



PARKS PLAN 2040
INITIAL STUDY FOR SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR

This Initial Study has been prepared by the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 *et seq.*), CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.* of the California Code of Regulations) and the Sacramento Local Environmental Regulations (Resolution 91-892) adopted by the City of Sacramento.

ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study is organized into the following sections:

SECTION I - BACKGROUND: Provides summary background information about the project name, location, sponsor, the date this Initial Study was completed, and a brief statement of the procedure followed by the findings.

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Includes a detailed description of the proposed project.

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION: Reviews proposed project and states whether the proposed project was described within the scope of the Master EIR and whether the project would have additional significant environmental effects (project-specific effects) that were not evaluated in the Master EIR for the 2040 General Plan.

SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Identifies which environmental factors were determined to have additional significant environmental effects.

SECTION V - DETERMINATION: States whether environmental effects associated with development of the proposed project are significant, and what, if any, added environmental documentation may be required.

REFERENCES CITED: Identifies source materials that have been consulted in the preparation of the Initial Study.

DOCUMENT REVIEW: The discussion below includes extensive references to the 2040 General Plan (including its background report) and the 2040 General Plan Master EIR. The City also adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan along with the general plan. These documents are available for online review at:

<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range/general-plan/2040-general-plan>

The Master EIR and its accompanying documents are also available for online review at:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports>

SECTION I - BACKGROUND

Project Name and File Number: Parks Plan 2040

Project Location: The city limits of incorporated land within the City of Sacramento

Project Applicant: Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

Project Planner: Dana Repan, Senior Planner, drepan@cityofsacramento.org, (916) 808-2762

Environmental Planner: Tom Buford, Principal Planner; (916) 799-1531;
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Date Initial Study Completed: June 13, 2024

Public review: June 17, 2024 to July 17, 2024

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 1500 *et seq.*). The Lead Agency is the City of Sacramento.

The City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, has reviewed the proposed project and, on the basis of the whole record before it, has determined that the proposed project is an anticipated subsequent project identified and described in the 2040 General Plan Master EIR.

The City has prepared the attached Initial Study, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(b), to (a) review the discussions of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects in the 2040 General Plan Master EIR to determine their adequacy for the project and (b) identify any potential new or additional project-specific significant environmental effects that were not analyzed in the Master EIR and any mitigation measures or alternatives that may avoid or mitigate the identified effects to a level of insignificance.

As part of the Master EIR process, the City is required to incorporate all feasible mitigation measures or feasible alternatives appropriate to the project as set forth in the Master EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(d)) The Master EIR mitigation measures that are identified as appropriate are set forth in the applicable technical sections below.

This analysis incorporates by reference the general discussion portions of the 2040 General Plan Master EIR. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150(a)). The Master EIR is available for public review at the City of Sacramento, Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811, and on the City's web site at:
<http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports.aspx>.

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment proposes to update the 2005-2010 Sacramento Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an implementation action of the Department's Strategic Plan, and rename the document, "Parks Plan 2040." The Parks Plan 2040 guides the City and the Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE) in prioritizing projects and programs to better meet the needs of Sacramento's evolving community.

The Parks Plan 2040 inventories the existing physical and programmatic assets and identifies future assets as a means of meeting level of service goals. The Parks Plan 2040 reflects the needs and priorities of Sacramento for recreation, health and social services. The Parks Plan 2040 sets achievable standards for the provision of parks, recreation facilities, programs, events, and services.

The Parks Plan 2040 identifies feasible investment approaches that can be achieved in the short to long term outlook with collaboration and prioritization.

Project Background and Description

The Parks Plan 2040 was developed as a subsequent project under Sacramento's 2040 General Plan update. While the 2040 General Plan identifies overarching goals for youth, parks, recreation, and open space within the context of other City goals and initiatives, the Parks Plan 2040 provides more detailed directions for the Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment's services to guide annual work planning:

YPRO-A.1: Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment (YPCE) Parks Plan Update. The Parks Plan 2040 shall provide policy recommendations toward meeting the City's parkland and facility level of service goals; incorporate design guideline standards for park and recreation facilities; and strengthen access to parks and recreational facilities. The update should incorporate key priorities, implementation actions, and funding mechanisms and be undertaken with robust community engagement.

The 2040 General Plan and the Parks Plan 2040 provide programmatic and policy guidance for the establishment and operation of parks for the City's future. As parks are proposed, CEQA requires the City to conduct a project-specific review of potential impacts, along with a review for consistency with policies in the General Plan that were the basis for impact evaluation in the Master EIR.

LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS

Table 6-3. Parkland Level of Service

2018 Population¹: 472,693

2040 Projected Population²: 638,433

Park Classification	Existing Park Acreage³	Existing LOS	Proposed LOS Standards	Net Future Need	Planned and Forecasted Future Parks
Regional Parks	1,626.13	3.44	2.75	129.6 acres	204 acres of regional parks are planned.
Community Parks	928.45	1.96	2.00	348.4 acres	70 acres of community parks are planned.
Neighborhood Parks	449.92	0.95	1.50	507.7 acres	86 acres of neighborhood parks are planned, and 330 acres are proposed for gaps.
Parkways	854.14	1.81	1.50	103.5 acres	169 acres of parkways are planned.
Open Space	470.57	1.00	0.75	8.6 acres	14 acres of open space are planned.
Total	4,329.20	9.16	8.50	1,097.5 acres	

1. The 2018 population source is the U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 Plan (General Plan Update).

2. The 2040 population number is from SACOG 2021.

3. Park acreage includes the total existing acreage for each site, including developed, undeveloped, and natural areas.

Table 6-5. Summary of Recreational Facility Needs based on minimum LOS Guidelines

Per new minimum LOS guidelines, the below facility types are suggested to increase by 2040:	
Group Picnic Area	●●●●
Playground / Play Area	●●●●
Basketball Court (outdoors - full and half size)	●●●
Baseball / Softball	●●
Fitness Equipment (count by pieces)	●●
Pickleball Court	●●
Soccer / Football Field	●●
Volleyball Court	●●
Sports Court Variety (i.e., badminton, shuffleboard, bocce ball, etc.)	●●
Dog Park	●●
Water Mister / Spray Area	●●
Community Garden	●●
Cricket Field	●
Futsal Court	●
Tennis Court	●
Challenge Feature (i.e., climbing wall, zipline)	●
Dedicated Event Space	●
Bike Pump Track	●
Skate Park	●
Stage (Outdoors) / Amphitheater	●
River / Beach Access	●
Disc Golf Course	●
Per new minimum LOS guidelines, the below facility types are not suggested to increase by 2040:	
Community Center / Senior Center / Clubhouse	No new facilities required
Golf Course	No new facilities required
Community Pool	No new facilities required

Key:

- = 51-100 new facilities
- = 31-50 new facilities
- = 11-30 new facilities
- = 1-10 new facilities

SECTION III – ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

LAND USE, POPULATION AND HOUSING, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to examine the effects of a project on the physical conditions that exist within the area that would be affected by the project. CEQA also requires a discussion of any inconsistency between the proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans.

An inconsistency between the proposed project and an adopted plan for land use development in a community would not constitute a physical change in the environment. When a project diverges from an adopted plan, however, it may affect planning in the community regarding infrastructure and services, and the new demands generated by the project may result in later physical changes in response to the project.

In the same manner, the fact that a project brings new people or demand for housing to a community does not, by itself, change the physical conditions. An increase in population may, however, generate changes in retail demand or demand for governmental services, and the demand for housing may generate new activity in residential development. Physical environmental impacts that could result from implementing the proposed project are discussed in the appropriate technical sections.

This section of the initial study identifies the applicable land use designations, plans and policies, and permissible densities and intensities of use, and discusses any inconsistencies between these plans and the proposed project. This section also discusses agricultural resources and the effect of the project on these resources.

Discussion

Land Use

The Planning Area covers an area in which the City of Sacramento (City) has formally adopted policies, and areas for which the adopted 2040 General Plan designates specific land uses. The adopted 2040 General Plan Planning Area is approximately 103 square miles. The Planning Area is generally contiguous with the city limits, but also includes additional areas within the City's sphere of influence (SOI) for which the General Plan designates land use.

The following land use policies from the adopted 2040 General Plan are relevant to the proposed project.

YPRO-1.3: Parkland Service Standard. The City shall evaluate, as needed, the equitable increase of public park acreage to serve the needs of the current and future residents with high-quality facilities. The City shall continue to strive to achieve a parkland service standard of 8.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which includes neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open space, and parkways.

YPRO-1.6: Underutilized Land. As feasible, the City shall acquire, lease, or otherwise obtain rights to the use of underutilized vacant parcels for park or open space, focusing efforts first in park deficient communities.

YPRO-1.8: Non-Conventional Park Solutions. In densely built out urban areas of the city where the provision of large park spaces is not feasible, the City shall explore creative solutions to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities that serve the needs of local residents and employees. Such solutions may include the following:

- *Publicly accessible, privately-owned open spaces and plazas;*
- *Rooftop play courts and gardens;*
- *Freeway underpass, utility corridor, and wide landscape medians;*
- *Conversion of rails to trails with trails;*
- *Pocket parks and pedestrian areas in the public right-of-way; and*
- *The provision of neighborhood and community-serving recreational facilities in regional parks.*

YPRO-1.10: Parkland Access Standard. In residential areas that do not have an accessible park or recreational open space within a 10-minute walk, the City shall evaluate the equitable increase of public park acreage, prioritizing communities with an existing deficit of high-quality facilities.

YPRO-1.18: Integrated Parks and Recreation System. The City shall continue to provide an integrated system of parks, open space areas, and recreational facilities that are safe, connect diverse communities, acknowledge neighborhood context, protect and provide access to nature, integrate with adjacent developments, and make efficient use of land and open space.

Population and Housing

Projected buildout of the adopted 2040 General Plan would result in Sacramento's population growing to approximately 638,433 by 2040. This is an increase of 165,740 residents when compared to the estimated population of 472,693 in 2018. The adopted 2040 General Plan includes a number of goals and policies designed to support a compact urban footprint, infill development, along with well-planned development that accommodates the growing needs of the city while also emphasizing complete neighborhoods.

The adopted 2040 General Plan includes goals and policies that encourage and support development of a range of housing types including rural residential, neighborhood, residential mixed-use, and commercial mixed-use. The plan is designed to support and accommodate housing throughout the Planning Area to encourage development of housing and to promote usage of alternate modes of transportation.

SACOG forecasts the city would have roughly 266,765 housing units by 2040. To accommodate this growth, the City would need to add approximately 69,012 housing units, or about 3,100 new units per year.

The following population and housing policies from the adopted 2040 General Plan are relevant to the proposed project.

YPRO-1.3: Parkland Service Standard. The City shall evaluate, as needed, the equitable increase of public park acreage to serve the needs of the current and future residents with high-quality facilities. The City shall continue to strive to achieve a parkland service standard of

8.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which includes neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, open space, and parkways.

YPRO-1.4: Parkland Dedication Requirements. The City shall continue to require that new residential development projects contribute toward the provision of adequate parks and recreational facilities to serve the new residents, either through the dedication of parkland, the construction of public and/or private recreation facilities, or the payment of parkland in-lieu fees, consistent with the Quimby Ordinance. To achieve the level of service for all parkland in all areas of the city, the City shall seek other funding resources to prioritize park needs in park deficit areas.

YPRO-1.9: Timing of Services. The City shall monitor the pace and location of new development through the development review process and long-range planning efforts to strive to ensure that development of parks, recreation programming, and community-serving facilities and services keeps pace with growth.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The Master EIR discussed the potential impact of development under the 2040 General Plan on agricultural resources. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.2. In addition to evaluating the effect of the General Plan on sites within the City, the Master EIR noted that to the extent the 2040 General Plan accommodates future growth within the City Limits, the conversion of farmland outside the City Limits is minimized. The Master EIR concluded that the impact of the 2040 General Plan on agricultural resources within the City was less than significant.

