thus, the 2040 General Plan's incremental contribution to cumulatively significant climate change effects would be cumulatively considerable.

5.2.9 Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire

Impacts associated with hazards, hazardous materials, and wildfire related to future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.9, "Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire." Topics addressed in this section are related to the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or hazardous waste; reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions; hazardous emissions, particularly near schools; inclusion on a list of hazardous materials sites; proximity to airports; and risk of wildfires. Existing regulations specify mandatory actions that must occur during project development and operation related to the management and land use planning associated with hazardous materials and potential safety issues related to proximity to schools and airports. In addition, impacts related to hazardous materials and safety issues generally occur independently of one another and are related to site-specific and project-specific characteristics and conditions. Because these effects are generally localized, they typically do not combine to result in greater cumulative impacts.

As described in Section 4.9, impacts resulting from implementation of the 2040 General Plan associated with hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant because County activities and discretionary development would be required to comply with federal, State, and local regulations as well as 2040 General Plan policies and implementation programs that would substantially lessen potential impacts. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to hazards and hazardous materials would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because future projects would also be required to comply with federal, State, and local regulations to minimize hazards and hazardous materials impacts. With implementation of existing regulations, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would not be cumulatively significant, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials would occur.

As discussed in Section 4.9, wildfires have caused destruction to large areas of rural and urban lands in Ventura County. Thus, wildfire risk within the county and cumulative impacts area is an existing significant cumulative condition, particularly within very high and high fire hazard severity zones (FHSVs). Implementation of the 2040 General Plan would result in a potentially significant impact from the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires because new residential, commercial, and industrial development would occur in or adjacent to high and very high FHSZs or Hazardous Fire Hazard Areas. Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Kern counties and incorporated cities in Ventura County also contain large areas of high and very high FHSZs and cumulative development in or adjacent to these areas would similarly be exposed to and would exacerbate wildfire risk and wildfire-related adverse effects. As discussed in Impact 4.9-6, implementation of 2040 General Plan policies and implementation programs and compliance with State and federal law would reduce fire hazard risks associated with development to the extent feasible. However, existing and future development would continue to remain and be added in fire hazard areas and, thus, complete elimination of those risks would not be feasible. As a result, implementation of the 2040 General Plan would have an incremental contribution to a cumulatively significant wildfire impact, and this impact would be cumulatively considerable.

5.2.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Impacts associated with water resources related to future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.10, "Hydrology and Water Quality." Water resources impacts may be related to hydrology and water quality, including groundwater quantity and quality, surface water quantity and quality, hydraulic hazards, seiche and tsunami hazards, and flood control facilities and watercourses; these are discussed in more detail below. Existing regulations specify mandatory actions that must occur during project development, which would adequately address the potential for construction or operation of projects to affect water quality and potential water-related hazards, as noted throughout the impacts discussed in Section 4.10. These existing regulations and requirements governing hydrology and water quality would also apply to future development in the cumulative impact area.

Groundwater

Of the various groundwater basins that exist within the county, several are in overdraft. As described in Section 4.10, groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) have been completed or are in development for these overdrafted groundwater basins, and future development under the 2040 General Plan would be required to be consistent with these GSPs. As such, the 2040 General Plan would not decrease the net quantity of groundwater in an overdrafted groundwater basin or create an overdrafted groundwater basin. Additionally, through compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and adopted GSPs, the 2040 General Plan would not result in net groundwater extraction that results in the overdrafting the groundwater basins or associated hydrologic units. Further, because additional groundwater extraction above existing conditions is limited by County Ordinance 4468, implementation of the 2040 General Plan would not result in a net increase in groundwater extraction that would adversely affect the underlying groundwater basins. Regarding groundwater quality, implementation of the 2040 General Plan would not result in groundwater quality impacts that would exceed groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plans.

The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to groundwater quantity and quality would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because future projects would also be required to comply with the SGMA, adopted GSPs, County ordinances, and policies and programs of the 2040 General Plan. With implementation of these existing regulations, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to groundwater quantity and quality would not be cumulatively significant, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to groundwater quantity or quality would occur.

Fully Appropriated Streams

Several fully appropriated streams are located within the county. Because the appropriation of water occurs at the State level, the County cannot authorize additional consumptive use of these waters. Further, discretionary development is required to demonstrate provision of access to adequate water supply through the permit application process. Therefore, the 2040 General Plan would not increase demand for surface water from a fully appropriated stream reach, or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to fully appropriated streams would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce a cumulatively significant impact because future projects would also be required to comply with the permit application process. With implementation of these existing regulations, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to fully appropriated streams would not be cumulatively considerable, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to fully appropriated streams would occur.

