

7.1 Introduction

The State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15130) require that cumulative impacts be analyzed in an EIR when the resulting impacts are cumulatively considerable and, therefore, potentially significant. Cumulative impacts refer to the combined effect of project impacts with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The discussion of cumulative impacts must reflect the severity of the impacts as well as the likelihood of their occurrence. However, the discussion need not be as detailed as the discussion of environmental impacts attributable to the project alone. Furthermore, the discussion should remain practical and reasonable in considering other projects and related cumulatively considerable impacts. According to Section 15355 of the CEQA Guidelines:

“Cumulative impacts” refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

- (a) The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects.
- (b) The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.

Furthermore, according to State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130 (a)(1):

As defined in Section 15355, a “cumulative impact” consists of an impact that is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts. An EIR should not discuss impacts which do not result in part from the project evaluated in the EIR.

In addition, as stated in the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064(i)(5), it should be noted that:

The mere existence of significant cumulative impacts caused by other projects alone shall not constitute substantial evidence that the proposed project’s incremental effects are cumulatively considerable.

Therefore, the cumulative impacts discussion focuses on whether the proposed Project’s contributions to cumulative impacts are considerable within the context of combined impacts caused by other past, present, or future projects.

7.2 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects

The discussion below provides the context for past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects that have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts for the proposed Project. The list of cumulative projects was compiled through review of the County’s cumulative project list, as well as consultation with County staff on past, present, and foreseeable future projects.

7.2.1 Cumulative Project List

Table 7-1 provides a list of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects that are considered as part of the cumulative impact analysis within this EIR.

Table 7-1. Cumulative Projects List for the Cate School Renewal Project

Name	Project Location	Case Type	Description	Status
Schillinger-Howard Lot Split	6214 Via Real, Carpinteria, CA APN 001-080-027	Residential	Tentative Parcel Map 14, 738 for a lot split of 2 parcels into 3 new parcels.	Approved
Adizes Graduate Institute Educational Facility	1212 Mark Ave, Carpinteria, CA 93013	Institutional (school, churches, etc.)	Small graduate school 5,073 sf - primarily office use and occasional seminars (max 6/year, 10 people/seminar)-most coursework over the Internet.	In Process
Caltrans High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes	US Highway 101 from Bates Road Exit to Rincon Road	Commercial	0.45 miles of high occupancy freeway upgrades between the Santa Barbara County/Ventura County lines and the City of Carpinteria	Approved
Garrison Rancho, LLC	Terminus of Santa Monica Drive, Carpinteria, CA 93013	Residential	New residence, four car garage and guest house on a vacant lot.	In Process
US 101/Linden Ave./Casitas Pass Road Interchange Improvements Project	US Highway 101/Linden Ave./Casitas Pass interchange	Roadway	Reconfiguring the interchange ramps and constructing new local street connections and frontage road extensions.	In Process

Source: County of Santa Barbara 2015.

7.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

Cumulative impact discussions for each environmental element are provided below. Where appropriate, mitigation measures for cumulative effects are also identified. The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. Therefore, an impact that would be reduced to a less than significant level after mitigation would not be considered to have a cumulative impact.

7.3.1 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

According to the cumulative project list (refer to Table 7-1), the nearest cumulative project to the Project site is about one mile away. Therefore, there are no projects adjacent to or in close proximity to the proposed Project at the Cate School, (see Figure 7-1). Both transportation projects are located along US Highway 101 and the Adizes Graduate Institute, Schillinger-Howard Lot Split site, and the Rancho Garrison Project are not located within the same viewshed as the proposed Project. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not anticipated to result in any substantial change in the aesthetic character of the area since views of the Project site are limited and the new development would be designed to be

compatible with the rest of the existing campus. The analysis in Section 4.1 ensures that the residual impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of MM AEST-1 through AEST-4. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to aesthetics and visual resources (Class III).

