

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION**

This section provides an evaluation of the potentially significant environmental effects of the Kenwood Village Project. The term “significant effect” is defined by section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines as “*a substantial, or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.*”

### **Environmental Issue Areas Evaluated By This EIR**

The July 18, 2012 Kenwood Village Residential Project Scoping Document (EIR Appendix A) determined that the Project had the potential to result in significant impacts related to:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality, and
- Transportation and Traffic

Subsequent to the preparation of the Scoping Document, it was determined by the Planning and Environmental Services Department that the Project had the potential to result in significant environmental impacts related to additional environmental issue areas, including:

- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise, and
- Water Resources

The potential for the Project to result in significant environmental impacts related to all of the environmental issue areas listed above are evaluated in this EIR.

### **Less Than Significant Environmental Impact Issue Areas**

The preliminary evaluation of the Project provided by the 2012 Scoping Document determined that it would result in less than significant impacts related to the environmental issue areas listed below. Reasons for determining that the Project would

result in less than significant impacts are summarized below, and additional information is provided in EIR Appendix A.

**Agriculture and Forest Resources.** Impacts to this issue area would be less than significant because the project site is a fallow field that is no longer used for agricultural production.

**Geology and Soils.** Impacts related to this issue area would be less than significant because there are no faults located on the project site and the project would address other potential geologic- and soils-related hazards by complying with existing building regulations and the recommendations of a site-specific geotechnical study.

**Land Use and Planning.** Portions of the project site have an Agriculture land use designation and are zoned C-1, Limited Commercial. Implementation of the Project requires a General Plan Amendment to change the site's existing land use designation from Agriculture to Residential. The environmental impacts of the requested General Plan Amendment are addressed separately in the *Kenwood Village General Plan Amendment Supplemental EIR*.

**Population and Housing.** The Project would not result in the removal of any existing housing and would increase the supply of housing in the City. Implementation of the Project requires a General Plan Amendment to change the site's existing land use designation from Agriculture to Residential. The environmental impacts of the requested General Plan Amendment, including the potential for increased population facilitated by the land use designation change, are addressed separately in the *Kenwood Village General Plan Amendment Supplemental EIR*.

**Public Services and Recreation.** The Project would incrementally increase the demand for fire and police services, however, the Project's impact to those services would be reduced to a less than significant level through the payment of established Development Impact Fees. The Project would generate additional school-age children in the City, however, there is capacity to accommodate the new students in local elementary, junior high and high schools. Therefore, the Project's impacts to schools would be less than significant. Residents of the Project would incrementally increase the demand for recreation facilities in the City, however, the payment of required Quimby Act fees would offset the additional costs and impacts to local facilities. Therefore, the Project's impacts to existing recreation facilities would be less than significant.

**Utilities and Service Systems.** Wastewater generated by the Project would be collected by the Goleta West Sanitary District, and the District has approximately 1.41 million gallons per day of treatment capacity remaining at the Goleta Sanitary District treatment plant. Therefore, the Goleta West Sanitary District has adequate treatment capacity to serve the Project. It is estimated that after the implementation of existing solid waste diversion (i.e., recycling) programs, the Project would generate approximately 78 tons of solid waste per year that requires landfill disposal. The amount of solid waste generated by the project would be substantially lower than the City's solid waste disposal significance threshold of 196 tons per year. Therefore, the Project's solid waste disposal impacts would be less than significant.

## **Environmental Impact Classifications**

To aid in the description of project-related environmental impacts, four types of impacts may be identified by the EIR analysis:

**Class I. Significant and Unavoidable.** An impact whose effect cannot be avoided or reduced below a level of significance through the implementation of reasonably available and feasible mitigation measures. If a project with significant impacts is approved, CEQA requires that decision-makers adopt findings explaining project impacts and mitigation, and a statement of overriding considerations explaining why project benefits outweigh the environmental effects (CEQA Guidelines §15093).

**Class II. Potentially Significant and Mitigable.** An impact that can be reduced to below a level of significance by implementing reasonably available and feasible mitigation measures. If a project is approved, CEQA requires that decision-makers adopt findings explaining project impacts and mitigation.

**Class III. Less Than Significant.** A project may result in environmental impacts that are adverse, however, the effect of the impact does not exceed the applicable impact significance criteria. These impacts are considered to be “less than significant.” Measures recommended to reduce less than significant impacts are not required under CEQA but may be implemented to minimize environmental effects to the extent possible and project-related contributions to cumulative impacts.

**Class IV. Beneficial.** An effect that would reduce resource degradation, hazards, or improve the environment may be referred to as a “beneficial” impact.