Basin Plans

Through compliance with existing federal and State regulations, the 2040 General Plan would not result in diversion or dewatering downstream reaches that would result in an adverse impact on the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plans, nor would it result in degradation of surface water quality, causing it to exceed the water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plans. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to the Basin Plans would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce a cumulatively significant impact because future projects would also be required to comply with existing federal and State regulations.

Thus, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to the Basin Plans would not be cumulatively considerable, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to the Basin Plans would occur.

Stormwater Quality

Through compliance with existing regulations and permits, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, the 2040 General Plan would not cause stormwater quality to exceed water quality objectives or standards. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to stormwater quality would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce a cumulatively significant impact because future projects would also be required to comply with existing regulations and permits. Thus, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to stormwater quality would not be cumulatively considerable, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to stormwater quality would occur.

Water-Related Hazards

Projects located within about 10 to 20 feet of vertical elevation from an enclosed body of water such as a lake or reservoir are considered more likely to be exposed to a seiche hazard. Adherence to General Plan policies would ensure that future development under the 2040 General Plan as well as other cumulative development is protected from seiche hazards as well as flood and dam inundation hazards.

With implementation of BMPs required under the County's Stormwater Quality Management Program, proposed policies under the 2040 General Plan, and Area Plan requirements, future development under the 2040 General Plan would not result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding hazards. Because of existing laws and regulations in adjacent incorporated cities and counties, the incremental impacts of the 2040 General Plan related to erosion, siltation, and flooding would not combine with the effects of cumulative development to create a cumulatively significant impact; the cumulative impact is less than significant. The incremental impact of the 2040 General Plan would be less than cumulatively considerable.

Flood Control and Drainage

Future development under the 2040 General Plan could result in sedimentation into existing channels, altered drainage patterns, increased pollutant load, and increased rates of runoff. However, future development under the 2040 General Plan would be required to comply with the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program and 2040 General Plan policies and programs that would ensure that stormwater runoff from future development does not result in additional sources of polluted runoff. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to flood control and drainage would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce a cumulatively significant impact because future projects would also be required to comply with existing laws and regulations in adjacent cities and counties addressing flood control and drainage. Therefore, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to flood control and drainage would not be cumulatively significant, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to flood control and drainage would occur.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The construction of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) can result in adverse groundwater impacts and damage to the septic tank or alternative public sewer utility system.

Construction of OWTs as part of the 2040 General Plan, however, would be required to comply with existing local regulations. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan related to OWTs would not combine with development that would occur as a result of other forecasted growth to produce a cumulatively significant impact because future projects would also be required to comply with existing local regulations. Therefore, the 2040 General Plan's incremental impacts related to OWTs would not be cumulatively significant, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant impact related to OWTs would occur.

5.2.11 Land Use and Planning

Impacts involving land use plans or policies and zoning generally would not combine to result in cumulative impacts. The determination of significance for impacts related to these issues is whether a project would conflict with any applicable land use plan or policy adopted for the purpose of reducing or avoiding environmental impacts. Such a conflict is site-specific; it is addressed on a project-by-project basis. Land use and physical development impacts associated with future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.11, "Land Use and Planning." As described in Section 4.11, the 2040 General Plan would be consistent with the goals of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) and, therefore, would not contribute to a cumulative effect due to a conflict with one or more of these regional plans. Cumulative development also would not result in conflicts with these regional plans that would result in a significant environmental effect because future cumulative projects would be required to evaluate consistency with these regional plans in separate environmental compliance documents, and to mitigate significant impacts. Other land use and planning impacts evaluated (i.e., conflict with local plans and potential to result in division of a community) are site-specific and, therefore, the project would not contribute to or result in cumulative impacts beyond the plan area. As described in Section 4.11, no significant land use and planning impacts would result from future development under the 2040 General Plan. Further, the 2040 General Plan would accommodate future development and other physical changes primarily within the Existing Community area designation (boundary) and Urban area designation (boundary). The 2040 General Plan contains numerous policies that would promote compatible land uses, architectural form and style, site design and layout, and development densities and parcel sizes within the plan area. Thus, the 2040 General Plan would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant land use impact would occur.

5.2.12 Mineral and Petroleum Resources

Mineral and petroleum resources impacts are discussed in Section 4.12, "Mineral and Petroleum Resources." These types of impacts are associated with land use incompatibilities or other policies that would affect access to or extraction of these resources. No significant cumulative mineral or petroleum resources impacts currently exist.

