

5.0 EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 15128 of the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines* requires a brief statement of the reasons why various possible significant effects of a project have been determined not to be significant and, therefore, are not discussed in detail in the environmental impact report (EIR). The following provides a discussion regarding the effects of the proposed project that were found not to be significant. The following resource areas did not have a potentially significant impact: aesthetics; biological resources in regards to complying with the implementation of local protective policies and ordinances or local, state, and regional conservation plans; hazardous and hazardous materials; and public services—school facilities. Other resource areas were found to be significant or less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures.

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Potential impacts for this EIR were analyzed using the *State CEQA Guidelines* thresholds of significance.

Aesthetics (Section 3.6)

Impact 3.6-2 Implementation of the proposed Area Plan would result in a significant impact to scenic resources within a scenic highway.

There are no designated state scenic highways in the Santa Clarita Valley. State Route 126 is designated as an eligible state scenic highway, but is not officially designated. The adopted Los Angeles County General Plan designates state Route 126 as a "First Priority Scenic Route" which is proposed for further study, but has no regulatory restrictions placed on it. As there are no state scenic highways in the County's Planning Area, no proposed Area Plan policies address scenic resources specifically within a state scenic highway. Since no state scenic highways are located within the County's Planning Area, implementation of the proposed Area Plan would not affect scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No impact would occur.

Biological Resources (Section 3.7)

Impact 3.7-5 Local protective policies and ordinances

The County's proposed Area Plan would protect oak and other significant indigenous woodlands and would protect biological resources in the designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) through the siting and design of development to account for and be highly compatible with these resources.

Additionally, the proposed Area Plan does not incorporate any changes to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance or to the City of Santa Clarita's Oak Tree Preservation ordinance. These ordinances are applied on a project-specific basis regardless of underlying land-use regulations. The proposed Area Plan incorporates a new set of policies for the protection of biological resources to which new developments would be required to conform. Therefore, the County's proposed Area Plan would not conflict with the implementation of local protective policies and ordinances. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Impact 3.7-6 Conflicts with local, regional, or state conservation plans

The County's Planning Area contains areas designated or proposed as critical habitat for the unarmored threespine stickleback, arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, coastal California gnatcatcher, California condor, and least Bell's vireo, and specific development projects would be subject to consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service if impacts to any of these species were to result from project implementation involving a federal action. However, the County's Planning Area does not contain any areas falling within the purview of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan. Implementation of the proposed Area Plan would therefore not conflict with the provisions of such a conservation plan. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Section 3.11)

Impact 3.11-6 The project is within the vicinity of a private airstrip, which would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area

There may be private airstrips within the boundaries of the County Planning Area. However, those locations were not identified during this analysis and should be considered during project-level analysis.

Public Services (Section 3.15)

Impact 3.15-3 A significant impact to school facilities will occur if buildout of the proposed Area Plan will increase demand for school facilities and services beyond the enrollment capacities of school facilities serving the County's Planning Area.

The proposed Area Plan policy addresses the need to ensure that school districts are not over capacity and overcrowded. State law limits the power of the County to impose mitigation for development impacts on schools. Because the Government Code¹ states that compliance with Senate Bill 50 will provide full and complete mitigation, no significant impact would occur.

¹ California Government Code. Section 65996 (a) and (b). 2008.