The proposed Parks Plan 2040 is consistent with the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR analysis and would result in no new significant effects not evaluated in the Master EIR.

ENERGY

Structures built as part of the project would be subject building code regulations in effect at the time of development, which serve to reduce demand for electrical energy by implementing energy-efficient standards for residential and non-residential buildings. The 2040 General Plan includes policies to encourage use of energy-efficient technology by offering rebates and other incentives to commercial and residential developers and recruiting businesses that research and promote energy conservation and efficiency.

The Master EIR evaluated the potential impacts on energy and concluded that the effects would be less than significant. (See Impact 4.6.1) The Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any impacts not identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
1. <u>AESTHETICS, LIGHT AND GLARE</u> Would the proposal:			
A) Create a source of glare that would cause a public hazard or annoyance?			X
B) Create a new source of light that would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Aesthetics

The City of Sacramento is a valley floor characterized by flat terrain in a predominantly built-out environment. The average elevation is 25 feet above sea level. Long-range views within the Ordinance Area are generally expansive because of the flat terrain. The western portion of the city lies at an elevation of about 20 feet; the terrain slopes upward to the east. Low rises are occasionally present, probably originating as natural banks of the Sacramento and American Rivers. The American River, Morrison Creek, and other local drainages have downcut through the plain, forming low near-vertical stream banks from place to place. With the exception of these stream banks, ground slope within the city does not exceed 8 percent and is most often between zero and 3 percent.

Views across the city to the east include views of the foothills and mountains. The Sierra Nevada can be seen directly beyond the city skyline as one drives east across the Yolo Causeway on I-80.

Light and Glare

The City of Sacramento includes a wide variety of visual features that include various light and glare levels. The City of Sacramento is primarily built out, and a significant amount of artificial light and glare from urban uses already exists. The downtown area has a higher concentration than the outlying residential areas of artificial light and reflective surfaces that produce glare (City of Sacramento 2008b).

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, aesthetics impacts may be considered significant if the proposed project would result in one or more of the following:

Glare. Glare is considered to be significant if it would be cast in such a way as to cause public hazard or annoyance for a sustained period of time.

Light. Light is considered significant if it would be cast onto oncoming traffic or residential uses.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The Master EIR described the existing visual conditions in the general plan policy area, and the potential changes to those conditions that could result from development consistent with the 2040 General Plan. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.1, Aesthetics.

The Master EIR identified potential impacts for glare (Impact 4.1-1) and includes policies intended to promote the planning and construction of compatible development such that potential lighting issues on sensitive land uses are avoided or minimized. For example, Policy LUP-4.6 (Compatibility with Adjoining Uses) would ensure that the introduction of higher density or more intense development is compatible with, and sensitive to, adjacent residential land uses by requiring all lighting to be shielded from view and directed downward to minimize impacts on adjacent residential uses.

Interference with an important, existing scenic resource or substantial degradation of views of an important, existing scenic resource was identified as a potential impact (Impact 4.2-1). The Master EIR identified policies that would prevent substantial changes to existing scenic resources. In accordance with Policy LUP-8.1 (Unique Sense of Place), the City would promote the qualities and characteristics that make Sacramento desirable and memorable by requiring incorporation of these elements into architectural and landscape design of new development permitted under the 2040 General Plan.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A–B

Park development includes site selection and design. Each of these steps considers the relationship of the park to surrounding areas, including housing and transportation infrastructure. Park design is intended to avoid, to the extent feasible, effects of urban surroundings on park users, and effects of park use on surrounding sensitive receptors, including residences.

Use of landscaping would minimize impacts of light and glare. Parks are a feature of urban life and are considered a desirable landscape feature.

The plan would support the general plan policies and provide additional guidance in design to facilitate the enjoyment of the park by users. Use of parks by users would result in minimal effects related to light and glare on surrounding uses.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Aesthetics, Light and Glare.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
2. AIR QUALITY			
<i>Would the proposal:</i>			
A) Result in construction emissions of NO _x above 85 pounds per day?			X
B) Result in operational emissions of NO _x or ROG above 65 pounds per day?			X
C) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X
D) Result in PM ₁₀ concentrations equal to or greater than five percent of the State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 50 micrograms/cubic meter for 24 hours) in areas where there is evidence of existing or projected violations of this standard?			X
E) Result in CO concentrations that exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard (i.e., 20.0 ppm) or the 8-hour State ambient standard (i.e., 9.0 ppm)?			X
F) Result in exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X
G) Result in TAC exposures create a risk of 10 in 1 million for stationary sources, or substantially increase the risk of exposure to TACs from mobile sources?			X
H) Impede the City or State efforts to meet AB32 standards for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regional and Local Climate

The City of Sacramento (city), which includes the entirety of the Planning Area, is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), which is a valley bounded by the North Coast Mountain Ranges to the west and the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east. The terrain in the valley is flat and approximately 25 feet above sea level. The mountains surrounding the SVAB create a barrier to airflow, which can trap air pollutants in the valley

Regional Air Quality

Future population growth will make attaining federal and state ambient air quality standards challenging; meteorology and topography in the Sacramento region, and effects of global climate change, add to this challenge. Regional efforts, as well as policies and planning documents adopted by the City, indicate that there is acknowledgment of the linkage between land use, transportation and air quality.

Land Use Planning and Air Quality

Land use patterns and intensity of development affect the amount of air pollutants that are generated by communities. For example, increasing density can result in the siting of residents closer to urban sources of air pollutant emissions, such as high-volume roadways and rail lines, thus increasing their exposure. CARB's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective provides guidance concerning land use compatibility with TAC emission sources. The handbook offers advisory recommendations for the siting of sensitive receptors near uses associated with TACs, such as freeways and high-traffic roads, commercial distribution centers, rail yards, ports, refineries, dry cleaners, gasoline stations, and industrial facilities, to help keep children and other sensitive populations at a distance from pollution sources. Land uses where air-pollution-sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities (sensitive sites or sensitive land uses) (CARB 2005). The CARB handbook recommends a minimum distance of 500 feet between high-volume roadways and sensitive receptors. However, many California communities exist near high-volume roadways, and the benefits of infill development on health, climate, equity, and the economy are widely recognized. At the same time, ongoing efforts by the City, encapsulated in General Plan policies, encourage infill development that promotes modes of travel that provide an alternative to the automobile and related tailpipe emissions. This infill development has the effect of reducing tailpipe emissions, but may result, as noted, in locating sensitive receptors in closer proximity to emissions sources than might occur in greenfield development.

Sources of Air Pollution

Air pollution within the SVAB is generated by stationary, area, and mobile sources. Stationary sources occur at specific locations, are usually associated with manufacturing and industry, and are usually subject to a permit to operate from the local air district. Area sources generally include landscaping-related fuel combustion sources (such as from lawn mowers, etc.), evaporative emissions from consumer products, natural gas and wood combustion used for space heating such as from hearths, and architectural coatings. Mobile sources refer to the tailpipe and evaporative emissions from motor vehicles, both on-road and off-road, and particles from brake and tire wear. On-road mobile sources are those that are legally operated on roadways and highways, such as cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are airborne substances that, even in small quantities, are capable of causing chronic (i.e., of long duration) and acute (i.e., severe, but of short duration) adverse effects on human health. Based on receptor modeling techniques, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimated diesel PM health risk to be 360 excess cancer cases per million people in the SVAB in the year 2000. Since 1990, the health risk associated with diesel PM has been reduced by 52%. Overall, levels of most TACs have decreased since 1990. See Chapter 6 of the TBR for additional detail and references. The local air quality within the Planning Area would be impacted by topography, dominant air flows, atmospheric inversions, location, and season. Air pollutants are often transported into the SVAB from adjacent air basins such as the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB) or the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). Transported pollutants add to the concentration of pollutants in the region; however, air pollution emissions from within the basin are

the most significant sources of high pollution concentration. During the summer a “delta breeze” blows east from the SFBAAB toward the SVAB through the Carquinez Strait. The delta breeze moves Sacramento’s air pollution up toward the north end of the Sacramento Valley and east into the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Transport pollution impacts are classified using terms inconsequential, significant, and overwhelming. Inconsequential is defined as an ozone transport impact classification describing a condition that exists when upwind emissions are not transported or do not appear to contribute significantly to a violation of the state ozone standard in the downwind area, significant is defined as an ozone transport impact classification describing a condition in which the emissions from the upwind area contributed measurably to a violation of the state ozone standard in the downwind area on any given day but did not “overwhelm” the area, and overwhelming is defined as an ozone transport impact classification describing a condition which exists when emissions from an upwind area independently cause a violation of the state ozone standard in a downwind area on any given day. The most recent CARB assessment, published in March 2001, indicates that all three of these classifications occur in the San Francisco Bay Area/Broader Sacramento Area transport region.

Ambient Air Quality Standards

Air quality in the SVAB, which includes Sacramento County and the city of Sacramento, has steadily improved over the last two decades. However, for the federal ambient air quality standards, some areas in the SVAB, including Sacramento County, are designated as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone and 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) standards. Regarding state standards, some areas in the SVAB are in nonattainment 4.3 – Air Quality Sacramento 2040 Project 11499 August 2023 4.3-3 for ozone and respirable particulate matter PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5} standards. All areas in the SVAB are in attainment for all other pollutants with air quality standards.

Standards of Significance

For purposes of this Initial Study, air quality impacts may be considered a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would do any of the following:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan.
- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The Master EIR addressed the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan on ambient air quality which could conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan (See Master EIR, Chapter 4.3). The growth projections used for the 2040 General Plan assume that growth in population, vehicle use and other source categories would occur at rates that are consistent with the rates used to develop the SMAQMD’s attainment plans. In other words, the amount of growth predicted for the 2040 General Plan is accommodated by the SMAQMD’s attainment plan. Policies in the 2040 General Plan in Environmental Resources were identified as mitigating potential effects of development that could occur under the 2040 General Plan. For example, Policy ER 6.1.1 calls for the City to work with the California Air Resources Board and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air

Quality Management District (SMAQMD) to meet State and Federal air quality standards; Policy ER 6.1.2 requires the City to review proposed development projects to ensure that the projects incorporate feasible measures that reduce construction and operational emissions; Policies ER 6.1.4 and 6.1.10 call for coordination of City efforts with SMAQMD; and Policy ER 6.1.14 requires the City to give preference to contractors using reduced-emission equipment.

The 2040 General Plan would increase the City's sustainability efforts that reduce energy consumption, would reduce operational air pollutant emissions and increase energy efficiency through the implementation of various policies. The Master EIR included policies YPRO-1.20: Sustainable Design. The City shall design and construct parks, public spaces and recreational facilities for flexible use, energy/water efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, adaptability for long-term use, and ease and cost of maintenance; and, YPRO-1.21: Climate-Resilient Design. The City shall ensure that the design of parks and open spaces balances sunlight access with trees, shade structures, drinking fountains, and cooling amenities that provide respite from higher temperatures to reduce urban heat islands and overexposure to heat.

The Master EIR identified exposure to sources of toxic air contaminants (TAC) as a potential effect. Policies in the 2040 General Plan would reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level. The policies include ER 6.1.1, requiring consideration of current guidance provided by the Air Resources Board and SMAQMD and ER 6.1.4, requiring development adjacent to stationary or mobile TAC sources to be designed with consideration of such exposure in design, landscaping and filters.

The Master EIR found that greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by development consistent with the 2040 General Plan would be a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact. The discussion of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in the 2040 General Plan Master EIR are incorporated by reference in this Initial Study. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150)

The Master EIR identified numerous policies included in the 2040 General Plan that addressed greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. See Master EIR, Chapter 4.3. Policies identified in the 2040 General Plan include directives relating to sustainable development patterns and practices, and increasing the viability of pedestrian, bicycle and public transit modes. A complete list of policies addressing climate change is included in the Master EIR in Table ES-1, page 6 et seq; the Final MEIR included additional discussion of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in response to written comments.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A–H

Adoption of the Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any direct impacts to air quality. No construction or development would be approved. The Parks Plan 2040 would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future park planning.