The 2040 General Plan Land Use Diagram includes residential and industrial land use designations in areas of mapped mineral resources and in oils fields and near wells. With implementation of the 2040 General Plan, future discretionary development would continue to be subject to the Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) Overlay Zone, and the County would ensure that discretionary development in areas that may contain mineral resources is compatible with mineral resources extraction and processing activities.

Further, the 2040 General Plan would not be anticipated to result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State. Because of existing laws and regulations in adjacent incorporated cities and counties protecting lands underlain by mineral resources of value to the region or the State the incremental impacts of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with the effects of cumulative development to result in a cumulatively significant impact on mineral resources. Thus, because the 2040 General Plan would not adversely affect access to mineral resources, the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant mineral resources impact would occur.

Future development of residential dwellings or schools accommodated by the 2040 General Plan could preclude access to petroleum resources that are mapped and zoned for extraction because Policy COS-7.2 would increase the setback between new discretionary oil wells and residential development and schools to 1,500 feet and 2,500, respectively; this project-level impact petroleum resources access would be significant and unavoidable because there are no actions or policies that the County could feasibly mandate to fully reduce to less than significant the impact that Policy COS 7.2 would have on hampering or precluding access to petroleum resources (Impact 4.12-3). Additionally, Policies COS-7.8 and COS-7.9 could result in the loss of known petroleum resources of value to the region and the State because these policies would render a substantial quantity of petroleum resources inaccessible and result in the loss of availability in some parts of the plan area; the impact (4.12-4) would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures. The 2040 General Plan's incremental effects would combine with the effects of cumulative development, which due to increased urbanization to accommodate population and job growth in proximity to oil and gas deposits, and State and local regulations addressing the location and methods of oil and gas extraction, would also hamper or preclude access to petroleum resources, to result in a significant cumulative impact. Because the 2040 General Plan's impacts on hampering or precluding access to petroleum resources would remain significant and unavoidable with mitigation measures, the 2040 General Plan's impacts related to hampering or precluding access to petroleum resources would be cumulatively considerable.

5.2.13 Noise and Vibration

Noise impacts associated with future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.13, "Noise and Vibration." Noise impacts are based on factors related to site-specific and project-specific characteristics and conditions, including distance to noise sources, barriers between land uses and noise sources, and other factors. On a cumulative basis, noise impacts are typically site-specific and only combine when cumulative development is in close proximity to one another. Overall, because of existing policies and programs that regulate noise, cumulative noise impacts within the county are less than significant.

Future development under the 2040 General Plan could include the construction of residences and other noise-sensitive land uses in close proximity to existing transportation noise sources, which may be exposed to noise levels exceeding the County's standard. However, 2040 General Plan policies and implementation programs would require new development to conduct site-specific acoustical analysis and include measures to minimize noise exposure and meet County noise standards. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with development that would occur as a result of future growth to produce cumulatively considerable noise impacts because future development projects would also be required to comply with County noise standards.

Future development under the 2040 General Plan would increase noise along area roadways over the life of the plan. Proposed new policies in the draft EIR would reduce traffic noise levels that exceed the County standard at existing sensitive receptors by requiring the implementation of noise reduction measures; however, there may be cases where discretionary development would result in project-generated traffic noise above the County standard, and would, therefore, result in a substantial noise level increase that would exceed County standards at existing noise-sensitive receptors. This project-level impact would be significant and unavoidable. Noise associated with traffic generated by cumulative development in incorporated cities in Ventura County and adjacent counties would combine with traffic noise generated by the 2040 General Plan to result in a significant cumulative impact. Because traffic noise impacts of the 2040 General Plan would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative impacts related to traffic noise would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a considerable contribution.

In addition, as discussed in Section 4.13, 2040 General Plan policies would place prohibitions on development that could be affected by noise associated with airports and stationary sources. The 2040 General Plan would be consistent with the ALCUP and would not expose any noise-sensitive receptors to aircraft noise that exceeds ACLUP standards. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with development that would occur as a result of future growth to produce cumulatively considerable airport noise impacts because future development projects would also be required to be consistent with ACLUP standards.

Although individual construction projects under the 2040 General Plan would be required to minimize vibration, at this time the location, intensity, and timing of future construction activities under the 2040 General Plan, as well as relative vibration levels at nearby receptors is unknown. Even with the implementation of mitigation measures, this project-level impact would be significant and unavoidable. Due to the distribution characteristics of sound, construction noise and vibration impacts are generally site-specific and do not combine with distant projects to create cumulative effects. Nonetheless, because vibration impacts would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative impacts related to vibration would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a considerable contribution.

