CHAPTER 4
Other Environmental Considerations

This chapter addresses significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed Project should it be implemented, including the use and consumption of nonrenewable resources or long-term commitments of these resources. The proposed Project’s potential for growth inducement is also addressed in this chapter.

4.1 Effects Found Not to Be Significant

The analyses presented in Chapter 3 of this Draft EIR concluded that the proposed Project would result in no impact or a less-than-significant impact, without any required mitigation, for the following resource areas:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Wildfire

The analyses presented in Chapter 3 of this Draft EIR concluded that the proposed Project would result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated, for the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Minerals
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

4.2 Significant Environmental Effects that Cannot Be Avoided by the Proposed Project Should it Be Implemented

Section 15126.2(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that the EIR must describe any significant impacts, including those that can be mitigated but not reduced to a less-than-significant level. Where there are impacts that cannot be alleviated without imposing an
alternative design, their implications and the reasons the project is being proposed, notwithstanding their effect, should be described.

As discussed in Section 3.12, *Noise and Vibration*, while implementation of mitigation measures would reduce noise level and associated impacts at noise-sensitive receptors during construction, noise levels could still exceed local jurisdiction significance thresholds when taking into account the potential worst-case overlap of the various construction phases. All receptors would experience a 10 dBA noise level reduction from implementation of muffling devices under Mitigation Measure NOISE-3. Noise barriers are assumed to reduce noise levels by 10 dBA at receptors where a noise barrier would block the line-of-sight between the receptor and the Project site. However, the elevation of the surrounding residential areas increases moving away from the Project Site and elevated receptors may still have a direct line-of-sight to the Project site and may not benefit from the installation of a noise barrier. Noise barriers are not capable of blocking noise at noise-sensitive receptors that are elevated above a construction work site, such as residential units that are above grade of the Project site. It is not feasible to install noise barriers with height sufficient to block the line-of-sight for all noise-sensitive receptors located at higher elevation residential units due to barrier foundation and wind load restrictions. Because there could be receptors elevated above the construction work sites throughout the Project area within the upper levels of a noise-sensitive receptor, building construction noise would represent a temporary noise increase in excess of standards for receptors and would result in a significant and unavoidable impact.

While Mitigation Measure NOISE-4, applicable to amplified speaker systems for special events, would require a special event permit and establish guidelines for speaker placement and directionality, operating hours, and the use of temporary noise barriers, blankets, or baffles may be required on either side of and behind speakers to limit the amount of excess noise reaching nearby sensitive receptors, noise from the amplified speaker system for special events may still temporarily exceed the significance threshold at sensitive receptors near to the amplified speaker system at location R3. Because special events may include outdoor concerts, movie nights, luncheons, or other similar types of events that draw members of the community, it may not be feasible to reduce the volume of the amplified speaker system to a level below the significance threshold while still retaining a sufficient volume level for people in the Meadow park zone to adequately hear and enjoy the special event. Therefore, while Mitigation Measure NOISE-4 would minimize sound from the amplified speaker systems for special events to the extent feasible, impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

In addition, the Project could potentially exceed applicable thresholds for human annoyance due to vibration impacts during construction. Vibration impacts regarding human annoyance at nearby sensitive receptors could exceed the significance thresholds (72 Vibration velocity [VdB] at residential uses). Potential mitigation measures to reduce vibration impacts from on-site construction activities with respect to human annoyance include the installation of a wave barrier, which is typically a trench or a thin wall made of sheet piles installed in the ground (essentially a subterranean sound barrier to reduce noise). However, wave barriers must be very deep and long to be effective and are not considered feasible for temporary applications, such as Project construction. Per the Caltrans Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual, the
wave barrier would need to be at least two-thirds of the seismic wavelength and the length of the barrier must be at least one wavelength (typical wavelength can be up to 500 feet). In addition, constructing a wave barrier to reduce the Project’s construction-related vibration impacts would, in and of itself, generate groundborne vibration from the excavation equipment. In addition, it is not possible to prohibit the use of construction equipment within certain distances of sensitive receptors as such equipment would be required to be used to construct the various Project components at the proposed locations. Thus, it is concluded that there are no feasible mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce the temporary vibration impacts from on-site construction associated with human annoyance at the vibration-sensitive receptors. Therefore, Project vibration impacts from construction activities with respect to human annoyance would be significant and unavoidable.