Revisions to park service level goals could affect future park planning. These changes would not affect the design process of new facilities. The project would not result in overall emissions in excess of those utilized in the Master EIR for analysis of cumulative effects, and the project would not have any additional significant environmental effects.

The city adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) at the same time as it adopted the General Plan. The CAAP identifies actions that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Parks Plan 2040, as a subsequent project, would be subject to both CAAP and General Plan policies and would implement appropriate policies. The CAAP is a qualified plan pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15083.5. Park projects proposed in the future would conduct CEQA review as required, and

would, if consistent with the CAAP, generate greenhouse gas emissions that would be considered less than significant.

Subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The Parks Plan 2040 would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Air Quality.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>3. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u> Would the proposal:</p> <p>A) Create a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the area affected</p>			X
<p>B) Result in substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of the habitat, reduction of population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal</p>			X
<p>C) Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands)?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Habitats

Over the last 150 years, agriculture, irrigation, flood control, and urbanization have resulted in the loss or alteration of much of the natural habitat within the Planning Area, as indicated in the TBR. Although the majority of the Planning Area is developed with residential, commercial, and other urban uses, valuable natural habitat still exists. These habitats are located primarily outside the city boundaries in the northern, southern and eastern portions of the Planning Area, but also occur within the Planning Area along river and stream corridors and on a number of undeveloped parcels. Habitats present in the Planning Area include annual grasslands, ruderal habitats, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, riverine, ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, and vernal pools. The Planning Area also includes ornamental landscaping which consists of areas supporting introduced or non-native trees, shrubs, flowers, and turf grass. Ornamental landscaping occurs in green belts, parks, and horticultural plantings throughout the Planning Area.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species that have been observed, reported, or have the potential to occur in the Planning Area include plant and wildlife species that are recognized by federal and state resource agencies, and private conservation organizations and special interest groups such as the California Native Plant Society. Because the city is largely built out, habitat for special-status species is scattered throughout the Planning Area and includes remaining undeveloped areas and vacant lots containing grasslands, seasonal wetlands, remnant vernal pools, and drainage ditches, as well as riparian areas and riverine habitat associated with the American River and Sacramento River. Refer to the TBR (available online at: www.sac2040gpu.org) for the analysis of special-status species potential to occur in the Planning Area.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this environmental document, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would do any of the following:

- Result in substantial degradation of the quality of the environment or reduction of habitat or population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals.
- Affect other species of special concern or habitats (including regulatory waters and wetlands) protected by law or regulation.
- Result in the loss or modification of riparian habitat, resulting in a substantial adverse effect. • Have an adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands and/or waters of the United States through direct removal, filling, or hydrological interruption.
- Result in the loss of California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-defined sensitive natural communities such as elderberry savanna, northern claypan vernal pool, and northern hardpan vernal pool.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Chapter 4.4 of the Master EIR evaluated the effects of the 2040 General Plan on biological resources within the General Plan policy area. The Master EIR identified potential impacts in terms of degradation of the quality of the environment or reduction of habitat or population below self-sustaining levels of special-status birds, through the loss of both nesting and foraging habitat.

Policies in the 2040 General Plan were identified as mitigating the effects of development that could occur under the provisions of the 2040 General Plan. Policy ERC 2.1 Conservation of Water Resources in Open Space Areas. The City shall continue to preserve, protect, and provide appropriate access to designated open space areas along the American and Sacramento Rivers, floodways, and undevelopable floodplains, provided access would not disturb sensitive habitats or species, and shall support efforts to conserve and, where feasible, create or restore areas that provide important water quality and habitat benefits such as creeks, riparian corridors, buffer zones, wetlands, open space areas, levees, and drainage canals for the purpose of protecting water resources and habitats in the city's watersheds, creeks, and the Sacramento and American Rivers. Policy ERC-2.2 Biological Resources. The City shall ensure that adverse impacts on sensitive biological resources, including special-status species, sensitive natural communities, sensitive habitat, and wetlands are avoided, minimized, or mitigated to the greatest extent feasible as development takes place; Policy ERC-2.3 Onsite Preservation. The City shall encourage new development to preserve and restore onsite natural elements that contribute to the community's native plant and wildlife species value. For sites that lack existing natural elements, encourage

planting of native species in preserved areas to establish or re-establish these values and aesthetic character; Policy ERC-2.4 Native and Climate-Adapted Plants. The City shall promote regenerative landscape practices, including use of native/climate appropriate or climate-adapted plants, and focus education efforts to homeowners and design/construction professionals; Policy ERC-2.5 Environmental Awareness. The City should partner with the Water Forum, public agencies and non-profit groups to offer programs that foster local environmental awareness and encourage the protection and restoration of natural resources. A particular focus of these efforts should be on connecting youth from lower income communities of color with nature in both urban and non-urban contexts; Policy ERC-2.6 Wetland Protection. The City shall preserve and protect wetland resources including creeks, rivers, ponds, marshes, vernal pools, and other seasonal wetlands, to the extent feasible. If not feasible, the mitigation of all adverse impacts on wetland resources shall be required in compliance with State and Federal regulations protecting wetland resources, and if applicable, threatened or endangered species. Additionally, the City shall require either on- or off-site permanent preservation of an equivalent amount of wetland habitat to ensure no-net loss of value and/or function; Policy ERC-2.7 Annual Grasslands. The City shall preserve and protect native grasslands and vernal pools that provide habitat for rare and endangered species. If not feasible, the mitigation of all adverse impacts on annual grasslands shall comply with State and Federal regulations protecting foraging habitat for those species known to utilize this habitat; Policy ERC-2.8 Wildlife Corridors. The City shall preserve, protect, and avoid impacts to natural, undisturbed habitats that provides movement corridors for sensitive wildlife species. If corridors are adversely affected, damaged habitat shall be replaced with habitat of equivalent value or enhanced to enable the continued movement of species; Policy ERC-2.10 Agency Coordination. The City shall coordinate with State and Federal resource agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)) to protect areas containing rare or endangered species of plants and animals: Policy ERC-2.14 Climate Change-related Habitat Restoration and Enhancement. The City shall support active habitat restoration and enhancement to reduce impact of climate change stressors and improve overall resilience of habitat within existing parks and open space in the city. The City shall support the efforts of Sacramento County to improve the resilience of habitat areas in the American River Parkway.

The Master EIR concluded that the cumulative effects of development that could occur under the 2040 General Plan would be significant and unavoidable as they related to effects on special-status plant species, reduction of habitat for special-status invertebrates, loss of habitat for special-status birds, loss of habitat for special-status amphibians and reptiles, loss of habitat for special-status mammals, special-status fish and, in general, loss of riparian habitat, wetlands and sensitive natural communities such as elderberry savannah.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A–C

The Master EIR evaluated potential impacts to biological resources that could occur with adoption of the 2040 General Plan (Chapter 4.4). The analysis included operation of existing park facilities, and the design, approval, construction, and operation of new parks in the city. No park development is included in the plan, and no direct effects on biological resources would occur. The analysis of effects in the Master EIR adequately addresses cumulative effects of the Parks Plan 2040 on biological resources.

Site-specific effects of park construction and operation on biological resources is dependent on-site characteristics, including presence of vegetation, creeks and wetlands, and the presence of sensitive species. These characteristics are considered in the planning process, and CEQA review of any park proposal would occur as part of the planning process.

Adoption of the Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any direct impacts to biological resources. No construction or development would be approved. The Parks Plan 2040 would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future park planning. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

The project would not result in impacts to biological resources in excess of those identified and evaluated in the Master EIR for analysis of cumulative effects, and the project would not have any additional significant environmental effects.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Biological Resources.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p><u>4. CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> Would the project:</p> <p>A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in § 15064.5?</p>			X
<p>B) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Planning Area is located on the western edge of the Sacramento Valley which comprises roughly the northern third of an area that is called either Valle Grande, Great Valley, Central Valley, Great Central Valley, or California Trough. The major portion of the Planning Area lies in the territory attributed to the Nisenan tribe, a branch of the Maidu group of the Penutian language family. The southern portion of the Planning Area was controlled at the time of contact by the Plains Miwok. Resource surveys since 1930 have recorded approximately 80 archaeological sites within the Planning Area. The types of archaeological resources discovered include village sites, smaller occupation or special use sites, and lithic scatters. A large portion of the Planning Area has not been surveyed for archaeological resources.

The history of Sacramento has been shaped by its location near two rivers, and the majority of the historic resources and landmarks in the city are located within the Central City grid, near the

confluence of the two rivers. Specifically, the City has identified over 800 individually landmarked historic and cultural resources, which are documented in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources (Sacramento Register). In addition, the 2018 surveys conducted as part of the Historic District Plans project resulted in the listing in the Sacramento Register of more than 2,000 properties as contributing resources to City-designated historic districts. The Mid-Century Modern Historic Resources Survey and Historic Context Statement Project was completed in 2017, which identified 1,800 Mid-Century Modern properties and listed four additional properties in the Sacramento Register and identified one potential historic district. Further research has been conducted into the South Land Park Hills historic district that identifies 59 homes designed by Joseph Eichler, which has been added to the Mid-Century Modern Historic Context. As of 2020, the City has formally adopted 30 Historic Districts (City of Sacramento 2021a). In summer 2023 the City released the public draft Sacramento African American Experience History Project Historic Context Statement for review. Adoption is anticipated sometime in 2023.

As of November 2021, approximately 81 individual properties and 11 historic districts in the city were listed on the National Register; 48 objects, structures, buildings, and sites had been listed as California Landmarks; and six had been listed as California Points of Historical Interest. Thirteen properties are listed on the California Register (City of Sacramento 2021b).

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would do any of the following:

- Cause a substantial change in the significance of an historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2040 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources. See Chapter 4.5. The Master EIR identified significant and unavoidable effects on historic resources and archaeological resources.

General plan policies including but not limited to HCR-1.1 Preservation of Historic and Cultural Resources, Landscapes, and Site Features. The City will continue to promote the preservation, restoration, enhancement, and recognition of historic and cultural resources throughout the city; HCR-1.2 Maintenance and Preservation. The City will continue to encourage maintenance and preservation of historic and cultural resources to promote the continued vitality of its neighborhoods; HCR-1.6 Early Project Consultation. The City will continue to strive to minimize impacts to historic and cultural resources by consulting with property owners, land developers, tribal representatives, and the building industry early in the development review process as needed; and, HCR-1.10 Demolition. Consistent with Secretary of the Interior Standards, the City shall consider demolition of historic resources as a last resort, to be permitted only if rehabilitation or adaptive reuse of the resource is not feasible; demolition is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; or the public benefits outweigh the loss of the historic resource.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A and B

The 2040 General Plan includes policies supporting the identification and protection of historic and cultural resources. Historic resources may often be identified through visual inspection and study, and treated consistent with the Secretary of the Interior standards. Treatment of any historic resources present at a park site would be identified as part of the environmental review process on a site-specific basis.

Unanticipated discovery of cultural resources could occur as part of the construction of parks. The potential for such discovery as part of development that could occur with approval of the 2040 General Plan was considered in the Master EIR. Approval of the Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any additional development, and no additional impacts on cultural resources would result with plan approval.

Subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Cultural Resources.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p><u>5.GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u></p> <p>Would the project allow a project to be built that will either introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Geologic and Seismic Conditions

The City of Sacramento (city) is located in the Great Valley, a relatively flat alluvial plain underlain by thick alluvial deposits, that typically does not experience strong ground shaking resulting from earthquakes along known active or older faults of the geomorphic province. There are no known faults within the Planning Area or the greater Sacramento region. There are, however, isolated areas within the city that have soils and other conditions that could result in structural damage induced by seismic activity to structures built under older building code requirements. Seismic hazards that may affect portions of the Planning Area could include minor ground shaking and liquefaction in the aftermath of a major seismic on an outlying active fault. Other geotechnical hazards include

subsidence and deposits that may not be suitable to support new improvements without the implementation of geotechnical engineering measures. In addition, flooding resulting from seismic-induced dam or levee failure could occur.

Soil Conditions

The predominant soil units within the Planning Area are San Joaquin, Clear Lake, Galt, Cosumnes, and Sailboat soils, which account for over 60% of the total land area. Many of the soil units present within the Planning Area exhibit high shrink-swell potential, particularly in the Natomas and Valley Hi areas, that can over time result in damage to improvements if not engineered appropriately.

Mineral Resources

Existing mineral extraction activities in and around Sacramento include fine (sand) and coarse (gravel) construction aggregates, synthetic graphite, as well as clay. With one exception, there are no permitted mining operations or oil production areas within the Planning Area.

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

A significant impact would occur if the proposed project would do any of the following:

- Allow development that could result in substantial soil erosion.
- Introduce either geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on a site without protection against those hazards.
- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state.
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact is considered significant if it allows a project to be built that will either introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Chapter 4.7 of the Master EIR evaluated the potential effects related to seismic hazards, underlying soil characteristics, slope stability, erosion, existing mineral resources and paleontological resources in the General Plan Policy Area. Implementation of identified policies in the 2040 General Plan reduced all effects to a less-than-significant level. Policies ERC-7.2: Seismic Stability. In accordance with the California Building Code, the City shall regulate structures intended for human occupancy to ensure they are designed and constructed to retain their structural integrity when subjected to seismic activity; and Policy ERC-1.4: Construction Site Impacts. The City shall require new development to minimize disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development, implement measures to protect areas from erosion and sediment loss, and

continue to require construction contractors to comply with the City's erosion and sediment control ordinance and stormwater management and discharge control ordinance.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Cumulative effects of development that could occur as a result of adoption of the 2040 General Plan related to hazards were considered in the Master EIR.

Review for potential hazards that could be present at any proposed park site would occur as part of the advance planning process. Consistent with standard practice, a Phase 1 report would identify known environmental conditions that might occur at a site and identify responsive actions to resolve concerns. Remediation of hazards is a site-specific process with actions related to the specific hazards involved. Remediation and case closure involves, as appropriate, other agencies as well, including the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department, state Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Construction and operation of a park could expose sensitive receptors to hazards that are present at a site. Adoption of the Parks Plan 2040 would not approve any new development, and would not result in any direct impacts to hazards. No construction or development would be approved. The Parks Plan 2040 would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future park planning. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, including identification of any hazards, as well as required remediation actions.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Hazards.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>7. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u> Would the project:</p> <p>A) Substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or development of the project?</p>			X
<p>B) Substantially increase the exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood ?</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Sacramento (city) is located at the confluence of the Sacramento and the American rivers in the southern portion of the Sacramento River Basin. The American River transects the Planning Area, flowing west to join the Sacramento River roughly along the northern boundary of the Central Business District. The Planning Area contains many natural and man-made tributary drainage features, which ultimately drain into the Sacramento River.

Surface Water

Ambient water quality in the Sacramento and American rivers is influenced by numerous natural and artificial sources, including soil erosion, discharges from industrial and residential wastewater plants, stormwater runoff, agriculture, recreation activities, mining, timber harvesting, and flora and fauna. The reaches of the Sacramento and American rivers that flow through the Sacramento urban area are considered impaired from mercury, an unknown toxicity, 1 PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls), pesticides - Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), Dieldrin, and Chlordane, and are listed on the EPA approved 2020-2022 Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments. Other major creeks, drainage canals, and sloughs in the city boundaries are also listed for pesticides and copper.

Groundwater

The Planning Area is located in two subbasins of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin No. 5-021). From the American River south, the Planning Area is in the 248,000-acre South American Subbasin (DWR Subbasin No. 5-021.65). North of the American River, the Planning Area is within the 342,000- acre North American Subbasin (DWR Subbasin No. 5-021.64) (DWR 2020). Neither basin is identified by DWR as being in a state of critical overdraft, however both were identified as high priority basins (DWR 2020). Based on regional groundwater level monitoring wells in both subbasins, groundwater levels in the period between 2013 and 2018 have remained relatively stable, however according to Department of Water Resources the 20-year trend indicates either no trend or an increasing trend, depending on the well site (DWR 2023).

Groundwater containing elevated levels of contaminants is present within or near the Planning Area. Groundwater quality in the Planning Area is generally within the primary and secondary drinking water standards for municipal use, including levels of iron, manganese, arsenic, chromium, and nitrates.

Stormwater

In general, stormwater runoff within the city flows into either the city's combined sewer system (CSS) or into individual drainage sumps located throughout the Planning Area. Water collected by the CSS is transported to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it is treated prior to discharge into the Sacramento River. The City also operates its Combined Wastewater Treatment Plant on 35th Avenue and Pioneer Reservoir Treatment Plant on Front Street, where additional wastewater can be treated prior to discharge during precipitation events when the capacity of the Sacramento Area Sewer District's (SacSewer) interceptor may be impacted. The underground storage vaults in the CSS provide storage s during storm events, releasing it as capacity exists.

Urbanization may increase peak flow runoff, as well as the total volume of stormwater runoff from a site. The increase is dependent upon the type of soil and its topography compared to the proposed land uses. Much of the county is characterized by soils with low permeability and high runoff rates, contributing to water quality and flooding impacts.

Flooding

High water levels along the Sacramento and American rivers are a common occurrence in the winter and early spring months due to increased flow from storm runoff and snowmelt. An extensive system of dams, levees, overflow weirs, drainage pumping plants, and flood control bypass channels strategically located on the Sacramento and American rivers has been established to protect the area from flooding.

There are three different types of flood events in the Sacramento area: flash, riverine, and urban stormwater. These floods are often the result of severe weather and heavy rainfall, either in the city or in areas upstream of the city (e.g., Sacramento River watershed in the northern portion of the valley). Flash flood describes localized floods of high volume and short duration, usually resulting from a heavy rainfall on a relatively small drainage area. There is also a chance of flash floods occurring from failure of dams, reservoirs, or levees within the Planning Area. The most common type of flood event is localized riverine or creek flooding, which occurs when a watercourse exceeds its bank-full capacity. Urban stormwater flooding occurs when storm drains are not adequately sized or experience temporary blockage.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would do any of the following:

- Substantially degrade water quality and conflict with any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increases in sediments and other contaminants generated by construction and/or operational activities.
- Substantially increase exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Chapter 4.10 of the Master EIR evaluates the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan as they relate to surface water, groundwater, flooding, stormwater and water quality. Potential effects include water quality degradation due to construction activities and exposure of people to flood risks (Impacts 4.10-1 through 4.10-3). Policies included in the 2040 General Plan, including but not limited to, Policy ERC 1.3: Runoff Contamination. The City shall protect surface water and groundwater resources from contamination from point (single location) and non-point (many diffuse locations) sources, as required by federal and State regulations. Policy ERC 6.1: Protection from Flood Hazards. The City shall strive to protect life, the natural environment, and property from natural hazards due to flooding; Policy ERC 1.4: Construction Site Impacts. The City shall require new development to minimize disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development, implement measures to protect areas from erosion and sediment loss, and continue to require construction contractors to comply with the City's erosion and sediment control ordinance and stormwater management and discharge control ordinance; Policy ERC 6.7: Flood Hazard Risk Evaluation. The City shall require evaluation of potential flood hazards prior to approval of development projects and shall require new development located within a Special Flood Hazard

Area to be designed to meet federal and State regulations and minimize the risk of damage in the event of a flood were identified that reduced all impacts to a less-than-significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A and B

No development is proposed in the Parks Plan 2040, and there would be no direct effect on hydrology or water quality. New park proposals that could involve construction would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, including conditions related to the specific site. Park design includes consideration of irrigation and drainage, and includes compliance with state and federal regulation to manage runoff and prevent erosion. See discussion above.

Floodplain regulations would be considered as part of any project-specific review for new parks.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Hydrology and Water Quality.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>8. <u>NOISE</u></p> <p>Would the project:</p> <p>A) Result in exterior noise levels in the project area that are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses due to the project's noise level increases?</p>			x
<p>B) Result in residential interior noise levels of 45 dBA L_{dn} or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project?</p>			x
<p>C) Result in construction noise levels that exceed the standards in the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance?</p>			x
<p>D) Permit existing and/or planned residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction?</p>			x
<p>E) Permit adjacent residential and commercial areas to be exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to highway traffic and rail operations?</p>			x
<p>F) Permit historic buildings and archaeological sites to be exposed to vibration-peak-particle velocities greater than 0.2 inches per second due to project construction and highway traffic?</p>			x

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Vehicular Traffic

Although there are many noise sources within the City of Sacramento (city), which includes the Planning Area, the primary noise source is vehicular traffic. Several major freeways traverse the Planning Area, including Interstate 5, Interstate 80, U.S. Highway 50, State Route 99, and State Route 160. Within the Planning Area there are also many local roads that experience high traffic volumes and contribute to traffic noise. Existing 24-hour noise levels have been calculated for various freeways, highways, and road segments throughout the Planning Area, based on noise emission levels for different vehicles.

Aircraft and Railways

Significant noise occurs from airplane traffic and railways. The Planning Area is served by four public airports— Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, McClellan Airfield, and Mather Airport—and one private airport, Rio Linda airport. Rail lines cross through the Planning Area in a number of locations. Aside from freight trains, Amtrak passenger trains arrive and depart from the Amtrak station located in downtown Sacramento. In addition to the noise generated by the trains themselves, noise is generated where trains intersect roadways by the warning bells used to alert motorists of a train's arrival. Light rail transit, which is a major component of the city's transit system, runs through the city along three routes and contributes to ambient noise.

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Ambient Daytime Noise

To document existing ambient daytime noise levels, 10 different locations were selected to determine representative noise levels for certain sources in various portions of the Planning Area. The locations selected and their ambient noise levels are provided in Chapter 7 of the TBR. During the long-term monitoring, the primary background noise source affecting the monitoring locations was vehicular traffic on the local roadway network, including freeways. Additional noise sources experienced during the long-term noise monitoring period included light-rail transit operations, aircraft over-flights and general community noise. Ambient noise level exposure at the monitoring locations were generally dependent on the relative exposure to nearby transportation noise sources.

Vibration

Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground vibration are construction equipment, trains, and traffic on rough roads. Construction activities can generate groundborne vibrations, which can pose a risk to nearby structures, at distances typically less than 15 feet. Constant or transient vibrations can weaken structures, crack facades, and disturb occupants.

Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive noise receptors typically include residences, schools, childcare centers, hospitals, long-term health care facilities, convalescent centers, and retirement homes. Each of these land use types occur within the Planning Area.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would do any of the following:

- Generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance.
- Generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels.
- Expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels if the Project is located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or where such as plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The Master EIR evaluated the potential for development under the 2040 General Plan to increase noise levels in the community (Chapter 4.11). New noise sources include vehicular traffic, aircraft, railways, light rail and stationary sources. The General Plan policies establish exterior (Policy ERC 10.1) and interior (ERC 10.3) noise standards. A variety of policies provide standards for the types of development envisioned in the General Plan. See Policy ERC 10.2: Noise Source Control. The City should require noise impacts in new developments to be controlled at the noise source where feasible, as opposed to the receptor end, using techniques including but not limited to the following: • Site design, • Building orientation, • Building design, and • Hours of operation; and Policy ERC 10.4: Interior Noise Review for Multiple, Loud, Short-Term Events. In cases where new development is proposed in areas subject to frequent, high-noise events (such as aircraft over-flights, or train and truck pass-bys), the City shall evaluate interior noise impacts at proposed sensitive receptors. The evaluation shall incorporate measures necessary to meet the 45 dBA Ldn standard.; and Policy ERC 10.9: Construction Noise Controls. The City shall limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities on surrounding land uses through noise regulations in the City Code that address permitted days and hours of construction, types of work, construction equipment, and sound attenuation devices. Notwithstanding application of the General Plan policies, noise impacts for ambient noise levels (Impact 4.11-1 and Impact 4.11-2), were found to be significant and unavoidable. However, regarding excessive groundborne vibration and noise, Impact 4.11-3: Implementation of the 2040 General Plan would result in less than significant impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A–F

Parks are urban uses and noise generated in connection with their construction and operation is

considered appropriate to the urban scene. Park operations are not substantial sources of new noise.