7.3.2 Agricultural Resources

Under the proposed Project, all new campus buildings would be constructed on the main campus and would incrementally convert agricultural soils to developed uses. However, the storm water collection system proposed west and south of the main campus would result in the removal and permanent conversion of approximately 0.57 acre of avocado trees within an existing orchard, which is designated as unique farmland by the State's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The analysis in Section 4.2 concludes that the residual impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to agricultural resources (Class III).

7.3.3 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases

Air quality is assessed on a basin-wide scale. As such, the cumulative projects listed in Table 7-1, as well as the proposed Project, would incrementally affect ambient air quality standards for particulate matter and ozone within the South Central Coast Air Basin. However, development projects would be subject to air quality standards contained in the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) and policies within applicable General Plans, Santa Barbara County Building Codes and Ordinances. This would ensure less than significant cumulative impacts related to air quality.

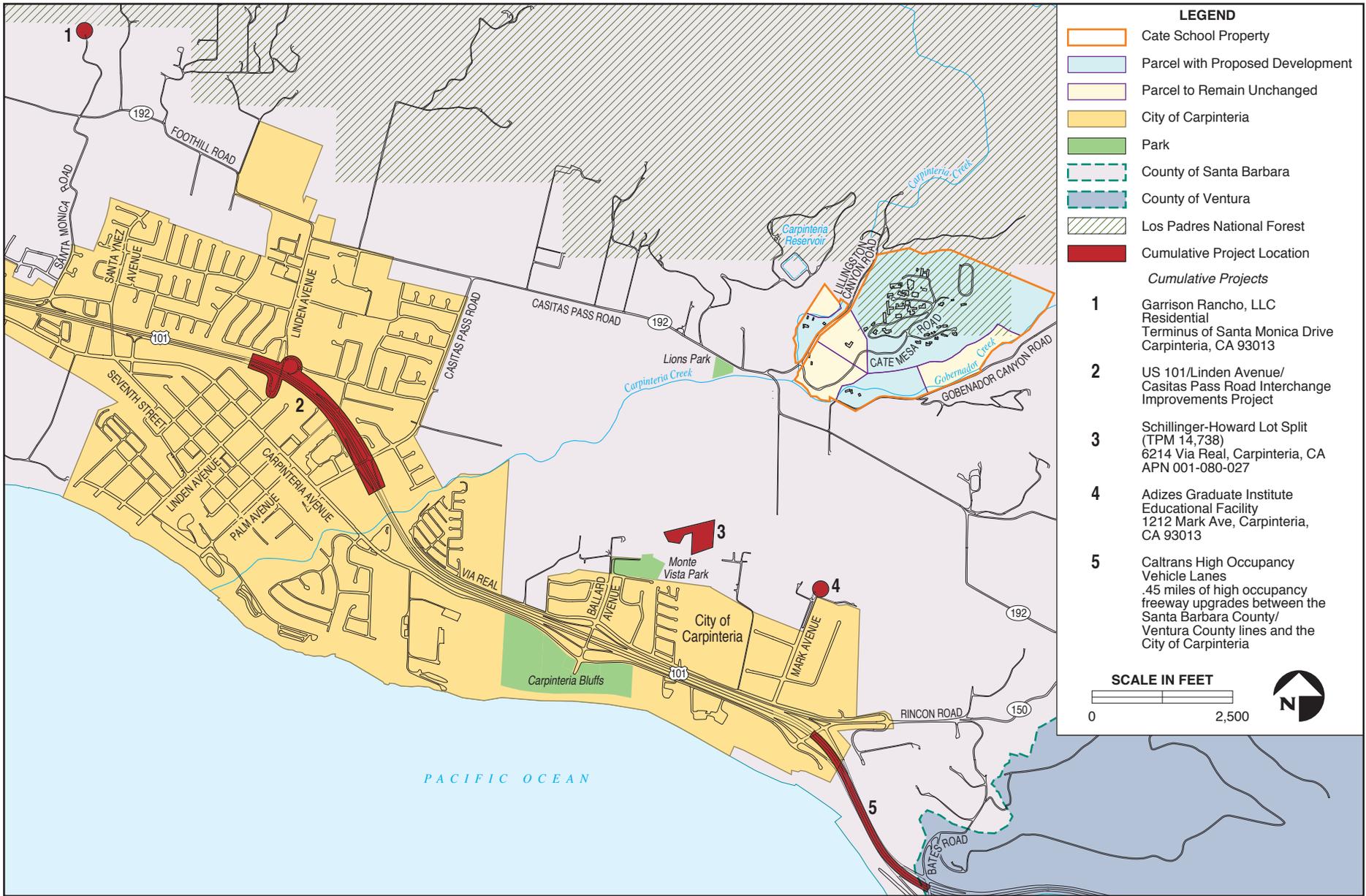
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change are assessed within a regional or global context, and are cumulative in nature. Impacts resulting from Project emissions were found to be less than significant and would therefore not be cumulatively significant. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to air quality and GHG (Class III).