As discussed in Section 3.15, Recreation and Parks, the proposed Project would result in significant and unavoidable construction and operational impacts related to recreational facilities as construction noise and noise associated with amplified music from special events would remain significant and unavoidable as discussed above.

### 4.3 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes that Would be Caused by the Proposed Project Should it be Implemented

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines indicates that uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of a project may be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as a street improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with a project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to ensure that such current consumption is justified.

Implementing the proposed Project would commit nonrenewable (e.g., petroleum) or slowly renewable (e.g., timber) resources during construction and operation. In order to construct the proposed Project, machinery, equipment, materials (e.g., lumber, sand, gravel), and workers would be required, representing an irreversible commitment of some of these resources. Similarly, during operation, some of these resources (e.g., energy, electricity) would again be needed, representing a long-term commitment and permanent investment. The consumption and use of some of these resources would limit their availability for future generations. However, the proposed Project would provide public recreational facilities to primarily the local and occasionally the regional community. In addition, the proposed Project would be designed to meet the City’s sustainability goals. Therefore, the significant irreversible changes have been deemed acceptable in light of the proposed Project’s overall benefits.

### 4.4 Growth-Inducing Impacts

According to Section 15126.2(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines, growth-inducing impacts of the proposed Project must be discussed in the EIR. Growth-inducing impacts are those effects of the
proposed Project that might foster economic or population growth or the construction of new housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. According to CEQA, increases in the population may affect capacity of existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects.

Induced growth is any growth that exceeds planned growth and results from new development that would not have taken place without implementation of the proposed Project. Typically, the growth-inducing potential of a project would be considered significant if it results in growth or population concentration that exceeds those assumptions included in pertinent master plans, land use plans, or projections made by regional planning authorities. However, the creation of growth-inducing potential does not automatically lead to growth, whether it would be below or in exceedance of the projected level. Under CEQA, it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. The proposed Project involves the enhancement and addition of public park amenities within the SLRC. The proposed Project would not directly induce new residential development or result in population growth in the service area. The proposed Project would include expansion and construction of park facilities within a parcel designed as Open Space. The proposed Project is not intended to facilitate growth, but instead serve the recreational needs of the surrounding communities. Impacts related to growth would be considered less than significant and no mitigation would be required.

4.4.1 Direct Population-Generating Uses

The proposed Project would not include development of new housing or other population-generating uses that would directly induce population growth or attract a substantial number or workers. The proposed Project would redesign of approximately 116-acres of the 127-acre SLRC to include community park facilities. The proposed Project would not directly induce new residential development or result in population growth in the service area. There would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

4.4.2 Economic Growth Inducement

The proposed Project would not include housing or commercial/industrial components. The proposed Project would not provide for increased employment opportunity such that there would be any potential for economic growth within the City.

4.4.3 Expansion of Public Services or Utilities

The proposed Project would not include new residential units, commercial space, industrial space, or any development of new land uses. In addition, it would not affect the capacity of existing community service facilities, thereby requiring the construction of new facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects. The proposed Project would include expansion and renovation of existing public park spaces, such as the recreation center, the dog park and the existing Meadow, as well as construction and redevelopment of the existing LADWP facility into community spaces open to the public. The new facilities could result in an increase in visitorship of approximately 390 visitors a day. These visitors would be accommodated within the new
enhanced and proposed facilities as shown in Tables 2-7 and 2-8. As discussed in Sections 3.14, Public Services and 3.18, Utilities and Service Systems, implementation of the proposed Project would not require the expansion of public services or utilities beyond the recreational improvements being proposed for the Project.
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