The Master EIR evaluated noise levels in the city that could result from development consistent with the 2040 General Plan. This analysis included park operations and new park development. The Parks Plan 2040 does not approve any new parks, or approve any new sources, and no project-specific review is required.

Any new park proposals would be subject to the appropriate review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

Findings

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Noise.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p><u>9. PUBLIC SERVICES</u></p> <p>Would the project result in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, roadway maintenance, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2040 General Plan?</p>			X

Environmental Setting

Fire Protection

The Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) to the entire city, which includes approximately 101 square miles within the existing city limits, as well as two contract areas that include 47.1 square miles within the unincorporated County, adjacent to the city. Fire stations are strategically located throughout the city to provide assistance to area residents and businesses. In total, there are 24 fire stations in the Planning Area; four of these stations are located in contracted areas not within the city limits. Although each fire station operates within a specific response district encompassing the immediate geographical area around the station, all of the Sacramento County fire agencies (SFD, Sacramento Metro Fire District, Sacramento International Airport Fire, Cosumnes Fire District, and the Folsom Fire Department) share an automatic aid agreement so that the closest fire unit responds regardless of jurisdiction. When the SFD is fully staffed, 173 personnel are on duty for fire and EMS first responder emergencies and 34 of these personnel are on duty for emergency ambulance services daily.

Police Protection

Police protection services are provided by the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) for areas within the city, and by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department for areas outside the city but within the Planning Area. The SPD operates from four stations in the city and the Sheriff's Department operates from nine locations in Sacramento County. As of July 2022, the SPD is staffed with 674 sworn personnel and the Sheriff's Department is staffed with 1,314 sworn personnel (POST 2022)

Under the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/24 budget, SPD would be authorized to staff 769 full-time equivalent (FTE) sworn positions and 365.16 professional staff positions. Table 4.12-2 provides authorized FTE staffing levels based on SPD budget from 2020 through 2024.

Schools

The Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) is the primary provider of school services within the city. Other districts serving residents within the Planning Area include the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD), Robla School District (RSD), Natomas Unified School District (NUSD), San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD), and the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD). Some of these districts have schools outside the city limits and the Planning Area. In total, there are more than 150 public schools serving the Planning Area, as listed in Chapter 5 of the TBR. In SCUSD, 15 of the district's 83 schools are overcrowded based on the respective school district definition. As of 2018, all of the school districts have some remaining capacity, although individual schools within the districts may be operating at or above capacity.

Libraries

The Sacramento Public Library (SPL) is a joint powers agency between the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and the County of Sacramento (SPLA 2021). The SPL operates a total of 28 branches, including 12 branches within the Planning Area and 16 branches outside the Planning Area, and a bookmobile. Residents of the city and County have access to all library branches both inside and outside the Planning Area. D

Higher Education

Opportunities for higher education in the city of Sacramento are provided by both public and private colleges and universities including Cosumnes River College, McGeorge School of Law, UC Davis Medical School, Sacramento State University, Sacramento City College, and American River College.

The Los Rios Community College District operates Cosumnes River College (8401 Center Parkway), American River College (4700 College Oak Drive), and the Sacramento City College (3835 Freeport Boulevard) within the city, which provide transfer, general, and career education at the lower division level. The Los Rios Community College District enrolls more than 90,000 students (LRCCD 2012).

The University of the Pacific operates McGeorge School of Law. The private campus is located in Sacramento, at 3200 Fifth Avenue.

The California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) campus, provides undergraduate and graduate education to approximately 28,000 students and graduates about 6,500 students each year (CP 2011). The public university is located at 6000 J Street and encompasses approximately 300 acres (CSUS 2012). In fall of 2011, Sacramento State became an "impacted" university, where documented student demand exceeds funded capacity (CSUS 2009). Sacramento State uses supplemental admission criteria to evaluate first-time freshmen and new transfer applicants outside of local areas for admission. Applicants outside local areas for admission are required to meet additional

criteria and are offered admission by rank order. As diversity in the Sacramento region continues to increase, Sacramento State anticipates that the student body will continue to diversify even while impacted

Emergency Services

The City and County both implement programs to facilitate emergency preparedness. Specifically, the City of Sacramento Multi-Hazard Emergency Plan addresses the City's planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and nuclear defense operations for areas within the City's jurisdictional boundaries. It provides operational concepts related to various emergency situations, identifies components of the local emergency management organization, and describes the City's overall responsibilities for protecting life and property during an emergency. The plan also identifies possible sources of outside support (through mutual aid and specific statutory authorities) from other jurisdictions, and the private sector.

The Sacramento County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, a multijurisdictional plan that aims to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people or property from natural disasters and their effects, is also applicable to the city of Sacramento and areas that are outside of the city. Both plans provide an overview of operational concepts, identify components of the County's and City's emergency management organization within the Standardized Emergency Management System, and describe the overall responsibilities of Federal, State, and local agencies for protecting life and property and assuring the overall well-being of the population.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact would be considered significant if the proposed project resulted in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, roadway maintenance, or other governmental services beyond what was anticipated in the 2040 General Plan.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The Master EIR evaluated the potential effects of the 2040 General Plan on various public services. These include parks (Chapter 4.12) and police, fire protection, schools, libraries and emergency services.

The 2040 General Plan policies include measures to accommodate for growth and increased service demands. Specifically, Policy PFS-1.9 (Equipment, Facilities, and Staffing) calls for the City to locate and maintain police and fire equipment, facilities, and staffing at locations and levels that allow for effective service delivery. Policy PFS-1.14 (Timing of Services) mandates that development of police and fire facilities and delivery of services keep pace with development and growth within the city. Policy PFS-1.10 (Co-Location of Facilities) seeks to co-locate police facilities with other City facilities, such as fire stations, to promote efficient use of space and provision of police protection services within dense, urban portions of the Planning Area. The City would also work collaboratively with the community and other agencies to provide effective police service, in compliance with Policy PFS-1.1 (Crime and Law Enforcement).

The 2040 General Plan includes policies to accommodate growth and increased service demands for schools. Policy YPRO-2.3 (School Facilities) encourages the City to work with school districts to ensure that schools are provided to serve all existing and future residents and constructed in the neighborhoods that they serve, in safe locations, and connected to surrounding uses by walkways, bicycle paths, and greenways. Policy YPRO2.2 (Co-Location of Community-Serving Facilities)

suggests that schools be co-located with other public facilities so that multiple services may be delivered from a single location. Additionally, all new residential, commercial and industrial development within the Planning Area would be required to pay statutory fees pursuant to SB 50 and Government Code Section 65995, which would be used for the construction and maintenance of new or expanded schools.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWER TO CHECKLIST QUESTION

Park operations require a broad range of public services. These include landscape maintenance, recreational programs, and emergency response. New parks would be constructed consistent with the service guidelines, and the public services required would be identified in the planning process. Funding for staffing at the appropriate levels, including emergency response services, would be completed during park planning.

The Parks Plan 2040 includes programmatic and policy guidance in the park development process. This would ensure that site planning includes adequate funding for the provision of public services.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Public Services.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
10. <u>RECREATION</u> Would the project:			
A) Cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities?			x
B) Create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2040 General Plan?			x

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Department of Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment (YPCE) maintains more than 4,368 acres of parkland, and manages more than 235 parks, recreation, parkway and open space sites, 571 athletic/sports facilities, 628 outdoor recreation facilities, 77 indoor/specialized facilities, 96 garden/natural facilities, 136 sites with trails, and 449 amenities.

Several facilities within the city of Sacramento are owned or operated by other jurisdictions, such as the County of Sacramento, the State of California, and Sacramento City Unified School District. The City of Sacramento Parks Plan 2040 guides park development in the city.

The YPCE generally categorizes parks according to five distinct park types:

1. **Regional Parks:** YPCE’s regional parks stand out because of their size. More of the City’s multi-use regional parks are in the northern portion of the city, while the southern half of the city has more regional attractions, such as golf courses. The City’s smallest regional park is a cultural attraction known as Camp Sacramento that provides nature-based recreation programs to City residents from its location in El Dorado County.
2. **Community Parks:** YPCE’s community parks are scattered throughout the city, with a wide range of sizes, amenities, and functions.
3. **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are the most common type of park, ranging from 0.09 acres to 12.61 acres in size. While they are the most prevalent park classification, they are also notably lacking in certain parts of the city.
4. **Parkways:** There are 14 parkways across the city. All parkways contain multi-use trails; some have artwork, gardens, river/beach access, and picnic areas. A select few offer sports recreation facilities such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball.
5. **Open Space:** YPCE’s open space areas are predominantly located in the northern portion of the city. Hansen Ranch is the largest of the sites, covering 265.9 acres in North Sacramento.

In addition to YPCE-managed park sites, Sacramento residents are served by several other parks, recreation sites, and open spaces managed by other providers. These exist inside city boundaries, as well as on the peripheries.

- **Other Parks:** This refers to existing parks owned or managed by other public and private providers. These include Sacramento County Parks, such as the American River Parkway, and State of California’s Capital Park.
- **Other Open Space:** This refers to open space, natural areas, and undeveloped greenspace owned or managed by other public and private providers.

Level of service (LOS) is a metric that describes the amount, magnitude, or quality of services provided. It is measured differently for land, facilities, programs, and services. Parkland level of service (LOS) is described in these terms: parkland acreage per 1,000 residents. It typically distinguishes between an existing level of service, which is based on the current acreage and population, versus a level of service that is desired in the future. The City of Sacramento’s existing level of service is 9.16 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, as shown in Table 6-1 (Note: the existing level of service is based on 2023 parkland acres and 2018 population numbers). Also shown on the table are the level of service standards and park impact fee (PIF) standards in Sacramento’s recent past.

Table 6-1. Comparison of Existing Parkland LOS to YPCE Park Standards

2018 Population¹ : 472,693

2040 Projected Population² : 638,433

Park Classification	Existing Park Acreage ³	Existing LOS	2010 Adopted LOS Standards ⁴	2017 LOS Citywide Standards in PIF Study ⁵	2017 LOS Central City Standards in PIF Study ⁶
Regional Parks⁶	1,626.13	3.44	8.00	1.5	1.50
Community Parks	928.45	1.96	2.50	1.75	1.75
Neighborhood Parks	449.92	0.95	2.50	1.75	
Parkways	854.14	1.81	None	None	
Open Space	470.57	1.00	None	None	
Total	4,329.20	9.16	13.0	5.0	3.25

1. The 2018 population source is the U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 Plan (General Plan Update). The City uses this number to approximate its "current" population.

2. The 2040 population source is SACOG 2021.

3. Park acreage includes the total existing acreage for each site, including developed, undeveloped, and natural areas.

4. The 2010 LOS Standards come from the Parks and Recreation Plan 2005-2010.

5. The 2017 Park Impact Fee (PIF) Study separated out the City into two areas ("Central City" and "Remaining City") to reflect the difficulties and higher costs of acquiring and developing parkland in the Central City (downtown Sacramento). Totals shown in the table above are for the Remaining City. This included the LOS shown for Community and Neighborhood Parks, plus 1.5 acres for Citywide Parks, which includes Regional Parks, Parkways, and Open Space.