7.3.4 Biological Resources

According to Section 4.3, the proposed Project was not determined to have any significant impacts to biological resources after implementation of MM BIO-1a through MM BIO-3. Therefore, the combined effects of the proposed Project and the cumulative projects would not result in cumulatively significant biological resources impacts (Class III).

7.3.5 Cultural Resources

While there were no cultural resources found on site in the Phase 1 surveys, there remains a low potential for undiscovered cultural resources to exist onsite. In the case any resources are encountered, work would stop and the resources would be assessed as required under MM CULT-1, *Stop Work at Encounter*, and handled appropriately so that the residual impact would be less than significant. Additionally, according to the cumulative project list, there are no projects proposed in the immediate vicinity of the Project. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to cultural resources (Class III).



7-4

LEGEND

- Cate School Property
- Parcel with Proposed Development
- Parcel to Remain Unchanged
- City of Carpinteria
- Park
- County of Santa Barbara
- County of Ventura
- Los Padres National Forest
- Cumulative Project Location

Cumulative Projects

- 1** Garrison Rancho, LLC Residential Terminus of Santa Monica Drive Carpinteria, CA 93013
- 2** US 101/Linden Avenue/Casitas Pass Road Interchange Improvements Project
- 3** Schillinger-Howard Lot Split (TPM 14,738) 6214 Via Real, Carpinteria, CA APN 001-080-027
- 4** Adizes Graduate Institute Educational Facility 1212 Mark Ave, Carpinteria, CA 93013
- 5** Caltrans High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes .45 miles of high occupancy freeway upgrades between the Santa Barbara County/Ventura County lines and the City of Carpinteria

SCALE IN FEET

0 2,500

N



Cumulative Projects

FIGURE 7-1

7.3.6 Energy

The proposed Project would utilize various forms of energy during construction (fuel and electricity) and operation (fuel, electricity, and natural gas). However, new construction would meet Title 24 requirements and incorporate LEED building design standards. Further, the additional amount of energy used during the proposed Project would not be significant on a regional scale and would be in keeping with similar projects of its size. As a result of the energy conservation measures, the proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts to energy. While cumulative projects identified in the area may generate increased energy demands, the development of the proposed Project would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to these energy needs to an extent that additional energy resources are required. Therefore cumulative impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

7.3.7 Fire Protection

The proposed Project would incrementally increase the number of people and structures requiring fire protection services in the County. According to Section 3.2, the proposed Project would not result in a significant permanent increase in the County's residents and the CSFD would continue to maintain a ratio of citizens to firefighters within the national standard of 1:4,000. Additionally, the response times of local fire stations would not be expected to change and would remain at 8.5 minutes. Impacts to fire protection would be less than significant with implementation of MM FP-1a, *Fire Protection Measures*, MM FP-3a, *Fuel Management Plan*, MM FP-3b, *Tree Clearance and Maintenance*, MM FP-5a, *Fire Resistant Construction*, and MM FP-7a, *Emergency Evacuation Plan Update*. Cumulative projects in the area are of a small scale, and would not result in a permanent increase in residents in the area that would alter these response times. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to fire protection (Class III).