5.2.14 Population and Housing

For population and housing, the cumulative setting includes Ventura County and adjacent counties. On a cumulative basis, population and housing impacts are regulated by the County through the implementation of its General Plan, and in adjacent counties by their respective general plans. Overall, because of existing policies and programs that regulate growth and development, cumulative population and housing impacts within the County are less than significant. As discussed in Section 4.14, "Population and Housing," future development under the 2040 General Plan would not result in substantial displacement of existing residents because implementation of the policies and programs in the 2040 General Plan would ensure that future development could be accommodated within the plan area; areas where displaced housing could occur would either continue to be under residential land use designations or would add new residential areas (e.g., replace non-residential land uses) within the plan area such that a net gain in residential capacity would be achieved; and the County would continue to engage with SCAG to ensure adequate residential land is available.

Additionally, future development under the 2040 General Plan would not induce substantial population growth inside or outside of the County because General Plan policies are focused on managing and planning for the location of projected future growth within the county and maximizing efficient development patterns. Finally, the 2040 General Plan includes policies and programs to ensure adequate low-income housing for projected increases in low-income employment opportunities through the planning horizon. Therefore, the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant population and housing impact would occur.

5.2.15 Public Services and Recreation

Impacts to public services and recreation related to future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.15, “Public Services and Recreation.” This assessment includes an analysis of the need for new facilities or modification to facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools, emergency services, police protection, fire protection, and other public facilities. Public schools are provided by school districts to areas within their jurisdictions. While districts may have cross-jurisdictional boundaries, school services are still provided at the local, rather than regional, level. Law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency services are provided by local governments or fire protection districts for areas within their jurisdiction, although mutual aid agreements between agencies do help spread resources. The U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection provide fire protection services within many rural areas. All of these agencies are responsible for providing services to meet demand within their service areas. Cumulative public services and recreation impacts would be less than significant.

The effects of future development under the 2040 General Plan would result in environmental impacts due to the need to develop new or expanded public services and recreation facilities. The potential physical environmental impacts resulting from the construction of new or expanded public facilities within the county are evaluated within the programmatic scope of growth and future development accommodated by the 2040 General Plan. Many of the physical environmental impacts that would occur with development of public facilities, would also occur with future development in general (e.g., effects on air quality, noise, water quality). Each of these environmental impact areas has been evaluated throughout this draft EIR, and in some cases, these impacts would result in potentially significant impacts. These effects would be reduced through the implementation of mitigation measures presented throughout this draft EIR. Ultimately, the project includes policies and implementation programs that would adequately plan for necessary public services and recreational facilities to meet future growth demands. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with development that would occur as a result of future growth to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because future development projects would be site-specific and would be required, by local ordinances and State regulations, to evaluate the physical environmental impacts of constructing new or expanded public services infrastructure and recreation facilities, and to mitigate any significant impacts. Thus, the project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant public services and recreation impact would occur.

5.2.16 Transportation and Traffic

Impacts to transportation and traffic related to future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.16, "Transportation and Traffic." The travel demand model used to analyze the 2040 General Plan reflects the changes to future growth patterns assumed as part of the 2040 General Plan. The VMT impact analysis relies on existing and future growth accommodated through the 2040 General Plan and accounts for the projected growth of the incorporated cities and surrounding counties. Therefore, the transportation and traffic impacts identified in Section 4.16, are inherently cumulative. The VMT and County road standards and safety impacts would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures due to the increased development, new roadways, and increased numbers of users on the county's transportation system that would result from implementation of the 2040 General Plan. Therefore, the potential for cumulative impacts related to transportation and traffic would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a considerable contribution.

The 2040 General Plan includes policies that would require adequate emergency access provisions are made to accommodate increased population and growth. Additionally, several of the Area Plans include policies and/or programs that commit to the continued review of all discretionary development to ensure adequate emergency access. New trips and increased VMT may result in an interference with the operations of existing transit services and/or routes.; however, the 2040 General Plan policies address these impacts by encouraging the coordination, expansion, and access improvements of public transportation facilities.

Implementation of the 2040 General Plan would not result in significant impacts to the operation of existing rail facilities and pipelines. Impacts to railroad facilities and pipelines are generally temporary during construction and site-specific and do not combine with distant projects to create greater cumulative effects. This cumulative impact is less than significant, and the 2040 General Plan would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact.