6. In the 2017 PIF Study, the Central City PIF standards were based on a combined LOS of 1.75 acres/1,000 for neighborhood and community parks, plus 1.5 acres for citywide parks, which includes Regional Parks, Parkways, and Open Space.

Land dedicated to the City for new parks as part of the development process contributes toward meeting the service level goals for parks. Land that may be developed in the future for parks and recreation uses, but not under the City’s jurisdiction, would not be considered a contribution towards meeting the service level goals.

The Parks Plan proposes decreasing the City’s level of service standard to 8.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This decrease reflects the reality of increasing costs, deferred maintenance, public

priorities to improve existing sites, and a citywide commitment to sustainable growth. The standard for neighborhood parks would address the need for 66 new neighborhood parks in gap areas, plus the new planned future neighborhood parks. The new standards keep the service level for community parks the same. However, the standards decrease service levels for regional parks, parkways, and open space.

Because the City’s population is growing, the City would need to acquire more parks of all types to serve its 2040 projected population. An additional 1,097.5 acres will be needed to achieve these LOS goals. Table 6-3 shows the proposed LOS and acreage needs by classification, in comparison to its own forecasted land acquisitions. The table shows:

- The City will need significantly more community parkland than currently planned.
- It will need to invest more in neighborhood parks.
- YPCE will make strategic investment in parkways and shared use paths.
- The City has planned for more regional park acreage than needed. If acquired as planned, the City may not have sufficient resources to address citywide needs for close-to-home parks. Unless funding for parks increases substantially, this most likely means the City will not have the resources needed to provide parks in service gaps—areas that are park deficient and unserved.

The shift in LOS standards by classification reflects the City’s commitment to equity. As shown in Table 6-3, YPCE will strive to increase the amount of parkland provided as close-to-home neighborhood parks.

Table 6-3. Parkland Level of Service

2018 Population¹: 472,693

2040 Projected Population²: 638,433

Park Classification	Existing Park Acreage³	Existing LOS	Proposed LOS Standards	Net Future Need	Planned and Forecasted Future Parks
Regional Parks	1,626.13	3.44	2.75	129.6 acres	204 acres of regional parks are planned.
Community Parks	928.45	1.96	2.00	348.4 acres	70 acres of community parks are planned.
Neighborhood Parks	449.92	0.95	1.50	507.7 acres	86 acres of neighborhood parks are planned, and 330 acres are proposed for gaps.
Parkways	854.14	1.81	1.50	103.5 acres	169 acres of parkways are planned.
Open Space	470.57	1.00	0.75	8.6 acres	14 acres of open space are planned.
Total	4,329.20	9.16	8.50	1,097.5 acres	

1. The 2018 population source is the U.S. Census Bureau 2018, as provided in the Sacramento 2040 Plan (General Plan Update).

2. The 2040 population number is from SACOG 2021.

3. Park acreage includes the total existing acreage for each site, including developed, undeveloped, and natural areas.

Not meeting the service level goal is not considered a CEQA impact because it would not result in a physical change in the environment. It may suggest the need for new or expanded parks so that physical deterioration of existing parks and recreational facilities would not be accelerated.

In addition to managing and maintaining park land the city is responsible for providing a variety of recreational facilities and amenities. The Parks Plan defines park amenities and facilities as follows:

- **Amenities:** Amenities are support features that facilitate the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. These include elements such as restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles, benches, tables, barbecues, lighting, bike racks, drinking fountains, art, signage, etc.
- **Facilities:** Facilities are outdoor elements or buildings that provide recreation opportunities in parks. Facilities are classified in five categories: athletic and sports facilities (e.g., sports fields and courts); outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., playgrounds, picnic shelters, dog parks); major and specialized facilities (e.g., community centers, pools, and golf courses); gardens and natural features (e.g., community gardens and river access points), and trails.

Some facilities are easily tracked by numbers. For example, one park may have four sports fields. Instead of numbers of facilities, some counts (such as river/beach access) reflect the numbers of City parks, parkways, and open spaces where the feature is present. For example, one continuous trail may cross multiple sites, so it is tracked by the number of sites where present.

Major and Specialized Facilities

The City's major and specialized facilities receive added attention given the level of investment required for development, maintenance, and operations, as defined below.

- **Major Facilities:** Some recreation facilities that are managed by YPCE or other designated operators require a greater investment in maintenance, operations, staffing, and programming. These are referred to as Major Facilities. They include recreation and community centers, senior centers, clubhouses, golf courses, swimming pools, and wading pools.
- **Specialized Facilities:** Through agreements, the City partners also maintain, manage, and operate other miscellaneous features within parks that are referred to as "specialized facilities." These include elements such as the Sacramento Zoo, Fairytale Town, Funderland, the Marina, Discovery Science Center, Boys & Girls Club, sports fields, concession stands, restaurants, maintenance buildings, and other facilities that require some degree of operations.

The calculation for facility level of service compares the population to the number of facilities. It is represented as this ratio: the number of people served by one facility. A lower number means fewer users per facility, which signifies a higher level of service. A higher number represents a lower level of service. need to add facilities to respond to population growth. However, changing trends, participation patterns, and desires for different types of facilities affect the level of service the City should provide moving forward.

While Table 6-5 summarizes recreational facility needs based on minimum LOS guidelines, many decisions about the numbers and types of facilities in parks are determined through park design. The design process – whether for a new park or an existing site facing substantial renovation—often includes localized community outreach, design alternatives, and considerations of unique community needs, and site needs and opportunities based on topography, site size, adjacencies, and access.

Table 6-5. Summary of Recreational Facility Needs based on minimum LOS Guidelines

Per new minimum LOS guidelines, the below facility types are suggested to increase by 2040:	
Group Picnic Area	●●●●
Playground / Play Area	●●●●
Basketball Court (outdoors - full and half size)	●●●
Baseball / Softball	●●
Fitness Equipment (count by pieces)	●●
Pickleball Court	●●
Soccer / Football Field	●●
Volleyball Court	●●
Sports Court Variety (i.e., badminton, shuffleboard, bocce ball, etc.)	●●
Dog Park	●●
Water Mister / Spray Area	●●
Community Garden	●●
Cricket Field	●
Futsal Court	●
Tennis Court	●
Challenge Feature (i.e., climbing wall, zipline)	●
Dedicated Event Space	●
Bike Pump Track	●
Skate Park	●
Stage (Outdoors) / Amphitheater	●
River / Beach Access	●
Disc Golf Course	●
Per new minimum LOS guidelines, the below facility types are not suggested to increase by 2040:	
Community Center / Senior Center / Clubhouse	<i>No new facilities required</i>
Golf Course	<i>No new facilities required</i>
Community Pool	<i>No new facilities required</i>

Key:

- = 51-100 new facilities
- = 31-50 new facilities
- = 11-30 new facilities
- = 1-10 new facilities

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, impacts to recreational resources are considered significant if the proposed project would do either of the following:

- cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities; or
- create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2040 General Plan.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Chapter 4.12 of the Master EIR considered the effects of the 2040 General Plan on the City’s existing

parkland, urban forest, recreational facilities and recreational services.

Policy YPRO-1.1: Range of Experiences. The City shall provide a range of parks and recreational facilities and strive to ensure an equitable distribution of high-quality facilities throughout Sacramento.

Policy YPRO-1.4: Parkland Requirements. The City shall require that new residential development projects contribute toward the provision of adequate parks and recreational facilities to serve the new residents, either through the dedication of parkland, the construction of public and/or private recreation facilities, or the payment of parkland in-lieu fees.

Policy YPRO-1.5: Incentivizing Onsite Public Facilities. The City shall continue to provide Park Impact Fee (PIF) credit for development projects that provide publicly accessible parks, plazas, and parkways onsite that promote active or passive recreational opportunities and serve as neighborhood gathering points.

Policy YPRO-1.6: Underutilized Land. As feasible, the City shall acquire, lease, or otherwise obtain rights to the use of odd-shaped or underutilized parcels for park or open space, focusing efforts first in underserved disadvantaged communities.

Policy YPRO-1.7: Co-Located Joint-Use Facilities. The City shall continue to facilitate the development of new parks or expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities by co-locating with and joint use of new or existing public and institutional facilities (e.g., schools, libraries, cultural facilities, and stormwater detention basins) in order to efficiently provide for community needs and offset operations and maintenance costs, prioritizing disadvantaged communities with an existing deficit of park facilities.

Policy YPRO-1.8: Non-Conventional Park Solutions. In densely built out urban areas of the city where the provision of large park spaces is not feasible, the City shall explore creative solutions to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities that serve the needs of local residents and employees. Such solutions may include the following: • Publicly accessible, privately-owned open spaces and plazas; • Rooftop play courts and gardens; • Freeway underpass, and utility corridor, and wide landscape medians; • Conversion of rails to trails with trails; • Pocket parks/small public places and pedestrian areas in the public right-of-way; and • The provision of neighborhood and community-serving recreational facilities in regional parks.

Policy YPRO-1.9: Timing of Services. The City shall monitor the pace and location of new development through the development review process and long-range planning efforts to strive to ensure that development of parks and community and recreation facilities and services keeps pace with growth.

Policy YPRO-1.10: Parkland Access Standard. The City shall strive to provide accessible public park or recreational open space within 10-minute walk of all residences in Sacramento.

Policy YPRO-1.11: Enhancing Access to Parks. The City shall pursue strategies that increase community access to parks and recreational facilities, including the following: • Expanding joint-use agreements with schools and educational institutions; • Removing physical barriers to access (e.g., fences); and • Providing a choice of legible and navigable routes to and from park areas through the installation of new or improved multi-use shared paths, wayfinding signage, and coordination with public transit.

Policy YPRO-1.12: Parks Programming. The City shall continue to create high-quality, inclusive programming that encourages the use of the park facilities by a variety of users, including older adults, youth, and people with disabilities throughout the day and evenings. Programming should include the following: • Organized sports, • Fitness, • Youth workforce development, • Volunteer activities, and • Arts and cultural activities catering to the interests of the community that the park facilities serve. Opportunities should be taken to incorporate local Native American heritage and culture.

Impacts were considered less than significant after application of the applicable policies. (Impacts 4.9-1 and 4.9-2)

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None required.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A and B

The Parks Plan 2040 would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future park planning. The plan will support improved park operations, and will provide guidance for subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks. Future park development would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Revisions to park service level goals could affect future park planning and recreation facilities. The project would have beneficial impacts on recreation, and would not result in adverse impacts that were not considered in the Master EIR.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Recreation.

Issues:	Effect will be studies in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
11. <u>TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION</u>			
Would the project:			
A) Roadway segments: degrade peak period Level of Service (LOS) from A,B,C or D (without the project) to E or F (with project) or the LOS (without project) is E or F, and project generated traffic increases the Volume to Capacity Ratio (V/C ratio) by 0.02 or more.			X
B) Intersections: degrade peak period level of service from A, B, C or D (without project) to E or F (with project) or the LOS (without project) is E or F, and project generated traffic increases the peak period average vehicle delay by five seconds or more.?			X
C) Freeway facilities: off-ramps with vehicle queues that extend into the ramp's deceleration area or onto the freeway; project traffic increases that cause any ramp's merge/diverge level of service to be worse than the freeway's level of service; project traffic increases that cause the freeway level of service to deteriorate beyond level of service threshold defined in the Caltrans Route Concept Report for the facility; or the expected ramp queue is greater than the storage capacity?			X
D) Transit: adversely affect public transit operations or fail to adequately provide for access to public?			X
E) Bicycle facilities: adversely affect bicycle travel, bicycle paths or fail to adequately provide for access by bicycle?			X
F) Pedestrian: adversely affect pedestrian travel, pedestrian paths or fail to adequately provide for access by pedestrians?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Roadways and Access

The city's roadway network consists of a combination of interstate freeways, state highways, and city streets (arterial, collector, and local streets). This roadway network is used extensively for personal vehicle travel while also accommodating bus, bicycle/scooter, and walking trips.