7.3.8 Geologic Processes

None of the potential geologic impacts related to the proposed Project extend beyond the Project boundaries. The proposed Project would include the development of new facilities on steep slopes and would require cut and fill in exceedance to County thresholds. The analysis in Section 4.6 concludes that Project residual impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of MM WAT-3b, *Sediment and Contamination Containment*, MM WAT-3c, *Erosion and Sediment Control Revegetation*, and MM GEO-1, *Geotechnical Study*, and MM GEO-2, *Erosion and Sediment Control Plan*. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to geologic processes (Class III).

7.3.9 Hazardous Material/Risk of Upset

All potential hazardous material/risk of upset impacts and residual impacts related to the proposed Project are concluded to be less than significant with no mitigation measures needed. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects identified in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to hazardous materials/risk of upset (Class III).

7.3.10 Historic Resources

The proposed Project is not anticipated to result in any substantial change in the historic character of the site with implementation of MM HIST-1a, *Photo-documentation*, and MM HIST-1b, *Historian Review*. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with cumulative projects would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to historical resources (Class III).

7.3.11 Land Use

The proposed Project is located on land zoned for agriculture (AG-I-10), but has an Educational Facility Land Use designation which allows for its current use. As discussed in Section 4.9, the additional development under the proposed Project would therefore be compatible with existing land use and would therefore not result in any significant land use impact. Consequently, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to land use (Class III).

7.3.12 Noise

According to the cumulative project list (Table 7-1), the nearest development to the proposed Project is approximately one mile south of the Project site. Therefore, there are no projects adjacent to or in close proximity to the proposed Project at the Cate School (see Figure 7-1). As MM NOI-1a through d and MM NOI-2 would reduce Project impacts to noise resources to a less than significant level and there are no cumulative projects nearby, construction noise would not be cumulatively considerable. Following completing of the construction phases, the Project is not expected to result in significant long-term changes to the existing noise environment. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to noise (Class III).

7.3.13 Public Facilities

The proposed Project's contribution to the regionally significant demand for public facilities (fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, sewage, and storm water facilities) would be less than significant. However, pursuant to the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, a project which generates 40 tons per year of solid waste is considered to have an adverse cumulative effect on solid waste generation. The analysis in Section 4.10 concludes that implementation of MM PF-2a, *Construction Waste Management*, MM PF-2b, *Solid Waste-SRSWMP*, MM WAT-1, *Storm Water Control Plan*, MM WAT-2, *Stormwater Control Plan – Project Operation*, MM WAT-3a to MM WAT-3c, and MM GEO-2, *Erosion and Sediment Control Plan*, would reduce Project impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to public facilities (Class III).

7.3.14 Recreation

The Project site is surrounded by the Los Padres National Forest and students currently have the right to access back county trails north of the adjacent private property. Potential impacts to recreation from incremental increased use of local trails would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of MM REC-1, *Enforcement of Student Trespassing Reduction*. Additionally, cumulative

projects identified in Table 7-1 are located about one mile south and would not increase demand on the Los Padres National Forest back country trails adjacent to the Project site. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to recreation (Class III).

7.3.15 Transportation/Circulation

According to the cumulative project list, the nearest development to the proposed Project would be approximately one mile south, and would not utilize Highway 192, Casitas Pass Road, or Highway 150. Therefore, there are no projects adjacent to or in close proximity to the proposed Project at the Cate School to exacerbate traffic impacts (see Figure 7-1). In addition, the proposed Project would not exceed the threshold of significance for traffic with implementation of MM TRANS-5, *Prepare Construction Traffic Control Plan*, and MM TRANS-6, *Additional Signage*. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to transportation/circulation (Class III).

7.3.16 Water Resources/ Flooding Water

The proposed Project could generate water resource and flooding water impacts, however, implementation of MM WAT-1 through MM WAT-3c, as well as MM BIO-2c, *Equipment Washout-Construction*, MM BIO-2d, *Equipment Storage-Construction*, and MM GEO-2, *Erosion and Sediment Control Plan*, would reduce all impacts to less than significant. Therefore, the development of the proposed Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the area would not generate cumulatively significant impacts to water resources/ flooding water (Class III).

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