5.2.17 Utilities

Impacts to utilities and services related to future development under the 2040 General Plan are analyzed in Section 4.17, "Utilities." This analysis includes an examination of potential impacts related to the availability and capacity of water supply, wastewater, and solid waste disposal; the need to develop new or expanded utility infrastructure; and the potential to disrupt utility services. Development associated with the 2040 General Plan would increase demand on water supply, wastewater, and solid waste disposal. Overall, the County and the local service providers within the County are responsible for ensuring the delivery of utility services in a safe, efficient, and reliable manner based on adopted plans for growth. Therefore, no cumulatively significant utilities impacts currently exist.

Construction of New or Expanded Utility Infrastructure

The effects of future development under the 2040 General Plan would result in environmental impacts due to the need to construct new or expanded utility infrastructure. The potential physical environmental impacts resulting from the construction of new or expanded public utilities within the county are evaluated within the programmatic scope of growth and future development accommodated by the 2040 General Plan. Many of the physical environmental impacts that would occur with development of public utilities, would also occur with future development in general (e.g., effects on air quality, noise, water quality).

Each of these environmental impact areas has been evaluated throughout this draft EIR, and in some cases, these impacts would result in potentially significant impacts. These effects would be reduced through the implementation of mitigation measures presented throughout this draft EIR; however, not all potentially significant impacts of the 2040 General Plan can be reduced to less-than-significant levels, and some significant and unavoidable impacts would result. Because impacts related to the construction or expansion of utilities infrastructure would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative impacts related to utilities infrastructure would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a considerable contribution.

Wastewater Treatment

As discussed in Section 4.17, "Utilities," the county is served by 16 wastewater collection, treatment, recycling, and disposal service providers, consisting of the County, county services areas, special districts, cities, and contract entities. Additional treatment capacity is generally available throughout the county with the exception of Camrosa Water District, which is nearing capacity. As described in Impact 4.17-3, implementation of the 2040 General Plan policies and implementation programs, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting requirements would require that adequate wastewater services are provided to new development. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with development that would occur as a result of future growth to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because future development projects would either be accommodated by existing infrastructure, or project proponents would be required, by local ordinances and State regulations, to make wastewater infrastructure improvements. Thus, the impacts related to wastewater treatment capacity associated with the future development under the 2040 General Plan would not be cumulatively significant when combined with the effects of other projected growth and development in the region, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new significant cumulative wastewater treatment capacity impact would occur.

Water Supply

Adequate water supply is a current and ongoing concern in Ventura County due to several factors, including climate change and drought, the related declines in river flows and reservoir levels, historic overdraft of several local groundwater basins, curtailment of groundwater supplies in southern Ventura County, new groundwater well prohibitions, and reduced deliveries of imported water. This condition is indicative of an existing significant cumulative impact related to water supply. Depending on the location of new development, adequate water supplies may not be available to meet future water demands under normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry year scenarios, resulting in a potentially significant impact. Implementation of policies and programs within the 2040 General Plan would improve water supply management in the County through water conservation and water planning, and would require that all discretionary development proposals demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water. In addition, a new program included in the 2040 General Plan would require that adequate water supplies are demonstrated during normal, single-dry, and multi-dry years prior to project approval. However, because it is not possible to conclude that adequate water supplies would be available during normal, single, and multiple dry years to meet future demand in all locations of the county for all potential project types through 2040, this project-level impact would remain significant and unavoidable. Because impacts related to water supply would remain significant and unavoidable even with mitigation measures, the potential for cumulative water supply impacts would be cumulatively significant, and the project would have a considerable contribution.

Solid Waste

As discussed, Section 4.17, "Utilities," there are two active solid waste disposal/landfill sites in the county: Toland Road Landfill and Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center; and, two landfills located outside of the county that accept waste from Ventura County: Calabasas Landfill and Chiquita Canyon Landfill. The estimated useful life of these landfills range from 2027 to 2052. Future development under the 2040 General Plan would contribute to an increase in solid waste generation and need for disposal of solid waste at landfills that serve Ventura County. The increase in solid waste generation would represent a small portion of the total throughput available at landfills that accept solid waste from Ventura County. However, there is substantial capacity available at the landfills, and policies included in the 2040 General Plan would reduce disposal rates to landfills, which could in turn promote an extension of the facilities' useful life. The incremental effects of the 2040 General Plan would not combine with development that would occur as a result of future growth to produce cumulatively considerable cumulative impacts because there is substantial capacity available at the landfills; General Plan policies would reduce disposal rates to landfills; and future projects would be required to comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Thus, impacts related to landfill disposal capacity associated with the 2040 General Plan would not be cumulatively significant, and the project would not have a considerable contribution such that a new cumulatively significant landfill impact would occur.

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