Vehicle Miles

Traveled Use of the roadway system is relevant for transportation impact analysis because the amount of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) determines how much fuel is consumed and how much air pollutant

and GHG emissions are generated from vehicle use. VMT can also be used to assess safety because dense urban areas with low VMT have lower crash incidences and severity than low density auto-centric communities (Dumbaugh and Ewing 2009). This outcome is due to fewer miles being driven per person at much lower speeds in the dense urban areas. VMT generation rates for households and workers are presented in Table 4.14-1. This data compares Sacramento to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments or SACOG region performance.

Transit System

A wide range of transit services are provided in the city. Transit services include public bus service, light rail transit, commercial bus service, and interregional and interstate passenger train service. Park-and-ride facilities are also provided throughout the city to facilitate ridesharing and automobile access to the regional transit system, and carpooling. According to the US Census Bureau's 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS), 3.2% of commuters take transit to work in Sacramento, which is lower than the state average of 5.1%. The previous ACS transit commute estimate for Sacramento from 2007-2011 was 3.7%. In general, transit ridership has been declining nationally and in Sacramento since 2009 (SacRT 2018). Causes range from greater competition from ridesharing and micro-mobility (e.g., bike and scooter sharing), relatively low costs of purchasing and driving cars, and increasing distances between jobs and housing. COVID-19 responses have exacerbated ridership declines as public health risk is now a factor influencing the mode choices of travelers.

Bicycle System

The City of Sacramento Bicycle Master Plan identifies existing and planned bicycle facilities within the city (City of Sacramento 2016). The primary purpose of the Bicycle Master Plan is to identify the recreational and commute needs of bicyclists and to promote bicycling as an active form of transportation to reduce VMT and greenhouse gases. The primary goal of the bikeway improvements proposed in the City's Bicycle Master Plan is to increase bicycle ridership for work and non-work trips. According to the American Community Survey in 2019, about 2.0% of commuters bike to work, which is nearly twice as high as the state average of 1.0%. Bicycling trends in Sacramento show that total bicycle trips were declining through 2019 and then increasing through the COVID-19 period of limited driving activity.

Pedestrian System

Pedestrian travel is of prime importance to the City. Pedestrian facilities, such as enhanced crosswalks, pedestrian count-down signals, new sidewalks, traffic calming measures, and streetscape enhancements are being installed. In California, 2.6% of commuters walk to work (U.S. Census Bureau 2021); Sacramento, the percentage of walkers is 2.8%. The City has implemented several programs and adopted policies to improve the pedestrian environment, including the following: Pedestrian Master Plan, Pedestrian Crossing Guidelines, Pedestrian Crossing Guidelines Treatment Applications Guide, Traffic Calming Guidelines, Pedestrian Safety Guidelines, and Pedestrian Friendly Street Standards.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of this Initial Study, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would result in any of the following outcomes.

- Result in less than a 16.8% reduction of passenger vehicle VMT per capita compared to the Citywide baseline.
- Adversely affect existing and planned public transit facilities or services, or fail to adequately provide

access to transit.

- Adversely affect existing and planned bicycle facilities or fail to adequately provide access by bicycle.
- Adversely affect existing pedestrian facilities or fail to adequately provide access by pedestrians.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Transportation and circulation were discussed in the Master EIR in Chapter 4.12. Various modes of travel were included in the analysis, including vehicular, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and aviation components. The analysis included consideration of roadway capacity and identification of levels of service, and effects of the 2040 General Plan on the public transportation system. All impacts to Transportation were found to be less than significant with the application of the 2040 General Plan Mobility Goals and Policies.

Implementation of the 2040 General Plan would result in a 17.2% reduction in passenger vehicle VMT per capita compared to the Citywide baseline. This exceeds the 16.8% reduction established as the City's VMT impact threshold. The VMT performance is consistent with 2040 General Plan Goals M-1 and M-2 plus the supporting policies, M 1.11 (Increase Bicycling and Walking), M 1.20 (High-Frequency Transit Service), M 1.22 (Increase Transit Ridership), M 2.1 (Transportation Demand Management), M 2.2 (Wider Participation), M 2.14 (Parking Supply), M 2.17 (Parking Management Strategy), and land use Policy LUP 1.1 (Compact Urban Footprint).

The 2040 General Plan and associated CAAP contain policy support for additional actions such as parking management, active mode network expansion, and transit service improvements (beyond what was modeled in this analysis) that could support higher levels of walking, bicycling, and transit if needed to achieve the 2045 target (see 2040 General Plan Policies M 2.14 and M 2.17 plus CAAP measures TR-1 and TR-2).

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A-F

The Master EIR included consideration of transportation impacts due to the operation of existing park facilities, as well as the planning, design, construction, and operation of future park facilities in the city that could be developed during the General Plan period.

Adoption of the Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any direct impacts to transportation. No construction or development would be approved. The Parks Plan 2040 would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future park planning. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. This review would include consideration of potential impacts on transportation infrastructure with construction, as well as impacts of cars and light trucks anticipated with operation.

Adoption of the Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any direct effects on transportation. Review for site-specific potential effects that could occur with new facilities would be subject to evaluation as part of review required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Transportation and Circulation.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
<p>14. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:</p> <p>A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in Public Resources Code 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe and that is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources code section 5020.1(k) or</p>			X
<p style="padding-left: 80px;">ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</p>			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Please reference the Cultural Resources chapter of the Master EIR for the ethnohistory of the historic indigenous groups that occupied the project region. The section focuses on the contemporary tribal communities and tribal cultural resources, as they pertain to AB 52.

This section analyzes and evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project on tribal cultural resources, both identified and undiscovered. Tribal cultural resources, as defined by AB 52, Statutes of 2014, in PRC Section 21074, are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects, with cultural value to a tribe. A tribal cultural landscape is defined as a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

The unanticipated find of Native American human remains would also be considered a tribal cultural resource and is, therefore, analyzed in this section.

The project area is situated within the lands traditionally occupied by the Valley Nisenan, or Southern Maidu. Many descendants of Valley Nisenan throughout the larger Sacramento region belong to the United Auburn Indian Community, Shingle Springs, Lone Band, Colfax-Todds Valley, and Wilton Rancheria tribes. The tribes actively participate in the identification, evaluation, preservation, and

restoration of tribal cultural resources.

Data Sources and Methodology

Under PRC Sections 21080.3.1 and 21082.3, the City must consult with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area that have requested formal notification and responded with a request for consultation. The parties must consult in good faith. Consultation is deemed concluded when the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect on a tribal cultural resource when one is present or when a party concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. Mitigation measures agreed on during the consultation process must be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document.

A search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) was requested from the NAHC, and a response was received on August 22, 2023 indicating that sacred sites have not been identified within the project vicinity. Formal invitations to participate in AB 52 consultation for the proposed project were sent by the City on September 21, 2022 to representatives of the following four tribes, which have previously requested to receive notifications of proposed development projects:

- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- United Auburn Indian Community
- Buena Vista Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Wilton Rancheria

United Auburn Indian Community requested consultation on the project on September 30, 2022, and closed consultation on the project on October 18, 2022, with the stipulation to include Mitigation Measure 14-3 below. Buena Vista Rancheria Band of Me-Wuk Indian provided a response on October 24, 2022, declining consultation. Wilton Rancheria and the Shingle Springs Band of Mi-Wok Indians did not respond within the 30 days of receipt of formal notification, and, therefore, did not request consultation.

Federal Regulations

Federal plans, policies, or regulations related to tribal cultural resources that are directly applicable to the proposed project do not exist. However, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act does require consultation with Native Americans to identify and consider certain types of cultural resources. Cultural resources of Native American origin identified as a result of the identification efforts conducted under Section 106 may also qualify as tribal cultural resources under CEQA.

State Regulations

- **California Environmental Quality Act:** CEQA requires that public agencies that finance or approve public or private projects must assess the effects of the project on tribal cultural resources. Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that is (1) listed or determined eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or a local register, or (2) that are determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

- **California PRC Section 5024:** PRC Section 5024.1 establishes the CRHR, which is the authoritative guide for identifying the State's historical resources to indicate what properties are to be protected, if feasible, from substantial adverse change. For a resource to be eligible for the CRHR, it must be more than 50 years old, retain its historic integrity, and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:
 1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
 2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
 3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
 4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

A tribal cultural resource is considered to be a significant resource if the resource is: 1) listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources; or 2) the resource has been determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. For the purposes of this Initial Study, impacts on tribal cultural resources may be considered significant if construction and/or implementation of the proposed project would result in the following:

- Cause a substantial change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074.

Summary of Analysis under the 2040 General Plan Master EIR, Including Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, and Irreversible Significant Effects

The Master EIR (Chapter 4.15) evaluated the potential effects of development under the 2040 General Plan on prehistoric and historic resources, identifying significant and unavoidable effects on historic resources and archaeological resources, some of which could be tribal cultural resources as defined by PRC Section 21074.

Ground-disturbing activities resulting from park development consistent with the Parks Plan 2040 would result in disturbance that could potentially affect tribal cultural resources, but the effect would be site-specific. Cumulative effects of such work has been identified and evaluated in the Master EIR. The Parks Plan 2040 does not identify or approve any new physical development.

General Plan policies identified as reducing such effects on cultural resources that may also be tribal cultural resources include identification of resources on project site, implementation of applicable laws and regulations; consultation with appropriate organizations and individuals including the NAHC and implementation of their consultation guidelines; enforcement programs to promote the maintenance, rehabilitation, preservation, and interpretation of the City's historic resources; listing of qualified historic resources under appropriate national, State, and local registers; consideration of historic and cultural resources in planning studies; enforcement of compliance with local, State, and federal historic and cultural preservation requirements; and early consultation with owners and land developers to minimize effects. See 2040 General Plan, Chapter 4, Historic and Cultural Resources.

Of particular relevance to the proposed project are policies that ensure compliance with protocol

that protect or mitigate potential impacts to archaeological resources (Policy HCR 2.1.16) and that encourage preservation and minimization of impacts on cultural resources (Policy HCR 2.1.17).

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

The Parks Plan 2040 proposes no new construction. Adoption of the plan would result in no ground disturbance that could unearth and expose tribal cultural resources. Policies in the General Plan provide substantial protection for tribal cultural resources on a policy basis and would be implemented as part of consideration of any new park proposals.

New park proposals would be subject to the General Plan policies that protect such resources. Consultation with Native American tribes would proceed as required by AB52 for the purpose of identifying tribal cultural resources that are, or could be, present on the site, as well as identifying mitigation applicable to the specific project that could reduce impacts to tribal cultural resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Tribal Cultural Resources.

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
13. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project: A) Result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments?			X
B) Require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?			X

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Communication Systems

Telecommunication service to the city is provided by AT&T Inc., Central Valley Broadband LLC, Comcast, Consolidated Communications Inc., Digital Path Inc., Encore Business Systems Inc., Frontier Communications Corporation, Integra Telecom Holdings Inc., Internet Free Planet, Level 3 Communications LLC, MetroPCS Wireless, New Edge Holding Company, Platinum Equity LLC, Ruralnet Wireless LLC, Sonic Telecom LLC, Sprint, Succeed.Net, T-Mobile, and Verizon Communications Inc.

