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## 6.0 OTHER CEQA CONCERNS

Section 15126 of the CEQA Guidelines requires that all aspects of a project be considered when evaluating its impact on the environment, including planning, acquisition, development, and operation. As part of this analysis, the EIR must also identify: 1) significant environmental effects of the proposed project; 2) significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the proposed project is implemented; 3) significant irreversible environmental changes that would result from implementation of the proposed project; 4) growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project; 5) mitigation measures proposed to minimize significant effects; and 6) alternatives to the proposed project. Items 1-5 identified above are discussed below, while a separate discussion of item 6 is located within Section 8.0, *Alternatives*.

### 6.1 Significant Environmental Effects

Tables ES-1, ES-2, and ES-3 (Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures), which are contained in the *Executive Summary* of this EIR, and Section 5 of this EIR provide a comprehensive identification of environmental effects of the proposed project, including the level of significance before and after application of mitigation.

### 6.2 Significant Environmental Effects that Cannot be Avoided

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR describe any significant impacts that cannot be avoided, even with implementation of feasible mitigation measures, their implications and the reasons why the project is being proposed despite these effects. Implementation of the proposed project would result in the following significant and unavoidable project-related impacts:

**Geology, Soils & Seismic Hazards—Impact G-1b:** Implementation of the Plan’s proposed improvements at the Latigo Trailhead has the potential to expose people or structures to substantial geologic and/or seismic hazards due to fault rupture/ground failure, strong seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, and landslides. This impact would be significant and unavoidable.

**Land Use & Planning—Impact LUP-2:** Implementation of the proposed Plan would potentially conflict with land use plan policies addressing potential geologic hazards and protection of environmentally sensitive habitat areas, adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

## 6.0 Other CEQA Concerns

For a complete discussion of Impact G-1b, please refer to Section 5.7, Geology, Soils & Seismic Hazards; related policy discussion is contained within Section 4.0, *Consistency with Plans & Policies*.

For a complete discussion of Impact LUP-2, please refer to Section 5.11, Land Use & Planning; related policy discussion is contained within Section 4.0, *Consistency with Plans & Policies*.

### 6.3 Significant Irreversible Environmental Effects

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of any irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project. Specifically Section 15126.2(c) states:

“Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.”

Generally, a project would result in irreversible environmental changes if:

- The primary and secondary impacts would generally commit future generations to similar uses.
- The project would involve a large commitment of non-renewable resources.
- The project would involve uses in which irreversible damage could result from any potential environmental accidents associated with the project.
- The proposed consumption of resources is not justified (e.g., the project involves the wasteful use of energy).

Development of the proposed Plan would result in a long-term commitment of the Plan site to recreation and open space uses, thereby precluding any other uses of the Project site during the lifespan of the Plan.

The construction and implementation of the Plan’s proposed improvements would entail the commitment of energy, personnel, and building materials. This commitment would be temporary and commensurate with that of other park and recreational

projects of similar size and scope. Resources that would be permanently and continually consumed by Plan implementation include water, electricity, natural gas, and fossil fuels; however, the amount and rate of consumption of these resources would not result in significant environmental impacts or the unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources. The Plan would not involve a large commitment of non-renewable resources. Manpower would also be committed for the on-going maintenance and provision of services to the Plan's proposed improvements. Nonetheless, consumption of these resources would occur with any development in the region and is not unique to the Plan.

The proposed Plan improvements would neither consume a considerable amount of construction material nor generate a substantial demand for energy. The Plan would not result in significant irreversible environmental changes.

#### **6.4 Growth Inducing Impacts**

Section 15126.2(d) of the *CEQA Guidelines* requires that a project be evaluated for its potential to foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. CEQA emphasizes that growth in an area should not be considered beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

Two issues must be considered when assessing the growth-inducing impacts of a project:

- **Elimination of Obstacles to Population Growth:** The extent to which additional infrastructure capacity or change in regulatory structure will allow additional development in the County and region.
- **Promotion of Economic Growth:** The extent to which the proposed project can cause increased activity in the local or regional economy. Economic impacts can include direct effects, such as the direction and strategies implemented within the project area, and indirect or secondary impacts, such as increased commercial activity needed to serve regional population growth forecasts.

### **6.4.1 Elimination of Obstacles to Growth**

The elimination of either physical or regulatory obstacles to population growth is considered to be a growth-inducing impact. A physical obstacle to population growth typically involves the lack of public service infrastructure. The extension of public service infrastructure, including roadways, water mains, and sewer lines, into areas that are not currently provided with these services is expected to support new development. Similarly, the elimination of, or changes to, a regulatory obstacle, including existing growth and development policies, can result in new population growth.

The Plan is proposed primarily to meet an existing need for public access and recreational and associated educational opportunities in the Plan area. The proposed Plan's park and trail improvements are limited in scope, and involve the construction and use of campsites, self-contained restroom facilities, parking/staging areas, multi-use trails, and day-use and picnic areas distributed throughout the Plan area. The Plan area is located in a predominantly developed setting and is currently served by a circulation system of highways, arterials and collectors and established water mains. Each of the Plan park sites is accessible via existing roadways and is served by existing water mains. The Plan's proposed improvements do not include or anticipate the need for any additional expansions of infrastructure or services.

The Plan's proposed improvements would not displace an existing population or housing; therefore, no secondary impacts would occur as a result of the necessary relocation or replacement of such persons and/or housing.

### **6.4.2 Promotion of Economic Growth**

Increased industrial, commercial, and residential development typically generates a secondary or indirect demand for other services. A region's growing population will require additional goods and services, such as groceries, entertainment, and medical services.

The proposed Plan would result in no new permanent housing within the Plan area. Regional population projections would, therefore, not be affected by the Plan. The Plan would not cause any secondary effects of increased demand for goods and services. The proposed Plan would not tax existing community service facilities, and will not require construction of new facilities to serve any increase in population.

The Plan's proposed improvements would generate temporary employment opportunities during construction and may generate limited employment opportunities associated with camp host personnel, which would draw workers from the existing regional work force. As a result, while construction of the proposed Plan improvements and employment of temporary construction and limited camp host personnel would have some economic stimulant effect, the Plan would not be growth-inducing as it would not significantly affect long-term employment opportunities.

#### **6.4.2 Summary/ Conclusions**

The proposed Plan would neither directly nor indirectly induce additional population growth to the region. The Plan will not remove obstacles to growth, nor would it cause a significant adverse impact by creating an indirect growth-inducing impact. The proposed Plan would not tax existing community service facilities, or require construction of new facilities to serve any increase in population. No environmental impacts relating to growth inducement are, therefore, anticipated.

#### **6.5 Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize Significant Effects**

Tables ES-1, ES-2, and ES-3 (Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures), which are contained in the *Executive Summary* of this EIR, and Section 5 of this EIR provide a comprehensive identification of environmental effects of the proposed project, and identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce the magnitude of identified impacts.

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