Domestic Water

Domestic water services within the Planning Area are provided by the City and other water purveyors. The City provides domestic water service to the area within the city limits, as these limits change from time to time, and to several small areas within the County of Sacramento. A small area in the northeastern portion of the city (Swanston Estates) is served by the Sacramento Suburban Water District, although City and District staff have held discussions relative to the City taking this service area over at some point in the future. Areas adjacent to the city limits are served by the Natomas Central Mutual Water Company, Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District, Sacramento County Water Agency, Sacramento Suburban Water District, California American Water Company, Tokay Park Water District, Elk Grove Water Service, and the Florin County Water District. The City supplies domestic water from a combination of surface water and groundwater sources. Two water treatment plants supply domestic water by diverting water from the American River and Sacramento River. In addition to the surface water diverted from the two rivers, the City operates groundwater supply wells.

Water Supply

The City operates two water treatment plants: Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant (WTP) located along the American River near Sacramento State University, and the Sacramento River WTP located along the Sacramento River near downtown. Diversion restrictions (Hodge Flow conditions, discussed in subsequent sections) on the American River limit the capacity of the Fairbairn WTP. The Sacramento River WTP does not have sufficient intake and treatment capacity to make up for diversion restrictions at the Fairbairn WTP. The City is planning on expanding the Sacramento River

WTP intake and treatment facilities, but also has the option to participate in the River Arc project, a project that will divert and treat raw water from the Sacramento River to a new regional water treatment plant using an existing water diversion facility.

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater treatment within the Planning Area is provided by the Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San). Regional San operates all regional interceptors and wastewater treatment plants serving the city except for the combined sewer and storm drain treatment facilities discussed above, which are operated by the City. Local and trunk wastewater collection in the Planning Area is provided by SacSewer (formerly known as the Sacramento Area Sewer District) and the City. Improvements have been made to the Regional San interceptor system in anticipation of future growth and to help relieve the existing interceptor system. The Lower Northwest Interceptor, completed in 2007, and Upper Northwest Interceptor completed in 2010, convey flows from the Northeast, Gibson Ranch, Rio Linda, McClellan, Natomas, and a portion of the North Highlands sewer basins.

These projects provide relief for the existing interceptor system as well as provide capacity for future growth. The Upper Dry Creek Interceptor Relief Project was approved in August 2022 with construction anticipated to be completed sometime in Summer 2025. This project diverts flow from the most upstream reach of the Dry Creek Interceptor (upstream of the City's sewer service area) and conveys diverted flows to the Upper Northwest Interceptor to help relieve current capacity issues within the City's service area (downstream) and portions of the Dry Creek Interceptor. More recently Regional San completed the Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) Project which was a substantial upgrade to the facility. The BNR Project removes more than 99% of ammonia from the Sacramento region's wastewater by releasing oxygen into the wastewater to support bacteria which remove most of the organic matter and nearly all of the ammonia. The Sacramento Regional WWTP, which is located approximately five miles south of the City in Elk Grove, is owned and operated by Regional San and provides sewage treatment for the entire Planning Area.

Sewer

Sewer The City collects fees for 54 sewer basins (53 separated basins and one combined sewer basin) that serve the community plan areas of North Sacramento, portions of Arden-Arcade, most of South Sacramento (e.g., Pocket, Airport, Meadowview, South Land Park), and most of East Sacramento. Fourteen of those basins are part of the City's Combined Sewer System. Thirteen separated basins flow directly into the downtown area's combined sewer system basin, where separated sewer flows join the combined wastewater flows before being conveyed to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (Sacramento Regional WWTP) for treatment. The other 40 separated basins flow into the Regional San interceptors, which also conveys flows to the Sacramento Regional WWTP, via individually pumped basins (32 pumped basins) or by gravity flow (8 gravity basins).

The older Central City area is served by a system in which both sanitary sewage and storm drainage are collected and conveyed in the same system of pipelines, referred to as the Combined Sewer System (CSS). The CSS receives sewer-only flow from 13 separated sewer systems, and drainage from these areas are pumped away from the CSS. Additionally, there are some peripheral areas that have separate storm drainage that contribute separated drainage to the CSS. The remainder of the city is served by a separated drainage system.

Storm Drain Systems

The city's storm drainage system and facilities consist of:

- Street, curbs, gutters, and storm drain inlets, which collect and convey the rainfall runoff to storm drain pipe systems (storm drains).
- Storm drains, which are underground pipes that convey the runoff to the creeks and rivers, detention basins, or pump stations. There are about approximately 846 miles of storm drain pipes in the City's storm drain system.
- Creeks, drainage ditches, and channels also convey runoff. There are about 429 miles of creeks, ditches, and channels that feed into the City's storm drainage system.
- Detention basins (wet and dry) are areas that are excavated to store the stormwater runoff when storm flows exceed conveyance or pumping capacity. Wet basins have a permanent pool of water even between storms. Dry basins fill up during a storm and are drained completely between storms, allowing for the basin bottom to be used between storms for public access, sports fields, and other uses. The City has designed many of its detention basins to provide stormwater storage, stormwater quality treatment and to provide open space areas (for public access) and/or wetland and riparian habitat.
- Pump stations lift water from the storm drains and detention basins through or over the levees and into the city's creeks and rivers.
- Most of the City's drainage pump stations include screens that keep trash and debris from damaging the pumps. The City owns and operates 105 storm drainage pumping stations located throughout the city. The city is divided into 134 watersheds (typically called basins). Basins with names starting with a "G" drain by gravity into the creeks and rivers; there is no pump station in these basins. There are 32 basins that drain by gravity into the creeks and rivers. There are 102 basins that are pumped into the creeks and rivers (basins without a "G" in the name). There are additional basins within County or state-owned storm drain systems (e.g., California State University, Sacramento Campus).

Solid Waste

The City collects all single-family residential solid waste for customers within the city. Refuse from the south region of the city is transported to the Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station (SRTS) at 8491 Fruitridge Road; refuse collected in the north region is transported to the Sacramento County North Area Recovery Station. Refuse is then hauled from both locations to the Sacramento County Kiefer Landfill. Commercial and multifamily residential solid waste collection and recycling is administered by the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority and collection is provided by 15 different private franchised haulers. Commercial solid waste is disposed of at various facilities including the SRTS, the Sacramento County Kiefer Landfill, the Yolo County Landfill, L and D Landfill, Florin Perkins Landfill, Elder Creek Transfer Station, and the Sacramento County North Area Recovery Station. General contractors and industrial solid waste generators often haul solid waste directly to disposal facilities (Febbo pers. comm. 2019). In addition to collecting municipal refuse every week, the City collects garden refuse (green waste) on a weekly basis, expanded recently to include residential organic waste, and curbside recycling every other week.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Initial Study, an impact would be considered significant if the proposed project resulted in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, or school facilities beyond what was anticipated in the 2040 General Plan:

- result in the determination that adequate capacity is not available to serve the project's demand in addition to existing commitments or
- require or result in either the construction of new utilities or the expansion of existing utilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDER THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS, AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The Master EIR evaluated the effects of development under the 2040 General Plan on water supply, sewer and storm drainage, solid waste, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. See Chapter 4.13.

The Master EIR evaluated the impacts of increased demand for water that would occur with development under the 2040 General Plan. The 2040 General Plan Policies PFS-4.1 through PFS-4.8, include measures to protect water rights and entitlements (Policy PFS-4.1), encourage conjunctive use of surface and groundwater supplies (Policies PFS-4.2, PFS-4.3 and PFS-4.4), continue preparing and implementing UWMPs (Policy PFS-4.5), encourages increased recycled water use (Policy PFS-4.6), as well as ensuring adequate water supply capacity prior to approving new building permits (Policy PFS-4.8). The 2040 General Plan also includes policies to that facilitate increased efficiency in water use (Policies ERC-5.1 (Active Water Conservation Program, ERC-5.3 (Water Efficiency Training), and ERC-5.4 (Municipal Energy and Water Efficiency), and publicize the availability of free or low-cost water efficiency audits, retrofit installations, rebates, and financing assistance (Policy ERC-5.5 (Publicize Voluntary Programs) that would potentially limit the future water demands of future development under the 2040 General Plan. Finally, Policy ERC-5.7 (Onsite Water Reuse) supports opportunities for onsite reuse of greywater and blackwater for certain end uses (e.g., irrigation and toilet flushing) that could reduce the demand of potable water.

The 2040 General Plan includes policies that improve sustainability, resilience and efficiency of infrastructure (Policy PFS-3.2 [Utility Sustainability]), improve water treatment capacity and infrastructure (Policy PFS-3.5 [Water Treatment Capacity and Infrastructure]), the CSS (Policy PFS-3.6 [Combined Sewer System Rehabilitation and Improvements]), and capital improvement programming (Policy PFS-3.8 [Capital Improvement Programming]) which would ensure that capacities and functionality of existing wastewater facilities can be accommodated by future growth. Therefore, considering existing planning efforts, regulatory requirements, existing capacities, 2040 General Plan policies, and that adequate capacity is available through build of the General Plan the impact is considered less than significant.

Implementation of General Plan Policy PFS-6.3 (Adequate Facilities and Service) would ensure that utility companies retrofit areas that do not have facilities and provide strategies for long-range planning of telecommunication facilities for new development areas. Policy PFS-6.4 (Co-Location) encourages co-location of compatible telecommunications facility and site on City-owned property and in the public right-of-way. Policy PFS-3.14 (Underground Utilities) would encourage service providers to underground utility lines where feasible. Policy PFS-3.10 (Meet Projected Needs) would foster the expansion of infrastructure that is sized only to accommodate projected future expansion.

The 2040 General Plan includes Policies PFS-5.1 through PFS-5.9 that provide long-term objectives for minimizing the city's contribution to solid waste by providing increasing recycling efforts, composting efforts, and supporting programs like the Neighborhood Clean-Up Program with the goal of minimizing solid waste volumes. Many of these programs are already in place, and continue to promote waste diversion, which would help reduce waste flow to the landfill.

MITIGATION MEASURES FROM 2040 GENERAL PLAN MASTER EIR THAT APPLY TO THE PROJECT

None available.

ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Questions A and B

Park facilities place a demand on utility and service system maintained by the city. The Parks Plan 2040 would not increase the demand in excess of that evaluated as part of the adoption of the 2040 General Plan and Master EIR.

Adoption of the Parks Plan 2040 would not result in any direct impacts to utilities or service systems. Construction of new parks would require extension of utilities. Parks would be located within the urban area, and extension of utilities would not have any cumulative or other impacts beyond those evaluated in the Master EIR.

No construction or development would be approved as part of plan adoption. The Parks Plan 2040 would provide programmatic and policy guidance for future park planning. Subsequent proposals for development and operation of individual parks would be subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Revisions to park service level goals could affect future park planning. These changes would not affect the design process of new facilities. The project would not result in overall emissions in excess of those utilized in the Master EIR for analysis of cumulative effects, and the project would not have any additional significant environmental effects.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

FINDINGS

The project would have no additional project-specific environmental effects relating to Utilities and Service Systems.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues:	Effect will be studied in the EIR	Effect can be mitigated to less than significant	No additional significant environmental effect
14. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE			
A.) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X
B.) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)			X
C.) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X

Answers to Checklist Questions

Questions A to C

The Parks Plan 2040 implements and is consistent with the General Plan policies. The Master EIR identified cumulative effects, growth-inducing effects, and irreversible significant effects on the environment that could occur with approval and implementation of the 2040 General Plan. As discussed in this initial study, the effects identified in this section have been identified and evaluated in the Master EIR.

The plan would have no project-specific effects that were not identified in the Master EIR.

SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy and Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Identified | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION V - DETERMINATION

On the basis of the initial study:

- X I find that (a) the proposed project is a subsequent project within the scope of the Master EIR for the City of Sacramento 2040 General Plan and is consistent with the 2040 General Plan land use designation and the permissible densities and intensities of use for the project site; and (b) the proposed project will not have any project-specific additional significant environmental effects not previously examined in the Master EIR, and no new mitigation measures or alternatives will be required. Mitigation measures from the Master EIR will be applied to the proposed project as appropriate. Notice shall be provided pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177(b))

Tom Buford

Signature

Date: June 14, 2024

Printed Name

Tom Buford, Principal Planner